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Cave Run fishing derby
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Black bear activity intensifying now, sometimes unacceptably



Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Wildlife Biologist Johnny Wills captured a bear on Highway 160 just across the Kentucky/Virginia state line near Lynch, Kentucky, that had been approaching travelers, poking its nose through open car windows when people stopped, and allowing people to approach and touch it.

Both Kentucky and Virginia biologists and wildlife technicians had become aware of the bear's behaviors on both sides of the state line, brought on by people traveling the road and putting out food for it.

In fact, even with many people on site and watching, Wills needed only to set an activated trap on the bed of his truck and

the bear crawled in with no incident. He immediately removed the bear from the scene.

KDFWR Wildlife Technician **Tristan Curry** was instrumental in providing information that led to the bear's capture. The highway is littered with bread and dog food on both sides of the state line, put out by people who have turned out in large numbers trying to attract the bears to the curb.

The bear has been removed from the scene, but two other bears are now visiting the roadway because of the abundance of food. Law enforcement is investigating.

State black bear program coordinator **Steven Dobey** says the young bear, 140-150 pounds, has lost its natural fear of

people because of the feeding. "There is no question about it," he said. "This bear had to be put down because people's illegal actions altered its behavior unacceptably.

"Black bears are naturally secretive, reclusive animals that try to avoid people," he said. "Aggressive behavior toward people is exceptionally rare. But they remain wild animals – very strong and very fast. Once they begin to associate people with easy food handouts and lose their fear of people, dangerous situations can arise.

"And that leaves us no choice but to put them down," he said.

Kentucky biologists put down another Lynch area bear last weekend. It had grown to about 200 pounds eating from an apartment complex's exposed garbage.

"The exposed garbage lured bears to

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We received the following letter from the Bell County Attorney Neil Ward. He wrote, "The sixth annual Fish Fest was held on April 13. Thanks to your department, 400 rainbow trout were released into the canal flowing through Middlesboro City Park. On Saturday, several hundred area youth went fishing, some for the first time.

I want to commend your personnel who brought the trout from the Wolf Creek hatchery on Friday. When the fish arrived, they waded into the water and installed two nets to temporarily confine the trout. Once again, fisheries biologist **John Williams** returned on Saturday and spent the day helping the children with their fishing efforts. The loaner rods and reels that he provided were greatly appreciated by the young people without.

CO Ray Lawson was also on the scene to help with the event. Even though it was the opening day of turkey season, he managed to spend several hours with us. Unfortunately, he had to write a ticket to an adult who would not observe the "fishing for kids" day.

Once again, thank you and your employees for a successful fishing day enjoyed by the children and their families."

We received the following email from John Murray. He wrote, "I am sending this email to you in order to praise two of your Conservation Officers, **Darvin Chesser** and **Jason Ice**. I was out on Taylorsville Lake this past Sunday in my boat and it suddenly broke down pretty far from the boat dock. I also had my 11 year old daughter on the boat. Officers Chesser and Ice towed my boat back to the dock. This was no easy task as my boat is a fairly big cruiser. They also dropped my wife off at the boat ramp in order for her to retrieve my vehicle with the boat trailer. Officers Chesser and Ice physi-

cally helped me get my boat onto the trailer and out of the water.

They could have dropped me off and went on their way. Instead they chose to stay and help get my boat out of the water and tied down.

These officers went above and beyond to make sure I safely got my boat out of the water. The entire time they were both in good moods and very willing to help.

I also noticed prior to my boat breaking down these two officers were very busy insuring all boats and fishermen were in compliance and everyone was operating safely and within the law.

These two guys deserve an ATTA BOY for serving the public with such a good attitude about their jobs. This was a positive reflection on KDFWR Law Enforcement to the public."

The following note came from Judy Piazza with LRC. She wrote, "Jerky Journey - I made a call to **Brett Zalla**, a Conservation Officer with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources, to ask for help in

securing wild game that would be prepared as jerky for a Marine and his unit stationed in Afghanistan. The Marine is A.J. Arnold and his father, Bill, is my Sunday Class teacher, a minister and professor at Asbury Seminary.

Lt. Zalla was very quick to say, "I have this." He called men in his division and they answered the call with elk, bison and venison. **Jeff Jewell, Chris Stewart and Scott McIntosh, A BIG THANKS!**

A second call was placed to my good friends Donnie and Rebecca Baker in Muhlenberg County, enlisting their assistance in processing the game. They exclaimed, "OUR men/women in the military - YOU BETCHA!" Rebecca in turn, mentioned the endeavor to her co-worker Erika Lancaster, and she donated a shoulder of elk.

Approx. 40 lbs of wild game was donated and processed into jerky.

My heart swells with joy and pride to think of the unselfishness of our troops, their fellow men in arms from the KDFWR, and my friends."



CURRIE PEACE

At camp Currie we are always reaching for the stars. The kids from Henderson, Union, Webster, Breckinridge, Hancock, Metcalfe, Green and Ohio County tried to break the record for largest human peace sign. It cannot be confirmed, but it was reported that a satellite was able to spot it from deep in space.

King joins local firefighters in rescue of three from Cumberland River

Kentucky Conservation Officer **Chris King** partnered with three area firefighters to rescue three young persons that had become stranded by the Cumberland River's swift current just below Cumberland Falls during the night on June 3.

The hikers, a man and two women, had decided to shorten their hike back to their vehicle by swimming across the river. But current from the falls combined with recent rains swept them away. Two found refuge on a rock in the middle of the river, but the other woman was swept downstream.

King received a call about the rescue and met Matt Miller and Steven Watters

of Whitley City Fire Department and Tim Cox of Pine Knot Fire Department at the scene. The four boarded an inflatable raft and navigated through the dark by lighting the shoreline with flashlights and paddling up river about a quarter-mile through limited visibility and swift current.

They paddled to the rock, held it close and loaded the two people clinging to it into their boat.

Then they crossed the river in the boat where King and Watters disembarked and hiked about a half-mile down the rocky river bank and located the third hiker. They walked her back to the boat. The

rescuers then brought the three across the river.

From there it was about a three-mile hike back to the staging area for the group. They treated two for pre-stages of hypothermia and the other for low sugar.

Greg Bird, editor of the *McCreary County Voice*, wrote that, "The men courageously, and without regard for the danger, successfully rescued three young hikers from the middle of the Cumberland River." He credited Whitley City Fire Chief Tony Miller with hand-picking the rescue team based on their training and experience.

Kentucky Afield gets four EMMY nominations

The Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recently announced nominees for the 49th annual regional EMMY Awards. Congratulations to Kentucky Afield for being nominated for four awards.

Nominated were **Tim Farmer** for "Program Host," **Scott Moore** and Tim Farmer for "Program Human Interest," and **Brian Volland** and Scott Moore each for "Program Photographer." EMMY recipients will be announced on July 20 in Cincinnati.

Kentucky Afield has been nominated more than a dozen times since 2005 and has been awarded seven statues since then.



FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS RECOGNIZED

KDFWR Farm Bill biologists Tyler Reagan, Jason Scott and Robert Hoffman are pictured with Award Certificates presented to them at a recent NRCS Area 1 meeting by Gary Reckner, Area 1 Assistant State Conservationist and given by Ms. Karen Woodrich, Kentucky State Conservationist. The award citation states, "Countless hours assisting NRCS offices with writing General CRP and Continuous CRP contracts under tight deadlines in the fall of 2012." We estimate that these folks along with other staff helped write over 305 CRP contracts last fall. Congrats to Tyler, Jason and Robert! Keep up the great work!

“Bears,” continued

the complex,” said Dobey. “Then as people became more comfortable with seeing them, they began to feed them. We found slices of bologna there on the ground and residents told us they had seen other people feeding them. Then when we had the bear in the trap, its behavior corroborated that it has lost its fear of people.”

In some ways the bears are more susceptible at this time of year to illegal feeding. It's breeding season and also the time sows are breaking up family units, pushing out cubs born about 18 months ago.

“There is natural food out there to support the young bears,” said Dobey, “but they have an exceptionally keen sense of smell. They enjoy an easy meal in much the same fashion as do many of us, and they will find open garbage containers, pet foods left out on the porch and used barbecue grills. Once they become accustomed to these food sources, at best they become nuisances. Worse, we need to put them down.”



CUMBERLAND RIVER TROUT

Kentucky Afield host Tim Farmer and Brandon Wade of Lexington celebrated before releasing this rainbow trout during an exceptional outing while shooting a show on the tail waters of the Cumberland River. Wade grew up on the river and joined Farmer for the upcoming show. The water was deep, cold and clear, and the guys had a blast with the fly rods, netting about three dozen trout – browns, rainbows and brook.

New hires / promotions / transfers

Effective April 22, we are pleased to welcome **Mary Nickles** to the Grants Branch as our newest grant analyst! Mary came to the department in 2009 to the Information center as a Fish and Wildlife Information Specialist. Mary will be responsible for the State Wildlife Grant Program, Hunter Education and Archery in the Schools grant programs. Mary is a great addition to the Grants Branch and we are excited about the agency knowledge she brings with her from the Information Center. Mary has a Bachelor's degree in English and Spanish from Centre College. Please join us in welcoming her to Admin Services.

We are pleased to welcome **John Yeiser** to the Wildlife Division's Research Program. A Kentucky native, John recently graduated with his Masters degree from

Eastern Kentucky University where he studied headwater stream habitats and associated fauna. John has joined the Research Program team as a Wildlife Biologist. His main duties within the Research Program will include working on in-house wildlife and habitat management projects and assisting with efforts to draft and implement Candidate Conservation Agreements for species of conservation concern.

Donovan Patterson was hired in May as a Fisheries Biologist II for the Peter W. Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery. Donovan grew up in Round Rock, Texas, went to college at Texas A & M. He received a BS, and just completed his Masters in fish nutrition and aquaculture. Donovan and his wife Andrea have an 18-month-old boy, Wesley, and Wyatt is due in September. Donovan is also a trained electrician and has

other skills that will make him a valuable asset for the hatchery and the Department.

Congratulations to **Thomas Burberry** in his new role with the agency. Thomas has worked as a seasonal employee on the State Habitat Implementation Team for the past two plus years implementing various habitat projects across the state all identified and designed to benefit the species of greatest concern through Kentucky's state wildlife action plan. Thomas's new role will be that of a Fish and Wildlife Technician II in the Southeast wildlife region. Thomas will work out of the Green River Wildlife Management Area Office and be instrumental in habitat management projects, operations and maintenance, and wildlife surveys on this and surrounding wildlife management areas in the region.



FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Kentucky Conservation Officers Fallen Officer Memorial Friday, June 7, near the entrance to the Salato Wildlife Education Center attracted more than 100 people. KCOA president Willie Amburgey addressed family members, commission, officers and others. At left, KCOA vice-president Sgt. Scott Herndon next to the architect's drawing of the memorial. Commission Members joined KCOA board members in breaking ground, and below, Sherry Bryant embraced Linda Tabor, widows of Doug Bryant and Denver Tabor, two of six conservation officers lost in the line of duty.





9TH ANNUAL SAMPLER



The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation's ninth annual Salato Sampler attracted more than 400 persons and raised thousands for camp improvements and Salato exhibits. Top: Rachel Shipley and Chad Miles of the Foundation prepare to select the lucky winner of a 2013 Kentucky bull elk hunt. Above: Salato's Laurie Shoup introduces guests to a barn owl. Left: Maker's Mark Distiller and Foundation Board Member Greg Davis serves up tastes.

Turnout for annual Cave Run Kids Fishing Derby is overwhelming

Ask any fisheries manager what one of the most important parameters to a healthy fishery is and they will usually include “fish recruitment” as one of their answers.

Similarly, recruitment of kids into the sports of hunting and fishing is a key factor in keeping them going and if the number of children who attended the 2013 Cave Run Kids Fishing Derby in Morehead is any indication, there will be a healthy population of anglers for some time to come.

This year’s derby experienced record shattering numbers of children including attendees from across the state of Kentucky as well as other states.

In total, 706 kids registered for the derby which put the total number of individuals at around 2,000. To put that into perspective, the previous high number of kids was around 500. While the majority of the kids came from the northeast part of the state, others came from as far away as Pike and Daviess counties.

This year’s derby even included kids from Ohio, Florida and Missouri who were likely camping at the U.S. Forest Service Campground on Cave Run Lake.

Volunteers from local business and government offices were expecting high numbers of kids but were shocked at the number that came. Scott Napier, manager of the Morehead Wal-Mart even had to make a phone call at 8:30 am to have more hot dogs delivered as the kids had already eaten 1,000. At the end of the day, the kids had consumed 1,300 hot dogs, almost 100 cases of Coke, 350 bottles of water, about 15 boxes of Frito Lay Chips and about a dozen racks of Hiners hot dog buns. All of these items were donated by local businesses.

In addition to all of the food, kids also went home with every fish they caught fil-

leted, cleaned and bagged thanks to the hordes of volunteers from the Kentucky Houndsman Association and the Northeast Fish and Game Club.

The Kentucky Houndsman outdid themselves this year by providing each kid with a bag of Doug Morgan’s secret fish batter. Gary Greene and most of the other volunteers from both the Houndsman and the Northeast Fish and Game Club did double duty by handling the fish cleaning and the annual casting contest.

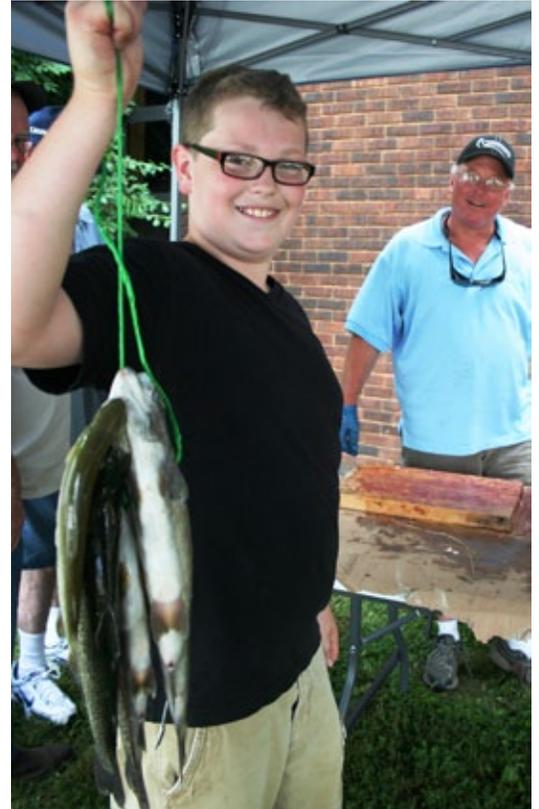
The derby also featured a few new exhibits by The National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited. The folks from NWTF featured a BB gun target range that put each kid one on one with an NWTF member who showed them some shooting tips, and let them sling some lead at paper turkey targets.

The folks from the state DU Chapter also came out to support and teach the kids archery skills. These two groups melded easily with the Cave Run Kids Fishing Derby Committee because of the shared ideals of the need to get kids outside and enjoying all Kentucky has to offer.

With all of these extra activities it might seem that there were not many kids actually out fishing, but one look at the shoulder to shoulder line of kids and parents around the ponds told you that was not the case.

This year’s fish were the usual mix of largemouth bass, catfish and trout but for something different there were a few white crappie mixed in. This mixture of fish was a recipe for fun for all the children who were there. Our thanks go to the U.S. Forest Service who donated bait.

The loan out of fishing poles and



the experts from the Northeastern Fishery District and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery made sure any kid who wanted to fish could, even if they came with nothing but a smile and the desire to catch a fish.

All in all, it was an amazing day that exceeded all of the goals and expectations that were set for it. The volunteers and donors are numerous, but to highlight a few who made it possible: **Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (Forks of Elkhorn, Minor Clark Hatchery and the Northeastern Fishery District)**, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wal-Mart of Morehead, Kentucky Bank, Kentucky Silver Muskie Club, Muskies Inc. Chapter 52, Kentucky Houndsman Association, Northeast Fish and Game Club and Stokley’s Marine.

All of the kids were exceptionally thankful to all that volunteered, but just seeing the face of a five-year-old walk by holding up an 18-inch bass on his way to have it cleaned was all the thanks that was needed for the volunteers.

Ballard County fishing event

Ballard County Wildlife Management Area conducted its annual Fishing Event at the area fishing pond May 16.

The Paducah Sun reported as many as 200 Ballard Elementary School fourth and fifth grade students and many parents participated.

Sgt. Garry Clark said the annual Ballard event began about 12 years ago. Clark and **Officer Tony Dunker** were among six law enforcement division officers helping the **Ballard WMA crew**



Ridge Willharber caught the big fish of the day, a bass, and at right, Tionne Taylor with a bluegill.



with the event.

Dunker said it was the first fishing outing for some and many don't have a place to go fishing.

Poles and bait were provided by the department.

This event is one of the favorite field trips the elementary school takes each year.

AUDUBON STATE PARK KIDS FISHING DERBY



Second District conservation officer Brian Taylor demonstrated the proper way to grasp a channel catfish to a happy youngster during the annual Kids Fishing Derby at Audubon State Park in Henderson on June 8.