

June 2012

—VOL. 7 NO. 6—



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Patton appointed to head KDFWR Law Enforcement Division

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Deputy Commissioner **Hank Patton** formally will become its Director of Law Enforcement effective July 1.

Commissioner Dr. Jon Gassett announced the appointment to department staff Monday, June 10, after consulting with the full Fish and Wildlife Commission at its June 8 meeting.

“Hank is the right person at the right time for a number of reasons,” said Gassett. “Our nationwide search for a director of law enforcement produced several excellent candidates, but Hank is clearly the best fit. Hank’s overall knowledge and understanding of all agency functions, and his commitment to the department’s core values make him uniquely qualified to lead our Law Enforcement Division. He is a strong leader who is already up to speed.”

The division’s director retired nearly two years ago as part of a reduction in non-merit employees cost-savings measures enacted throughout state government. The department is not funded by The General Fund as are most government agencies, but stagnant or declining license sales and federal revenues mean the department feels the stress of today’s economic despair just as they do and must aggressively seek sav-



ings at every opportunity.

“Our Law Enforcement Division needs a strong leader,” said Gassett. “We have worked closely with the Cabinet (Tourism, Arts and Heritage) and the Governor’s Office to address this need. We will continue the governor’s cost-savings measures by operating with one deputy commissioner instead of two – in much the same fashion as we operated a decade ago. Like many other agencies in these dif-

ficult economic times, we will continue to ask our people to do more with less.”

A retired U.S. Army Major, Patton joined the department in August 2005 after nearly 10 years with the National Wild Turkey Federation. He supervised the budget and operations of not only the Law Enforcement Division, but also the Administrative Services, Engineering, Information and Education, and Public Affairs Divisions. He has essentially filled in as acting director for Law Enforcement Division since last September.

“I can now focus all my efforts on our law enforcement division,” said Patton. “Our conservation officers not only are some of the best trained law enforcement officers in Kentucky, but in many ways they are the face of the department – the employee with whom our customers most often come into contact.

“Increasingly, they also are among the first responders to help our citizens during disasters such as floods and brutal winter storms,” he said. “And that is to be expected because our officers have the training, equipment and personal drive to navigate treacherous waters and storm-blocked roads to reach stranded people.

“I am both humbled and proud for this opportunity to be a part of them,” he said.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following email was received from Richard and Danetta Willias from Louisville. They wrote, "I just have to tell you about a wonderful experience.

My wife and I rented a pontoon boat from Moutardier Marina on Thursday May 17, 2012. Around 2:30 p.m. a game warden (**Officer Jeffrey Jewell**) approached us. He asked to see our fishing licenses and began asking how the fishing was. When we replied not so good he suggested we move to a different location where he knew walleye were being caught and to try something flashy, ahead of a night crawler. We made it to the general area and again he stopped and pointed out the proper location.

Unfortunately we failed to remember his name. We really appreciated his friendliness and information. We feel this was above and beyond what his duties are. If all of your staff are as courteous and polite I welcome being stopped and checked for safe operating conditions.

Please give him our thanks."

The following email came from Tony Medley. He is the grandfather of Alan Mateja who participated in the recent fishing event hosted by Camp Wallace staff for campers who earned their Kentucky Outdoorsman and Outdoorswoman Awards last summer.

Mr. Medley wrote, "Alan and I would like to THANK YOU and the great staff at Camp Earl Wallace for a very enjoyable stay this past Friday and Saturday. It is very obvious that each of you has the well being and development of young people in your hearts. What a terrific gift you give to them. You made it plain that each person is special and it's about seeing that goodness in each other and sharing that as adults and youth.



Alan Mateja's big catch. *Tony Medley photo*

Alan is excited about his return this summer for his second session at CEW. Please pass along our thanks and regards to all who gave Alan another opportunity to experience some of the good and right things about growing up. I had almost as much fun as Alan."

I would like to contact the supervisor/manager for **Todd Rogers**, fish and wildlife officer in Greenup County, with a personal testimonial/recommendation on behalf of Mr. Rogers. He is a "hero!"

My daughter's Kindergarten class from Cornerstone Christian Academy in Shelbyville, Kentucky had a field trip at Salato on Tuesday, May 22. We had a WONDERFUL visit.

Around lunchtime, a small group of four students was feeding the Canada geese and playing near the fishing pond. One of the children spotted a bird in a tree on the pond shore. The bird was in extreme distress as it had become wrapped in fishing line. At times, the bird was actually hanging by its neck. It was clear that

the bird was not going to be able to free itself and it was also clear that the bird would not make it much longer. One of our parent chaperones went for help and flagged down the first uniformed official she encountered.

Mr. Rogers readily came to assist. After assessing the situation, he, of course, determined that he needed tools; he assured our group that he would come back to offer help for the bird. He did indeed return very quickly with tools and more assistance. This story has a very happy ending.

Mr. Rogers and the other fish and wildlife officer (**Danny Allen**) who returned with him were able to cut the branch and lower it so that they could free the bird. The bird was literally wrapped in the fishing line. During this rescue effort, the two men were understanding of and sensitive to the situation with our children. They were calm and even talked about the rescue effort while in progress so that the children would understand. Within a few minutes, they freed the bird and we had a brief, impromptu "freeing ceremony."

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Capt. Todd Rogers

“Mail,” continued

The bird flew away across the pond, and the children cheered and clapped. (The two officers cleared the tree of remaining fishing line before their departure.)

I really do want to commend the two fish and wildlife officers for their efforts. I am sure that both of them were on their lunch break; yet they were more than willing to assist – even during their personal time. Both of the gentlemen were instrumental in the heroic rescue. Their actions, I am quite sure, will make a lasting impression on our children for the humane treatment and care (management) of all God’s animals. Again, they are heroes – especially in our group’s eyes. They are outstanding ambassadors for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

I would like for my testimonial to reach Mr. Roger’s supervisor/manager so that he can be recognized and thanked for his efforts. I hope that Mr. Rogers will know the other officer’s name so that the other officer, also, can be recognized and thanked by his supervisor/manager.

Finally, I would like to state again that we had a WONDERFUL visit at Salato. The entire staff was friendly and accommodating. Our Kindergarteners attended two classes: “Mammals of Kentucky” in the morning and “Eco-Systems/Waterways” in the afternoon. Both of the fish and wildlife employees (Interims **Victoria Wallace** and **Julia Neidhardt**) were quite knowledgeable, and they were excellent presenters. They were able to relate to our Kindergarteners on their level for effective and fun learning experiences.

The presenters seemed to love what they were doing and have a passion for the subject matter which was readily (and “contagiously!”) conveyed to the children. Would you please be able to determine the names of our presenters so that they can be thanked and recognized by their supervisors/managers as well? They, too, are outstanding ambassadors for KFW.

Thank you so much for a great day at Salato!

I& E Division welcomes new conservation educator Brianne Wolf

The I&E Division welcomed **Brianne Wolf** to the division on May 16. Brianne is our newest conservation educator and works in the 3rd district, which serves western Jefferson County as well as Bullitt and Meade counties.

In the fall, Brianne will present conservation education school programs and lead outdoor skills activities for 4th-6th grade students in this area. Brianne previously worked as a counselor supervisor at Camp Earl Wallace during the summer for 2011- which is a good thing since she began work

right away at Camp Wallace on May 21.

Brianne graduated from Murray State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Health and Physical Education and a Master’s Degree in Special Education. Her educational background includes student mentoring, and a two year teaching assignment in Istanbul, Turkey.

Along with her passion for the outdoors and a love of hunting and fishing, Brianne is also a certified lifeguard and will supervise swimming activities at camp this summer.

Carrier graduates Southern Police Institute

Lt. Shane Carrier, Third Law Enforcement District, recently graduated from the Southern Police Institute.

Lt. Carrier joins the ranks of several other officers that have attended this academically challenging training. The Administrative Officers Course allows Law Enforcement officers from across the world to come together to better them and to share ideas in a classroom setting.

The course is a 12 week long program that allows participants to earn college masters credit or undergraduate credits at the University of Louisville.



A PERSONAL FIRST

Zach Johnson, 11, celebrated the end of his school year by achieving a personal goal – catching his first catfish. Zach is the son of Information and Education Division’s Aquatics Education Program coordinator Marc Johnson. He caught the channel catfish in the upper lake at Headquarters in Frankfort.



Sgt. Buddy
Grayson

Grayson, Ellis earn master's degrees



Officer
Cory Ellis

Sergeant Buddy Grayson and Officer Cory Ellis of Law Enforcement Division recently earned their master's degrees.

Grayson, a 17-year veteran conservation officer with the Law Enforcement Division's Eighth District, graduated with a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Louisville.

He graduated on May 12, 2012 with a 3.9 GPA. This graduate degree program

at the University of Louisville provides students with advanced theoretical and applied information on the administration of criminal justice.

He also is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute, Administrative Officers Course where he earned a Certificate in Police Executive Leadership Develop-

ment. This program, established in 1951, is a national leader in police executive leadership education. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

Conservation Officer Cory Ellis graduated with a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice in December 2011 with a 3.5 GPA.

Ellis has served the department as a Conservation Officer for six years and is assigned to Mason County, also in the Eighth District.

The University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice has been ranked number one in research, and supports these and related activities through the Center for Criminal Justice Research, which includes the Corrections Institute and the Policing Institute.

Graduate students are provided opportunities to learn and conduct research, training, and technical assistance in a wide range of criminal justice settings.

Crane graduates DOCJT Academy of Police Supervision

Sixth District Conservation Officer Sergeant Philip A. Crane joined Law enforcement officers from 18 agencies across the commonwealth who were recognized at a graduation ceremony May 25, for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

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 45th 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.



Sgt. Philip
Crane



Above: Kentucky Division of Forestry Director Leah MacSwords spoke to the group attending the dedication ceremony of the Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area and State Forest as Commissioner Jon Gassett looked on. Right: State Sen. Dorsey Ridley shared the dedication stage with Commissioner Jon Gassett.

State Forestry, Fish and Wildlife dedicate new Big Rivers State Forest and WMA

The Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources officially dedicated the Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area and state forest in Union County on May 30.

State Senator Dorsey Ridley and Representative John Arnold joined Commissioner Jon Gassett and Division of Forestry Director Leah MacSwords, local government officials, funding partners, sportsmen and women, and others on the 2,484-acre property that lies at the confluence of the Ohio and Tradewater rivers near Sturgis for the ceremony.

The new owners will permanently protect the new wildlife management area and state forest from development and agricultural conversion. In addition to being open to hunters, anglers, hikers, boaters, wildlife watchers and more, it will be managed for the protection of watershed and water quality, the protection and recovery of endangered, threatened and rare species, and the preservation of existing cultural and geological treasures.

The acquisition, a portion of one of the largest private landholdings in the area, completed the first of a two-phase project to protect the area.

Terry Cook, state director for The Nature Conservancy, commended the public and private partners that successfully worked together to permanently protect this beautiful part of Kentucky.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Dr. Jon Gassett agreed and said, "It would not have been possible without everyone going the extra mile to make

this one happen, and the real winners here are the people of Kentucky now and for generations to come who will benefit from the permanent protections we've been able to provide for this magnificent area."

The entire property was purchased in early 2009 by an investment fund managed by The Forestland Group with cooperation from The Conservation Fund and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The Conservation Fund partners with community, government and corporate organizations to help them fulfill their conservation priorities. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund supported the acquisition. The purchase originally of the entire property by The Forestland Group's investment fund enabled Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and the Kentucky Division of Forestry to acquire and protect this tract.



Second District Commission Member Frank Williams and Kentucky State Nature Conservancy Director Terry Cook visited briefly after the dedication.



SAMPLER AT SALATO



The annual Salato Sampler hosted at the Salato Wildlife Education Center by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation on June 2, attracted hundreds who sampled some of Kentucky's finest music, wineries, breweries, bourbon distilleries, barbecue pork, fried catfish and more while touring among the native grasses, trees, and wildlife at the center. A barn owl and screech owl joined the masses. Foundation Board Member Stephen Freibert prepared the pork, and Foundation Chairman John Woodall and Chad Miles announced the winner of the annual Kentucky Bull Elk hunt drawing.



Long Bar bank fishing access opens

Engineering and Fisheries Divisions staff are pleased to announce that a new public bank fishing area is now open in Clinton County along the Lake Cumberland Tailwater.

This public access area was acquired by the Department during the fall of 2009 and includes approximately 18 acres. Roughly 12 acres of the tract are comprised of an island (known locally as both Snow Island or as Long Bar Island). The remaining six acres are comprised of land along the left descending bank of the Cumberland Tailwater.

This public bank fishing area is located roughly 10 miles downstream of the Wolf Creek Dam.

The Department has been interested in developing more public access to the Cumberland Tailwater for quite some time. This area will provide a tremendous opportunity for bank fishing access as it lies adjacent to one of the best shoal areas in the upper section of the tailwater.

"This area is one of my regular rainbow and brown trout sampling areas. There are always good numbers of quality-sized rainbow and brown trout on the shoals and in the channels adjacent to Long Bar Island," explains Dave Dreves, Fisheries Research Program Coordinator.

Engineering Division staff developed a new gravel parking lot in addition to the installation of fencing around the parking area and the roadway leading to the site. This new area should be able to accommodate parking for as many as 15-20 vehicles. From the parking area, it is a short walk down to the tailwater where anglers can bank fish or wade for trout.

The Fisheries Division would like to thank **Tony Wheatley** for his assistance with the acquisition of the area, as well as the Engineering Division for their expertise in the development of the area.

This bank fishing area was acquired and developed using Sport Fish Restora-



View looking downstream at the lowermost tip of Long Bar Island. This shoal will now be open to the public for bank and wade fishing in the Lake Cumberland Tailwater. *Ryan Oster photos*



View from Long Bar Island looking out into the Lake Cumberland Tailwater.

tion funds derived from excise taxes on motorboat fuels and sport fishing equipment.

Anglers coming from Jamestown can access the area by traveling south on 127 across Wolf Creek Dam; then turn right onto KY-1730; turn left onto Swan Pond

Rd; veer right onto Wells Bottom Rd; follow signs and Wells Bottom Rd. to the area and turn right. Anglers coming from the south (Albany) can access the area by traveling north on 127; turn left onto KY 3063; turn left onto Wells Bottom Rd. and follow signs to the access area.



Megan Stout, Aaron Daniels, Barry Norton, Ed Mahurin, Myra Minton, Mike Minton, Jason Ice, Scott Haddon and Todd Johnson

Run the Gauntlet at Otter Creek

The advertising lived up to its claim, “Adrenalin in a flood of mud!” Thanks to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation for sponsoring a grimey good event to help youth at Kentucky Conser-

vation Camps.

On May 19, officers from the Third Law Enforcement District joined about 200 others from near and far in participating in the first Run the Gauntlet race at Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area.

Captain Myra Minton challenged her district officers to participate in the inaugural Gauntlet event. This race consisted of four miles of trail running, combined

with obstacles such as stacks of hay bales, fences to cross, mud pits to crawl through, cargo nets to climb, creeks to try not to fall into, and large hills to climb. Tractor tire obstacles and a huge mud slip and slide awaited at the end.

Before and after photos chronicled their efforts. Some came away with enough mud and dirt to go home and plant a garden.



Rachel Shipley of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation emerges from the mud pit as her friends struggle to escape its grasp.



Above: Brenda Ward-Hill climbs out of Otter Creek after an unintended slip soaked her.



KDFWR, TNC, UK celebrate new Griffith Woods WMA



The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) joined with the University of Kentucky and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in dedicating nearly 750 Harrison County acres as the Griffith Woods Wildlife Management Area on May 31.

KDFWR completed acquisition of the unique area in December, 2011, when it purchased approximately 350 acres from TNC and the University of Kentucky contributed another 391 acres to the project that it had acquired earlier through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

Commissioner Jon Gassett called the new WMA “a unique and outstanding area,” and said, “Griffith Woods includes one of the last remnants of Bluegrass Savanna Woodland in this part of the state. Preserving and restoring this for our children and their grandchildren is a treasure beyond words.”

KDFWR was able to purchase the TNC acres using Federal Program Income monies that are restricted for land acquisition use. TNC also donated three adjoining land parcels of 1.9, 5.69 and 1.6 acres

each to ensure the large land block, already bisected by U.S. 62, remained otherwise intact. No Fish and Game Fund money was used.

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund board chairman Dr. Bill Martin first supported the acquisition of the area many years ago when he championed the University of Kentucky’s acquisition of



the property at that time for research and management. He said he fully supports the new acquisition because the university will continue to work with KDFWR and conduct research on the area, and that it will be managed to preserve and restore the old landscape.

KDFWR’s area management plan will focus on the preservation and restoration of its landscape – huge oaks and other hardwoods that dot rolling grasslands – while providing recreational opportunity for hunters, wildlife watchers, hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts.



Hunting Heritage Partnership projects

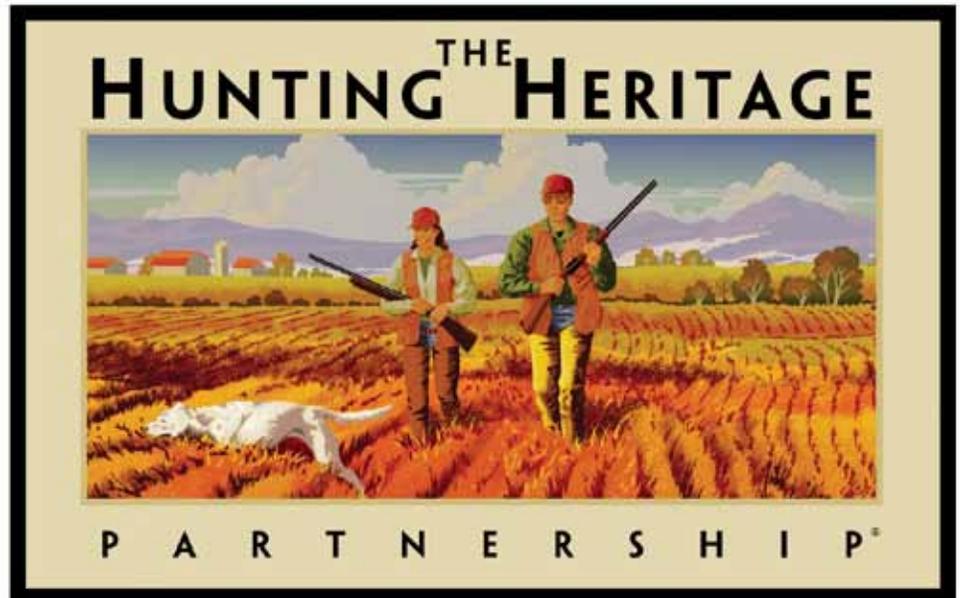
The National Shooting Sports Foundation's Hunting Heritage Partnership (HHP) program provides competitive grants to state wildlife agencies and their partners to advance hunting and shooting through innovative research and management.

Given the long-term decline in hunting participation, and limited agency funds for research, grants like these are increasingly important. KDFWR garnered three HHP grants in the 2011 funding year.

One project focused on electronic (online) advertising to help increase hunting participation. Two other projects studied the hunting habits, preferences and backgrounds of hunter education graduates and "apprentice" hunters (Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit holders).

Advertising Campaign

To change the trajectory of hunting participation in Kentucky we need the active involvement of current hunters: creating and keeping new hunters by



Access for today. Opportunities for tomorrow.

taking them afield. With this in mind, we developed a "Take Someone Hunting" campaign theme, with a primary strategy of motivating existing hunters to take along a family member or friend. We also promoted our hunter apprentice opportunity.

We used mainly online platforms (websites and social media) to electronically advertise, supplemented by a few radio ads and PSAs. We evaluated the campaign by comparing sales of hunting licenses and

apprentice permits in 2010 vs. 2011, and by surveying online customers to evaluate impacts of the ads.

Through this ad campaign, we made the following impacts:

- Over 30 million impressions (potential views) with our ads
- 28,000 click-throughs to the [Take Someone Hunting landing page](#) or to our Facebook page

See "Heritage," page 11



“Heritage,” continued

- 63% of resident online hunting license buyers saw or heard our ads
- 40% said they saw ads on hunting/outdoor websites other than ours
- 11% said they saw our hunting ads or posts while using Facebook
- 18% said the ads influenced them to take someone hunting
- 19% said the ads influenced them to hunt or to go more often
- Sales of our apprentice permit increased 13% during 2011

We did not see an increase in hunting license sales, but we did record a 50% reduction in the rate of decline over 2010. Although our electronic ads were aimed primarily motivating existing hunters to recruit other hunters, nonetheless we directly tracked 343 sales to electronic ad viewers who clicked-through and used our online license store.

Studies of Hunter Education and Apprentice Opportunity Participants

KDFWR partnered in 2011 with Responsive Management, Georgia and Alabama to conduct one-year studies of participation in our hunter education and hunter apprentice programs. The studies were designed to identify important factors affecting participation in hunting by these two groups.

Each involved surveys of randomly-selected participants, and focus groups of participants in a targeted geographic area, from each group.

We learned these and other facts about 2011 hunter education graduates in Kentucky:

- Average age was 24.4 years, and 23% were female.
- 78% of graduates purchased licenses during the first hunting season after hunter ed
- 68% of those who had never hunted before purchased a license
- About 82% (some were license-exempt) went hunting the season after hunter ed
- Fathers (45%) and friends/coworkers



- (18%) were their two most important mentors
- Most hunter ed grads hunted deer (93%), whereas squirrels (16%) and turkeys (8%)
- Nearly half (46%) reported taking an animal
- 97% said they were very or somewhat satisfied with their hunting experiences!

To study apprentice hunting customers, KDFWR partnered with Responsive Management, Alabama, and Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia. Kentucky's Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit enables the holder to hunt with another legal, adult hunter for one year without having completed hunter education. Such apprentice opportunities are important for engaging new hunters. Results of the study revealed these stats about hunter apprentice permit holders:

- Average of 25 years of age, and 74% are male
- 97% said that the exemption permit provided a useful introduction to hunting
- 54% had hunted before
- Hunted 12 days/season on average
- They mainly hunted for the meat (40%), camaraderie (26%) or recreation (24%)
- Most hunted deer (78%), turkeys (23%), or squirrels (20%).
- 38% enrolled in a hunter ed course after

using the exemption permit, and 69% of the rest said they were likely to do so within 12 months.

The study uncovered several key customer preferences, which KDFWR will apply in future hunter recruitment and retention efforts. For example, most hunter ed students (79%) said they would like infor-

mation from the Department on how to become a regular hunter. Also, although most participants in each group said they had enough personal contacts with which to hunt, many newer hunters needed help connecting with prospective mentors and mentored hunting opportunities.

Based on these and other important results, it is clear that KDFWR should develop means to follow up with hunter education graduates and apprentice permit holders to help ensure they remain on the hunting pathway into the future.

Current Study: Communicating with Hunter Ed Graduates

KDFWR successfully partnered again in 2012 with Responsive Management, Georgia and Alabama in pursuit of HHP funding.

This year we will act upon our 2011 research results by designing and testing a variety of communications to hunter ed graduates. These different communications will be statistically tested for differences in terms of impact on hunting license sales.

The most effective communications components will thus be identified, enabling us to have the greatest impact with future marketing efforts that are targeted at recruiting and retaining hunter education graduates.



Above: Cameron Maloney showed off his hunter education card and free first hunting license; KDFWR hunter ed staffers Mary McQuillen (l) and Melinda Driskell were just as proud.



The Crosman® indoor air rifle range was popular among NASP shooters; a steady stream of youths kept volunteers and staff busy reloading and instructing shooters.

Hunter recruitment Triple Crown

KDFWR and partners teamed up to offer National Archery in the Schools (NASP) student-shooters an opportunity to get involved in hunting at the NASP National Tournament in Louisville, May 11-12.

Up to 1,500 students could obtain their hunter education certification, receive a free (sponsored) hunting license, and sign up for a mentored hunt for doves or squirrels during fall 2012.

Thousands of NASP shooters, coaches, and families visited KDFWR's exhibit area. A total of 186 youths participated in the hunting license promotion.

Some took a hunter education course

online, while others completed the course in a classroom setting before the tournament, then visited the KDFWR booth to obtain their free license.

Another 144 participants asked to participate in a mentored hunt. About 4,000 NASP shooters and guests fired some 50,000 pellets in the free indoor air rifle range.

The special promotion was made possible by support from numerous partners. Conservation organizations provided financial assistance to pay the cost of sportsman licenses for eligible youths. Outdoor-RoadmapSM provided its online hunter education class free to NASP participants.

Crosman® provided the range, air rifles and pellets to enable shooters to complete the live-fire range portion of hunter education. Volunteer and staff instructors certified hunter education participants as they completed the course at the event.

KDFWR staff members were on hand to issue hunter education cards and licenses, help shooters, answer questions and provide



Faye Hussong, a NASP coach from Gilliard Elementary school in Mobile, Alabama, completed hunter ed for herself and for her student-shooters; "I wanted to set an example for the kids on our team," she said.



Donna Covington and Michael Gray assisted this NASP participant with obtaining a free hunting license, and answered dad's questions about mentored hunting opportunities.

information. KDFWR, conservation organizations and sportsmen's clubs will provide the mentored hunts this fall.

The three-pronged promotion aimed at recruiting hunters and license buyers was the first of its kind. It was conceived by KDFWR leadership only a few months before the event, and was promoted through the NASP regional and state tournaments in March and April.

Based on participation at this event, the pilot program will now be replicated in other venues and further evaluated for return on investment.



Above: A young angler and Central Fisheries District Program Coordinator Jeff Crosby share a laugh over the size of the channel catfish they caught. Above right: Fisheries Technician Paul Wilkes holds a hybrid striped bass caught by a young angler. *Meagan Huston photos*

Fisheries hosts annual Hospice Kids Fishing Event

By Ryan Oster

The Fisheries Division hosted the annual Hospice Kids Fishing Event on June 5th at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery in Frankfort, Kentucky. This event is sponsored by the Kentucky Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

Similar to previous years, the event begins with a cookout at the hatchery. Immediately following the cookout, many of the children were able to take a quick peek in

the display pool to see a variety of fish species (many of which they had never seen before).

After lunch, the children and staff quickly moved over to one of the hatchery ponds to spend a few hours catching fish. This year's pond contained abundant channel catfish, bluegill sunfish and several larger hybrid striped bass.

This year's event was attended by 13 children. In all, 37 individuals partook in the event and included Fisheries Division staff, as well as nurses and Hospice staff.

This event is always one of the highlights of the year for many of the Fisheries staff as it provides us the opportunity to partner up with children who are not exposed to fishing and watch the enjoyment on their faces as they catch fish after fish.

This year's group was particularly memorable as many of the children were initially afraid to even touch a fish; however, by the end of the day, many of them were taking their own fish off of the hooks and releasing them.



Fisheries Technician Jeremiah Smith displays a nice channel catfish taken by his son Ethan and shared by Joseph of the Hospice program. *Kathryn Emme photo*



Fisheries Assistant Director Gerry Buynak helps unhook a nice bluegill sunfish.

Stephanie Brandt photo

As always, a big thank you goes out to **Steve Marple** and the **staff at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery** for providing the pond space and fish for the event. Special thanks to **David Baker, Nick Keeton, Danny Duvall, Ryan Kausing** and **Jason McDowell** who helped prepare and cook food for the event.

I would also like to thank the many Fisheries Division employees who assisted with the event. This event could not occur without everybody's help and participation.



A record setting crowd took part in the Cave Run Fishing Derby at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery during free fishing weekend. *Fred Howes photo*

Cave Run Kid's Fishing Derby sets new record for attendance

By Fred Howes, Northeastern District Fisheries Program Coordinator

About 275 young anglers representing 23 Kentucky counties turned out for the annual Cave Run Kid's Fishing Derby once again held at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery June 2. This free event has been hosted at the hatchery for the last six years since moving from the Cave Run Lake tailwater area.

An estimated 700 people attended the event, coming from as far away as Green and Harlan counties. The main attractions at the fishing derby were the two ponds stocked especially for this event with catchable-size rainbow trout, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

The catfish ranged from one to 10 pounds and the largemouth bass ranged in size from 12-22 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 among 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; (4) a knot tying demonstration; (5) an assortment of furs displayed by United Trappers of Kentucky; (6) a fish fillet station; and (7)



Two young anglers proudly display their early morning catch. *Tom Biebighauser (USFS) photo*

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.

New to the event in 2012 were several displays sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. These displays included: ATF, DEA, FBI SWAT, Secret Service and U.S. Dist. Attorney's Office.

Members from the Northeast Fish and Game Club along with the Kentucky Houndsmen Association 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. Members from both of these organizations also assisted in running the casting competition.

The success of this event can be attributed to a well orchestrated example of teamwork by Bass Pro Shops, Cave Run Pro Shop, Coca-Cola, U.S. Dept. of Justice (ATF, DEA, FBI and Secret Service), Farmers Volunteer Fire Department, Frito-Lay, Heiner's Bakery, Jennings Septic, Ken-

See "Cave Run," page 15

Camp Earl Wallace 2012 Outdoorsman Fishing Adventure

Camp Earl Wallace hosted its annual Fishing Adventure on May 11-12.

Participants were drawn from campers attending camp the previous summer that had achieved the coveted Outdoorsman or Outdoorswoman award by earning patches in all seven camp activities: archery, boating/canoeing, casting/fishing, gun safety, nature, outdoor survival, and swimming.

Each camper was accompanied by a parent or grandparent. Friday evening included dinner at camp, a camper/guardian archery competition, a how-to fishing clinic for the adults, and concluded with evening fishing at camp along the shores of Lake Cumberland.

That evening, everyone caught fish, and the total included eight different species of fish. While the event was geared towards the children, the parents and grandparents had just as much fun! For more than one adult, it was the first time



they had ever shot a bow. Some even purchased their very first fishing license.

Day two of the adventure was a kids-only fishing event at a private lake owned by Monticello resident Nick Cooley. During four hours of fishing, every angler caught fish and got to share the experience with a family member.

For many of the adults, it was an opportunity to learn more about fishing them-

selves, and to practice baiting the line and handling fish. At the end of the event, top awards for the most fish caught (43) and largest fish (an 18 3/8 inch bass) were awarded by 9th district Commission Member **Chris Godby** and his son Chandler.

Everyone went home with a medal to commemorate a truly excellent day of fishing. The day's final tally was an impressive 248 fish including bluegill, catfish, and largemouth bass.

This event was made possible under the direction of Camp Earl Wallace Camp Director **John Coffey**, and the Camp Wallace Team: **Rockie Frost, Montie Frost, Geri Kinnett, Peggy McGinnis, Gary Rogers, Joy Fitzgerald, Betty Lewis, John Gutzeit**, and new conservation educator **Brianne Wolf**.

Also assisting with the event was aquatic education interim educator **Jamie Alton**, law enforcement officer **Travis Neal**, I&E Assistant Director **Laura Burford**, and volunteer Braden Burford.

“Cave Run,” continued

tucky Bank, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (**8th District Law Enforcement Officers, Fish Transportation Section, Minor Clark Fish Hatchery and the Northeastern Fishery District**), Fin-Fur-Feather, Kentucky Houndsmen Association, Kentucky Silver Muskie Club, Kentucky State Police, Lexington Police Department, Morehead Rowan County Ambulance Service, Northeast Fish and Game Club, Rowan Co. Sheriff's Dept., Stokley's Marine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, United Trappers of Kentucky 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, gov-

ernmental 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 seeing the joy and excitement on their faces after they catch a fish is worth its weight in gold. Ten residents participated this year and all were successful at catching rainbow trout and a few largemouth bass.

A father and son proudly display a nice mess of channel catfish. *Tom Biebighauser (USFS) photo*





Students and teachers from Lone Oak Middle School travel between stops at the Eco Fair on the West Kentucky WMA. *John Brunjes photos*

West Kentucky WMA Eco Fair

In its third annual Eco Fair, West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area staff hosted about 475 sixth graders from McCracken County schools Heath, Lone Oak and St. Mary's for a fun day banding/tracking and recycling on the WMA.

U.S. Department of Energy personnel explained the history of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion plant and how radiation affects everyday life.

WMA staff **Tim Kreher**, **Jodie Swain**, **Ryan Collier**, **Seth Thompson** and **Jeff Adams** helped in the waterfowl banding presentations with **John Brunjes** while fisheries biologist **Paul Rister** and the fisheries crew demonstrated electro-fishing techniques.



Fisheries Biologist Paul Rister displays a largemouth bass to students while discussing fish and pond management.



West Kentucky WMA Foreman Jodie Swain tells students about migratory birds and how banding helps to manage their populations.

Administrative Services dominates 2nd annual Spring KDFWR Golf Scramble

Brenna Brooking putts for the hole as the rest of her winning Administrative Services Division team – David Hise, Eric McGinnis, Melissa Trent and David Bruce – watches to see if the putt drops. *Mark Marraccini photo*



FINAL RESULTS

- 1st:** David Bruce, Eric McGinnis, David Hise, Melissa Trent, Brenna Brooking (-12)
- 2nd:** Jarad Northern, Damon Foster, Shane Carrier, Patrick Younts (-9)
- 3rd:** Dane Balsman, Dan Stoelb, Jim Barnard, Ben Robinson (-8)
- 4th:** Rod Middleton, David Hale, Ryan Oster, Dave Dreves (-7)
- 5th:** Joseph Zimmerman, Andy Mowrey, Tom Van Arsdall, Rob Lewis (-7)
- 6th:** Ron Brooks, Jeff Ross, John Williams, Don Bunnell (-7)
- 7th:** Tony Prichard, Mac Lang, Steve Jackson, David Casey (-6)
- 8th:** Monte McGregor, Christopher Owen, Kevin Rexroat, Keith Wethington (-5)
- 9th:** Tim Slone, Chad Miles, Mark Mangeot, James Rich (-4)
- 10th:** Jeremy Shifflet, Michael Kinney, Josh Gunn, Tracy Bell (-2)

A five-person Administrative Services team blistered Lawrenceburg's Wild Turkey Trace golf course with a 12-under-par round to win the second annual Spring KDFWR Golf Scramble May 22.

The winning team, made up of **David Bruce, Eric McGinnis, David Hise, Melissa Trent** and **Brenna Brooking** easily ran away from the pack, topping the runner-up team from Law Enforcement by three strokes.

This spring's mild weather was no exception on this day. Despite the chance for pop-up storms, the group persevered and all teams survived and finished a fun and successful round of golf (at least we think everybody survived).

Ten teams competed, making it one of



Patrick Younts follows through after a big tee shot. *Mark Marraccini photo*

the most attended golf scrambles in recent history.

Teams were comprised of staff from the Wildlife, Law Enforcement, Administrative Services, Information and Education, Fisheries and the Commissioner's Office.

Damon Foster, Shane Carrier and **Patrick Younts** finished at nine under par.

New to this year's scramble was a prize awarded to the last place team of **Jeremy Shifflet, Michael Kinney, Josh Gunn** and **Tracy Bell**. Their score of two-under earned each a crisp \$1 bill.

Closest to the pin awards were on each of the four par-3 holes. Congratulations to **Kevin Rexroat** (Wildlife Division) for having the closest to the pin on hole No. 4. **Joseph Zimmerman** (Fisheries Division)

won closest to the pin on hole No. 8. **David Bruce** (Administrative Services) won closest to the pin on hole No. 13. Lastly, **Ryan Oster** (Fisheries Division) won closest to the pin on hole No. 16.

All in all, this year's spring golf

See "Golf," page 18

Jenkins scholarships awarded to Ferrell, Hill and Gray

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012 Donan and Georgia "Jo" Jenkins Scholarships are Alexa Danielle Ferrell, Clinton Thomas Hill, and Michael Joseph Gray II.

The annual scholarships continue to be sponsored by retired Second District Law Enforcement Captain Donan Jenkins, and in memory of his late wife, Jo.

Alexa attends Franklin County High School and has a GPA of 3.9. She is the daughter of Scott Ferrell in the Wildlife Division. She plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University and major in biology/pre-vet.

Clinton attends Shelby County High School and has a GPA of 3.295. He is the son of Rick Hill in the Information and Education Division. He plans to attend Jefferson Community and Technical College and major in criminal justice.



Jenkins scholarship winners Michael Gray II, Alexa Ferrell and Clinton Hill.

Michael attends South Oldham High School and has a GPA of 3.54. He is the son of Michael Gray in the Public Affairs

Division. He plans to attend the University of Louisville and major in business/finance.

"Golf," continued

scramble continued in the fine tradition of a wonderful day of fellowship and comradery amongst staff. In total, 41 current and former employees took part



The retiree team of Steve Jackson, Tony Prichard, David Casey, and Mac Lang pose for a shot on the green where Prichard's approach shot came to rest. We look forward to their attending every year.

in the event. We also want to thank Fifth District Commission Member **James "Doc" Rich** for joining us and keeping his team in line.

Lastly, special thanks to Chef **Don Bunnell** for his culinary creations at the golf scramble. In keeping tradition, Don dazzled attendees with a mixture of homemade brats, Italian sausage, burgers, hotdogs (including childidogs), baked beans, and assorted chips. Thanks also to **Dane**

Balsman for helping set up logistics for the golf scramble. We look forward to the fall event.



The Fisheries team of Rod Middleton, David Hale, and Dave Dreves study the roll as Ryan Oster's putt approaches the hole.
Mark Marraccini photos

Though a nuisance species, huge Asian carp can be entertaining

It will take removal of many Asian carp to impact the huge numbers inhabiting the Mississippi and Ohio River basins, but Kentucky anglers have been doing their part for years.

The fish only eat minute plankton, but their potential large size and reputation for being powerful fighters has led many to attempt snag fishing. The jumping silver carp can grow over 70 pounds, and bighead carp have been recorded over 110 pounds in the Missouri River.

Huge fish also are unintentionally snagged by anglers fishing for other fish species. John West of Henderson, Kentucky (white shirt) snagged the tail of a huge bighead carp on a crankbait while fishing in Lake Barkley. Most likely, the fish was a Kentucky pole and line record back in 2001.

He used a bathroom scale to weigh the fish, and it topped out at 72 pounds. At that time, none of the local fishermen even knew what Asian carp were, and the fish was considered to be “a genetically altered carp.”

Although likely a record back in the day, an even larger bighead was caught on 1/8-ounce crappie jig and 6-pound line in Blood River on Kentucky Lake in April, 2012. The fish weighed a whopping 75 pounds (man in green jacket). Neither of these fish was certified as records, but both must have provided a hefty fight to the two anglers.

As a reminder, potential records must be verified by biologists and weighed on certified scales. The KDFWR Fishing and Boating Guide provides details for verifying record catches, and our website also has that information.

As an additional side note, Asian carp are very tasty fish, unlike their bottom-feeding cousins. Kentucky anglers should Google Duane Chapman (USGS biologist) to watch his YouTube article on preparing the fish for dinner.

Besides an exciting fight, the Asian carps can provide very nice culinary options.



2012 BALLARD FISHING EVENT



About 200 youth participated in the annual Ballard WMA Kids Fishing Event this year. Staff from Law Enforcement, Fisheries divisions and the Ballard WMA staff assisted in making it an enjoyable day of fishing on the WMA.



YOUTH FISHING DERBY

About 146 youth spent the day winning prizes and catching big bluegill in the 11th annual Jim Beam – Bullitt County Rod and Gun Club Kids Fishing Derby on the grounds of Jim Beam Distillery in Bullitt County. At left, Matthew Carrier is proud of his bluegill. Nine-year-old Jack Askren is pretty happy with his too. Third District Captain Myra Minton helped award prizes to the youth.



Conservation officers help with youth fishing event



Two Rivers Buddy Ball hosted a youth with special needs fishing event at Panther Creek Park in Daviess County near Owensboro on May 19. Panther

Creek Park is a participating lake in the Department's new Fishing in Neighborhoods Program (FINS).
Second District conservation officers

helping about 100 children who joined in the fishing fun included **Eric Chambers, Tracy Bell, Josh Gunn, B.J. McCoy and Todd Jones.**

Native season grass restoration project completed

Northeast Fish & Game Club, along with its affiliates The Kentucky Houndsmen, The Grouse Busters and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife, have successfully completed its first 100-acre planting of native seasons grasses to enhance small game habitat.

The planting area is included within an 1800-acre tract in Boyd, Carter, and Greenup Counties. The remaining acreage is scheduled for planting in the future.

This achievement resulted from the efforts of State Representative Tanya Pullin and Tom Saylor.



Pictured from left: Gary Greene, NEFG; Harley Weaver, KDFWR; Tanya Pullin, State Representative; and Tom Saylor, Director East Park.