

July 2010

—VOL. 5 NO. 7—



Goose
round-up
Page 4



Department moving quickly to launch Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area

Fish and Wildlife Commissioner **Jon Gassett** and his executive staff have been busy assessing options and building a plan since Governor Steven Beshear's June 16 announcement that Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife would re-open Meade County's Otter Creek Park next spring.

Their mission: Create the Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area with more than

2,000 acres of new public hunting and fishing opportunity within 30 miles of Louisville, and simultaneously maintain the area for hikers, runners, horseback riders, mountain bikers, campers, rock climbers, kayakers, canoeists, and more. The Department also plans to establish a Fish and Wildlife law enforcement training facility on the area.

"We're off to a great start," said Gas-

sett. "Executive staff spent an entire day on site and department personnel have been there many days since then. We are excited about the area's many possibilities and what they will mean to all those who pursue recreation outdoors."

The effort is not without its challenges.

"We intend to succeed," said Gassett. "It's important to remember that the park was forced to close in 2008 due to its high operating costs. Fish and Wildlife has been successfully supported solely by its users for nearly 70 years and we're now exploring ways to include the area's users in that model."

Some of the area's structures are sound and can be utilized immediately. But others have fallen into serious disrepair and likely will need to be removed. Hundreds of trees still block hiking and riding trails where winter ice storms dropped them two years ago.

"The public and volunteers have long played integral roles in our department's management of Kentucky's fish and wildlife resources and our public areas," said Gassett. "We'll be counting heavily on them to make the Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area a success as well."

Gov. Steve Beshear called the Depart-

[See "Otter Creek," page 2](#)

INSIDE:



3 Alligator gar



6 Fish exhibit



9 Charity Fishing



“Otter Creek,” continued

ment’s new acquisition “a great opportunity to expand our adventure tourism efforts in an area so close to the Commonwealth’s largest city.” He said the area can be used for many types of recreation and will help tourism and economic development in the region.

Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson called it “the best possible scenario for Otter Creek – and for the people who use and love the park.” He said the city had urged state government to assume operations of the park for more than 20 years.

Camp Piomingo, operated by the YMCA of Greater Louisville under a lease agreement, will continue to offer its youth programs.

Legal arrangements to initiate a temporary lease of the area from Louisville Metro Government by the Department are continuing until the final land transfer can be completed.

The U.S. Department of the Interior deeded the land to the City of Louisville decades ago with deed restrictions that it always remains an outdoor recreation area. The City now is donating the land to the Department and the Department of Interior must approve the transfer. The Department plans to purchase 200 adjacent acres from the City.

“We’re working diligently on a draft plan of operation that opens the area to hunters and anglers for the first time, but also allows for many other types of outdoor recreation as well,” said Gassett. “The area has been closed to everyone for more than two years, but we plan to open it this coming spring.”

User fees will be necessary. When the area was Otter Creek Park, the City of Louisville shouldered its operational costs. But Fish and Wildlife receives no General Fund money. It is funded entirely by licenses, permits and fees paid by those who hunt, fish and boat. Otter Creek users will now be Fish and Wildlife customers as well.



Second year-class of Alligator Gar reaching stocking size



A close-up image of an alligator gar about to be tagged on the fish's right side.

Ryan Oster photo

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is no rookie when it comes to restoring species that have unfortunately declined dramatically for one reason or another.

Simply look at the Department's track record, with the resounding success of the Wildlife Division with whitetail deer, turkey, and elk. On the Fisheries side, look at the impressive populations of striped bass and walleye in Lake Cumberland, black bass in Kentucky and Barkley Lakes, and musky in Cave Run and Green River Lakes.

More recently, the Department has committed to long term restoration efforts for lake sturgeon in the upper Lake Cumberland system and alligator gar in far western Kentucky.

In its second year of the alligator gar restoration efforts, the Department's two

fish hatcheries (Pfeiffer and Minor Clark), have exceeded all initial expectations in terms of developing protocols to effectively rear both numbers and quality of alligator gar for stocking.

On July 8-9, 2010, more than 5,500 alligator gar were individually tagged at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery with uncoded microwire in preparation for their eventual stocking in far western Kentucky. Gar are tagged in the area just anterior and dorsal to the caudal peduncle region.

The purpose of this tagging is to identify these individual fish as hatchery reared individuals in the hopes that one day, alligator gar that are recaptured that do not possess the microwire may be considered to be the progeny of natural reproduction in the wild from these hatchery fish.

Using only one microwire tagging machine, **staff from the Fish Lab** worked two days to tag over 5,500 alligator gar. Special thanks to **Steve Marple, Nick Skudlarek, Josh Pennington**, and the **entire staff at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery** for accommodating the tagging on these two days. Also, special thanks should go out to **Stephanie Brandt, Matt Thomas, Don Bunnell, Ryan Kausing, Steven Kull, and Erica Toles** for their assistance with the actual tagging.

Once tagged, a group of these fish will be stocked into similar locations as last year's fish. This first stocking of fish will be 8-10 inches in length. The remainder of the tagged alligator gar will be reared to a slightly larger size (12-13 inches) before also being stocked. The first stocking of

these fish is anticipated for the week of July 12th.

The second group is anticipated to be stocked in early August. A select few fish are planned to be held over so that an in-depth telemetry study can be conducted to help document movement and habitat preferences of these recently stocked alligator gar.

In addition, the Fisheries Division has recently completed the development of the Alligator Gar Management Plan. This



Once tagged, alligator gar are checked to verify that the tag was retained. Any fish where the tag was not located are immediately retagged.

Ryan Oster photo

plan shall help provide the foundation for the Fisheries Division's efforts to help restore this keystone species back into its once native areas in western Kentucky. We hope to have this plan placed on the Department website in the upcoming weeks for the public to download and view.

If you have any questions regarding the alligator gar restoration program, please feel free to contact either **Ryan Oster** at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4461 or **Matt Thomas** at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4463.



June is Canada Goose Round-up Time

Photos by John Brunjes

Wildlife Division staff from the Northeast, Bluegrass and Southeast regions, along with assistance from Fisheries, Administrative Services, Information and Education and some enthusiastic volunteers herded, corralled and/or tackled about 2,000 Canada geese during this summer's banding campaign.

During the last two weeks of June each year, KDFWR staff from the various divisions work together to band birds from Kentucky's resident Canada goose population. Often referred to as Giant Canada geese (*Branta Canadensis maxima*) and once thought extinct, these birds have been restored across all their former range in North America.

Banding is done during late June and early July when adult geese are flightless because of the wing molt and before this year's young can fly.

Biologists use a variety of techniques including Jon boats on Cave Run Lake, trucks, ropes and foot traffic on Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, and a combination of radio-controlled boats and kayaks on central

Kentucky horse farms to herd molting adults and young geese into locations where they can be trapped and banded.

Once the birds are corralled, biologists begin the process of aging and sexing each bird before placing a uniquely coded band around the leg and releasing the bird back on site.

In addition to placing new bands on birds without bands, we record the band number of other geese already wearing leg bands from previous years.

Often **John Brunjes** and **Rocky Pritchert** will use this opportunity to teach new staff as well as anyone else who may be interested to learn how to age and sex a goose. This is an excellent hands on opportunity that often leaves its participants a little greener than when they began.



Hannah Pritchert, squeezes a band around the leg of a Canada Goose, while her dad, State Waterfowl biologist Rocky Pritchert, examines a goose immediately to the left and behind her during this year's goose roundup.

The information collected from over 20 years of banding resident geese allows the state's waterfowl biologists to monitor harvest, annual survival and movements of Kentucky's birds across the state and throughout the flyway and North America.

Over the years through banding, we have seen the importance of Kentucky's resident Canada geese increase to the state's waterfowl hunters. In 1990, less than 5 percent of Kentucky's Canada goose harvest consisted of resident birds and 95 percent from populations that nested on the tundra regions of James and Hudson Bay.

Today, about 45 percent of the state's harvest is comprised of resident birds and over 80 percent of our total harvest consists of both Kentucky resident geese and resident geese from our neighboring states and Ontario.

Banding information has permitted biologists to set longer seasons for Kentucky goose hunters because of knowledge that there will be little impact on less abundant migrant Canada goose populations. Much of this would not be possible without the annual Kentucky goose round-ups.

Tennessee men lose big for illegally hunting turkeys

Two Tennessee men were fined and lost even more in equipment forfeitures after pleading guilty in Ballard District Court to hunting turkeys over bait they placed.

Arthur James Coleman III, 45, and Stephen Bridges, 47, both of Brentwood, Tennessee, were found hunting wild turkeys over bait at Huntland Farms, a private tract bordering the Ballard Wildlife Management Area.

Fish and Wildlife officers **Tony Dunker, Kyle Webb, and Sgt. Denny Broyles** observed the men place corn on three areas of the farm and then found them hunting over it on the opening morning of the spring turkey season.

District Judge Keith Myers fined each \$343.00 and ordered forfeiture of seized equipment - a tractor with seed spreader, an electric utility vehicle, and a twelve gauge shotgun.



FISHING DERBY

Eastern Fisheries District office staff and 7th District Conservation Officers joined Jenny Wiley State Park, Army Corps of Engineers at Dewey Lake, Floyd County National Wild Turkey Federation and the Floyd County Sheriff's Office in a Dewey Lake Kids Fishing Derby on May 15. The youngster with the big carp won first prize, a camo BB gun, but all youth went home with a prize.

Group photo includes officers Joe Tomblin, Sgt. Steve Curry, Jason Campbell, Sgt. Philip Whitley and Eric Thomas.



New Sport Fish Exhibit Almost complete at Salato Wildlife Center

Photos by Ryan Oster

Located on the grounds of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' main headquarters, the Salato Wildlife Education Center was first opened to the public in October of 1995.

The facility was named after Dr. James C. Salato, a 28-year Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission Member, who represented the 4th District.

Entrance to the new sport fish exhibit at Salato Wildlife Center.

Developed in part to provide a common facility to help inform the public of the importance of Kentucky's outdoors and wildlife resources (both terrestrial and aquatic), the Salato Center and its staff also strive to promote good stewardship of these resources for today's, as well as, tomorrow's generation.

The staff of the Salato Wildlife Education Center is comprised of five Conservation Education Program Leaders (CEPLs), five animal care staff, and

four interim employees. These staff are overseen by **Laurie Davison**, who is the manager of the Salato Wildlife Education Center. Annually, this facility is visited by approximately 80,000 individuals from the public.

The center boasts an impressive indoor facility comprised of several exhibits including reptiles, elk, deer, turkey, state record fish, and several large aquariums. Outside, visitors can take a relaxing walk and view bears, bobcats, elk, turkey, deer,



and bald eagles. Visitors can also take a walk through a “living stream”, as well as observe a dragonfly marsh.

Weekly special events are conducted that are open to the public with the ultimate goal of promoting the outdoors and good stewardship of our resources.

In the planning stages for roughly one year, the Department is pleased to announce that the development of a new sport fish exhibit is nearly complete. The central idea for this exhibit is for visitors to “Get onboard with our team to keep Kentucky’s fish populations healthy.”

Designed to be an interactive exhibit, visitors can experience and learn about the efforts of the Fisheries Division acting as good stewards of the Commonwealth’s fish populations. Visitors can learn about the operations of fish hatcheries, stocking programs, and fisheries management studies.

This exhibit outlines these steps beginning with fish being reared at the fish hatchery, stocked, sampled and evaluated, and ultimately being caught by anglers. They will also learn about how buying a fishing license and fishing equipment helps pay for conservation and stewardship.

The exhibit begins with visitors walking through a massive replica of the mouth of a black bass. The first stop is a small exhibit that highlights the passage of the Sport Fish Restoration Act and informs visitors how their purchase of a fishing license translates into direct conservation and management.



Next, visitors view a short video clip of staff at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery collecting and spawning musky. This video clip is narrated by Ms. Sarah Terry, the young woman who caught the current state record musky from Cave Run Lake in 2008.

Following the video, they can take part in an interactive exhibit dealing with fish eggs and calculating how many fish eggs biologists place in containers in preparation for hatching. Next, visitors continue on toward another video clip showing how fisheries staff collect fish from the wild in order to monitor and manage populations.

Visitors may take part in an interactive effort that simulates the experience of

Example of one of the several stations at the new sport fish exhibit at Salato Wildlife Center.

being on an electrofishing boat and collecting and measuring fish. Following this station, are several large murals displaying management studies and the importance of fishing and purchasing a license.

Finally, the exhibit ends with the opportunity for visitors to take their picture with a striped bass on the backdrop of the Kentucky Afield cover for the magazine. This picture opportunity is surely going to provide a great experience for young children to have a snapshot of a life-time.

Please stop by to view this new exhibit in the upcoming weeks once it is fully completed. Thanks are due to **Chris Hunter**, **Emily Hogue**, and **Jamie Cook** for their countless number of hours and hard

work during the development of this new, amazing exhibit.

Thanks also are due to Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery staff **Steve Marple** and **Nick Skudlarek**, as well as Minor Clark Fish Hatchery staff **Rod Middleton** and **Pete Besant** for their invaluable input into this exhibit.

Funding for this exhibit was provided in part by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Sport Fish Restoration Act. Thanks are due to the Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the gracious financial support throughout this project.

For more information about this new sport fish exhibit, please feel free to contact the staff at the Salato Wildlife Education Center.

'Once In a Lifetime Opportunity' for Residents of Frenchburg Group Home

By Tom Timmermann

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife publishes a list of all the streams and lakes that are to be stocked with trout each month. With thousands of fish being added to local streams, have you ever wondered how such an enormous number of fish come to be stocked?

Certainly one of the most hard working and underappreciated sections in the Fisheries Division is the **Fish Transportation Section**, which is not only responsible for stocking the majority of the brown and rainbow trout in streams and lakes across the state, but also every other fish species stocked by the Department.

The remainder of the trout are stocked by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in streams within the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The first and biggest part of the trout stocking process is moving them via truck from the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery at Lake Cumberland to your local stream.

The most difficult part, however, can be getting them from the truck to the stream, particularly at stream sites that do not allow the stocking truck immediate access to stocking sites.

Often, district fisheries biologists and technicians walk miles up and down hills, over logs and slide into streams several times just to get the stock fish to the water. Even though hiking miles in the beautiful wilderness of the Daniel Boone National Forest can be one of the best parts of their jobs, getting the fish as rapidly as possible from the trucks into the streams takes work and is vital to the health of the fish.

As a result, each spring and fall as the

fish hauling trucks are loading up, local fisheries district personnel are burning up the phone lines to find help in the last leg of the trout's journey. Volunteers not only make the biologists and technician's jobs a little easier, but they also improve the trout's chances of survival by speeding up this stressful process.

Last October, the Northeastern



Volunteers from the Frenchburg Group Home assist with the stocking of trout into remote sections of streams in Northeastern Kentucky.



Fishery District was in need of assistance stocking trout in Swift Camp Creek. They were lucky enough to get in touch with some volunteers from the Frenchburg Group Home in Menifee County.

It was a win-win situation with the volunteers benefiting from the education of being outdoors and stocking fish, and the district personnel benefiting from the help.

Fisheries technician Kevan Lane has worked for the state for several years and suggested the group home (one of his former employers) as a source of volunteers. Kevan called down to the Boys' Home and set-up the stocking.

The volunteers did such a good job that they have since helped stock brown trout in the headwaters of East Fork of Indian Creek and again in Swift Camp Creek. They even chipped in and helped run a bait station at the Cave Run Kids' Fishing Derby in early June.

Boys from the Frenchburg Group Home find themselves in this long term residential program operated through the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice by having involvements with the law at home, school, or in the community.

"The program of treatment is designed to help change the attitudes and behaviors that led to [law involvement] issues so that the resident may return to the community and become a productive member therein," said Mitch Adams, superintendent of the Frenchburg Group Home.

On a normal day the boys go to school at a local alternative school, do their chores, prepare their own meals, and help with community work projects like volunteering at an animal shelter or with Kentucky Pride. Teamwork and coop-

eration is always emphasized. Although helping with a trout stocking adventure is not part of the normal routine for the boys', teamwork and cooperation is crucial to helping with the stocking of the trout.

"Some of the boys were hesitant at first but we have never had a resident who did not want to go," said Adams, "the boys thoroughly enjoy the sense of adventure and the mystery these experiences provide."

For most of the boys, being outside and enjoying nature is completely foreign to them. Adams explained that most of the residents have never had the opportunity to do something like the trout stockings. He said that the majority of the boys come from urban settings or family situations that did not promote outdoor activities.

"The trout stocking does increase the interest the boys have in the outdoors and in fishing," said Adams. "In fact, fishing is now one of the favorite activities the staff does with the residents."

Adams went on to say that he thought there were many benefits associated with the boys helping with the trout stocking. He included the sense of community service in involvement (most of the trout stockings take place in the Menifee County area), being exposed to the importance of care and consideration of the environment, the role animals play in the environment, the possibility of future vocations and, as he put it, "the 'Tom Sawyer' experience of it all".

Next time you venture down to the Red River Gorge area to fish for rainbow or brown trout, just consider the road those fish traveled to reach your streams, and how simply stocking fish can become an "unforgettable and once in a lifetime opportunity" to someone who has never been exposed to something we all sometimes take for granted.

If you are interested in either helping with trout stockings, or have a group who could help with stockings, please call 606-783-8650 or email

tom.timmermann@ky.gov.



Williams organizes church fishing outing for charity

Phillip Williams, of the Information Center, organized and put together a charity event for his 2010 Project by raising awareness about fishing.

He organized 37 members of the Thornhill Baptist Church to come down to Sportsman's lake on free fishing weekend. He included prizes and games for both kids and adults. It was an outstanding success.

They caught bluegill, sunfish, and channel catfish and had a great time reel-

ing them in.

Contests at the church preceded the event. Youth were challenged to color a picture of a bluegill. There were prizes for each group, including beach sacks filled with goodies provided by **Susie Paul** from marketing and fish posters signed by Kentucky Afield Artist **Rick Hill**.

The winners were excited to get them. There was a drawing for Kentucky Afield magazine subscriptions.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Education Director **Marc Johnson** and assistant, **Zac Campbell**, loaned fishing poles and reels that were ready to be used. They also provided bobbers, fish identification books, fish posters, Kentucky Afield magazines plus other goodies to give away at the end of the day.

Several rod and reel packages (furnished by Ky Fish and Wildlife) for the biggest fish caught by an adult and a child were awarded Sunday morning prior to church service. There was even a prize for the first fish caught.

Everyone is looking forward to go fishing again.



Lake Malone Hosts Second Annual Kids Fishing Tournament

The Kids Fishing Tournament at Lake Malone started two years ago as little more than small talk between two fishing buddies. But on Saturday, May 15, about 500 people gathered as trophies and prizes were awarded. Founders Mike Kirby and Don Harper saw their dream of a kids fishing tournament become a reality in the spring of 2009.

Kids ages 4-15 were eligible to participate in the tournament held at Lake Malone in Muhlenberg, Logan, and Todd counties. There was a one fish limit and prizes were awarded for largest fish of the day and the three largest fish



caught of each fish species. In its first year the tournament had 107 participants.

With high hopes for 2010, advertising and sponsorship efforts doubled. The extra effort was necessary as 196 kids signed up this year. Most kids fished from shore or from floating docks at the State Park Marina but more than 40 boats took to the water as conservation officers **Scott McIntosh** and **Bradley McCoy** flashed the blue lights on their patrol boat to begin the tournament.

A group of happy kids after receiving their trophies for catching some of the biggest fish of the day.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks were provided for the kids, parents, and grandparents in attendance. Conservation Officers of the 2nd District and Fisheries staff from the Northwest Fisheries District were on hand to insure safety of participants, answer questions, and help with food preparation.

After all fish were weighed in, prizes were awarded. Thirty-seven trophies and gift cards were awarded for fishing success and names were drawn for door prizes. About 200 door prizes were given out including rod and reels, tackle boxes, tee shirts, chairs, a cooler and a 14-foot jon boat with trailer, trolling motor, battery, paddle, and all necessary safety equipment was awarded as the grand prize.

The event has been a tremendous success due to the work put in by Kirby and his accomplices. Kirby is the South Central Kentucky Director of the Fishing For Kids non-profit organization. "It is a blessing to see the smiles on the faces of the kids who come out to enjoy God's creation", says Kirby. A big thank you is extended to all sponsors and those who helped with the event.

Planning is already underway for next year with hopes of doing it bigger and better in May 2011.



(Left to right) KDFWR Sergeants James Heady, and Marcus Bowling, Officers Scott McIntosh, John Jackson, and Bradley McCoy, and Fisheries Biologist Jeremy Shiftet took pictures with some of the successful participants.

Bowling, Detherage graduate DOCJT Academy of Police Supervision

Division of Law Enforcement Sergeants **Marcus Bowling** and **Doug Detherage** were among 19 officers from 17 agencies across the commonwealth recognized at a graduation ceremony last month for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Bowling, assigned to Hopkins County, was chosen as class speaker. Detherage is assigned to Shelby County.

APS, also called the sergeant's academy, is a three-week, 120-hour training program targeted for 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 37th to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Retired Bowling Green Police Chief Jerry Wells served as guest speaker.

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.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. The agency is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and was the first accredited public safety-training program in the nation. In 2006, the academy also became the first law enforcement-training academy in the nation to be designated as a CALEA flagship agency.



Commissioner **Jon Gassett** spoke with staff just prior to the Third District Commission Member nomination process last month at Valley High School in Louisville. Commission Member nominations also were conducted in the Second and Eighth Districts last month and names of nominated candidates were forwarded to Gov. Steve Beshear to be considered for appointment to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Deputy Commissioner **Benjy Kinman** (Look out America's Got Talent) tested the PA system as **Chad Miles**, **Ron Brooks** and **Tim Slone** quickly moved to turn down the volume!



New Conservation Officer **Steve Nelson**, assigned to Grayson County, missed an earlier awards ceremony before the Commission, but was presented his Top Gun plaque by **Commissioner Jon Gassett** and **Col. Bob Milligan** for taking top firearms honors while in the academy. They also presented him formally with his commission and academy certificate.



NEW HIRES

July 2010

Brian Clark has been promoted to an Assistant Director position in the Public Affairs Division, effective 16 June. In his new position, Brian will oversee social science research projects for the Department, help with public involvement, and perform administrative functions to support Public Affairs and its outreach efforts.

Brian has worked for KDFWR for 15 years in the Wildlife Division. He started in an interim position based in Madisonville, and worked in biologist positions there and based in Elizabethtown until his most recent job for the past 6 years—Bluegrass Region Coordinator for Wildlife.

Brian received his Bachelor's degree in Forestry & Wildlife from Virginia Tech and a Master's in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from the University of Tennessee. While in graduate school he worked with a variety of research projects in "human dimensions" of wildlife management including several surveys and focus group studies. Brian completed a 1-year scholarship program at Colorado State University in 2007, where he completed a graduate certification program in Human Dimensions. Since that time he has been assisting with some of the Department's human dimension efforts.

Please welcome our new staff veterinarian, **Dr. Aaron Hecht**. Aaron received his BS degree in animal science at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, in 2002 and completed his DVM degree from Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. Aaron trained as a mixed animal veterinarian and spent time working in Texas and Montana before joining a mixed animal practice in Indiana. After a year in practice in southern Indiana he took a job as a veterinarian for Eli Lilly Pharmaceuti-

cal Company based in Indiana. In 2008, Aaron joined the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study "SCWDS" and the University of Georgia to pursue a Master's Degree and study the distribution of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) among free-ranging white-tailed deer in the United States.

Aaron's office is presently located in the animal holding facility on Headquarters. His primary duties will include coordinating and conducting animal disease surveillance including CWD and WNS. Other duties will be formulated with I & E and LE for their animal needs.

Kevin Rexroat attained his bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Conservation and Management from the University of Kentucky in 2004. He worked as an elk research technician with KDFWR and UK from April of 2005 until September 2006. During which time he collected data and monitored the health of the Eastern Kentucky elk herd. He now joins the department as a full time technician working on habitat management projects statewide. Kevin is based in the Headquarters office.

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

July 2010

We received the following email from Chris Evans with the Crittenden Press, Marion, KY regarding our **press releases and outdoor columns**. "We use KDFWR stuff almost every week. Love it! Our outdoor writers only write in deer and turkey season.

"You guys keep us going the rest of the year. Crittenden is an outdoors lover's paradise. I tell people that golfers live on the golf course, I live in the forest."



This email came from Wade Bourne. He writes, "I'm an outdoor writer living in Clarksville, TN. I receive your news releases, and I just read your (**Lee McClellan**) article on fishing black Jitterbugs for night smallmouths. Good work! I enjoyed it thoroughly, and I read with special interest since I'm going to night-fish the Jitterbug on the Buffalo River in north Arkansas next month.

"I'm going with Lawrence Taylor of PRADCO Lures and a local angler who supposedly really knows his stuff. Now you've raised my anticipation level a notch or two. I've printed your piece for future reference. Keep up the good words, and I hope you're taking time from the writing business to show some Bluegrass smallmouths who's the boss!"

The following email came from Lou Komis. "Walt, I want to thank you and **the guys working on the ramp**, and those others that made it possible, for correcting some problems with the Helms landing ramp. I was there yesterday fishing so I got to chat with the guys and add my two cents. The CR river is my favorite place. Peace, serenity, mother nature at its finest here in Kentucky.

"I had an acquaintance who suggested once we have a trout tournament on the CR. After I slapped him I explained to him that parties are for Lake Cumberland, solitude for the Cumberland River. Let's work together to keep it that way, limited access, limited development, an escape from the crowds, 'The Cumberland River!'"