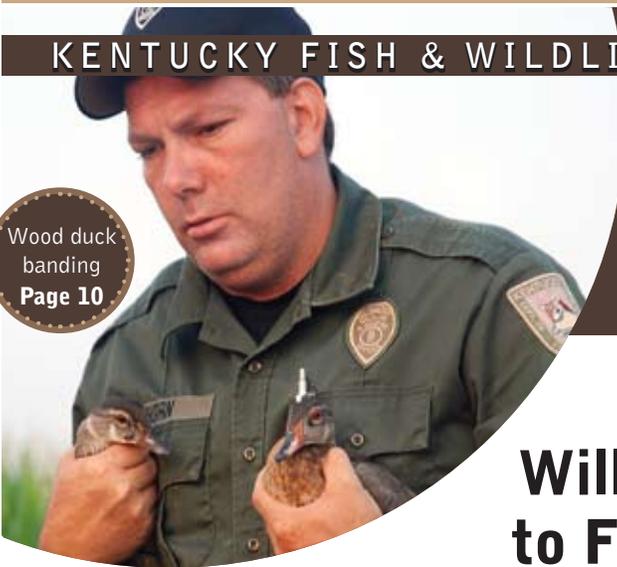


August 2010

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Wood duck banding  
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## Williams, Ray, Fryman appointed to Fish and Wildlife Commission

**G**overnor Steve Beshear has appointed three new members to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission effective August 14, 2010 and to serve terms expiring August 13, 2014.

**David M. Williams II**, of Reynolds Station, is an agent with Kentucky Farm Bureau. He replaces Dale Franklin, whose term expired. Williams will represent the Second Wildlife District.

**Stuart N. Ray**, of Louisville, is Executive Vice president of Steel Technologies LLC. He will represent the Third Wildlife District. He replaces Tony Brown, whose term expired.

**Norman J. Fryman**, of Paris, is Senior Vice President of Kentucky Bank. He will represent the Eighth Wildlife District and replaces Rick D. Storm, whose term expired.

Williams also is a Ohio County farmer who's raised soybeans, corn, cattle, tobacco, Boer goats and llamas. He enjoys hunting, fishing, showing horses, and spending time with his family. He earned a BA Science/Agriculture degree from Western Kentucky University in 1995.

He's a longtime Ducks Unlimited committee member and chairman, member of Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and Daviess County Lions Club, member of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, and the National Rifle Association. He is a deacon, moderator, and Sunday School Director of Whitesville Baptist Church.

He is married to Ann Marie Williams who is principal at the East View Elementary School in Daviess County. Their children are Martin 11, Larkin 9, Benjamin 6, and Scarlettann 2.

Ray enjoys hunting, fishing, and golf and is a licensed falconer. He is co-founder, and a member of the board of directors and past chairman of the George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

His memberships also include the

See "Commission," page 4

### GET ON BOARD

Salato's newest exhibit, "Get On Board" greets visitors by inviting them to enter the exhibit through the mouth of a huge Kentucky spotted bass and into an operating fish hatchery. Once inside, they get a hands-on experience learning about the efforts of Department fisheries biologists to manage and maintain healthy fish populations.

*Dave Baker photo*



INSIDE:



**3** Volland's EMMY



**8** Lake sturgeon



**14** K-9 demo

## CAMPERS WELCOME OFFICERS



The Kentucky Conservation Officers Association donated funding for 90 scholarships to the department's three conservation camps this year. Camp staff enjoys having officers visit while children from schools in their districts are at camp. Camp Webb was pleased to welcome officer Homer Pigman in June during the Seventh District camp week, and also officers Dean Kennard and Glenn Kitchen during Eighth District week in July. In addition to assisting with escorting buses, the officers stepped in to help with instruction at the camp activities.

## New hires / promotions

**Tyler Reagan**, originally from Scottsville, Kentucky, started August 1 in his new position as Farm Bill Biologist working out of the Montgomery County NRCS Field Office located in Mt. Sterling. Tyler received his B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Murray State in 2007. Since graduation, Tyler has previous work experience with The Nature Conservancy working with the LIP program in the Obion Creek and Bayou de Chien Watersheds. Most recently, Tyler has worked 3 nine month seasonal positions at West

Kentucky WMA.

**Jason Scott**, originally from Tennessee, was recently hired as a Farm Bill Biologist working out of the Calloway County NRCS office located in Murray. Jason received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Tennessee Tech University in 2004. Jason completed his graduate research project on population demographics of northern bobwhites while receiving his M.S. in Range and Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2009.

## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

Recently Sergeant **Marcus Bowling** had an opportunity to allow a 13-year-old young man to "shadow" him while checking licenses, trot lines, jug lines, etc on the Green River. This young man loves to farm and be in the outdoors. Caleb writes, "Thank you so much for taking me out on the Green River, I had a blast. It gave me a good idea for a career for when I get older. It also gave me a good perspective on what you guys do all the time. I am really appreciative of what you do."

*A couple of hours with a young person can make a difference for a lifetime!*

The Commissioner's office received a phone call from Ron Durham of Georgetown who wanted to compliment **KDFWR**. He said when he was a child there were squirrels and an occasional rabbit and grouse to hunt. Now, the deer are plentiful, the fishing is great and he has even seen a mink while fishing Elkhorn Creek. He said KDFWR is doing a GREAT job!

**See "Mail," page 14**

**Brenna Brooking** has been promoted to an Internal Policy Analyst III (Budget/Capital Construction) position within the Director's Office of the Administrative Services Division. Brenna received her bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 2002. Before starting her state government career with the Department of Revenue as a Program Officer, she worked as a Compliance Auditor and Educator. Brenna has served our Department for the past two years as a Federal Grants Analyst.

## EMMY victory for Volland

By Charlie Baglan

What distinguishes one photographer from the next is perspective. They let you see differently something you may have seen a zillion times. Through their unique use of angle, focus and light, the mundane becomes engaging if not captivating. This describes “Kentucky Afield” TV’s **Brian Volland**. Pardon me, I should say, “EMMY-winning Brian Volland.” On Saturday, July 31, Brian was awarded his first EMMY by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Ohio Valley chapter.

This shiny statue will look dazzling on his desk amid a flutter of photos of his baby girl, Norah. Fitting, because family and videography are his two loves, and in that order.

Brian’s big night came in the television program photographer category from a collection of scenes he produced over several episodes last season as well as his feature story on Carlisle, Kentucky’s national trap shooting champion, Nora Ross. In 2008, Brian was also honored with an EMMY nomination on his exposé on



Kentucky novelist, Ron Ellis.

While ‘going on a shoot’ may sound old hat, the ability to capture smooth eventful action from perches such as tree stands, rocking boats, soggy foggy misty bottomlands and other less-than-model conditions is where skill and experience come in and awards are found waiting.

## Jackson receives USFWS award for investigation

Second District Captain **Greg Noel** (left) presented Officer **John Jackson** an award July 16, on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in recognition of his outstanding investigative assistance during a wildlife poisoning investigation in January 2009 that produced a guilty plea in U.S. District Court, Bowling Green early this year.

Jackson began his investigation after receiving reports from hunters of numerous wildlife carcasses – hawks, coyotes, vultures and foxes – on a Logan County



farm. His investigation found that turkey carcasses had been laced with Furadan and placed on the farm in an effort to poison coyotes and had killed the federally protected birds.

## Watts, Harrison graduate APS, earn highest scores ever

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Sergeants **Greg Watts** and **James Harrison** led the way last month when 20 law enforcement officers from 17 agencies across the Commonwealth were recognized at a graduation ceremony 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.

Watts earned the academy’s highest academic score ever recorded with a 99.7 average. Harrison, with a 99.5 average, earned the second highest score ever.

Watts, assigned to Perry County in the Seventh District, is an 11-year officer with the department. Harrison, assigned to Clark County in the Sixth District, joined the department in 2002.

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.

Friday’s graduating class is the 38th to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

APS is a stepping stone to the De-

See “APS,” page 4



The new boat ramp currently under construction below Taylorsville Lake dam on the Salt River. *Ryan Oster photo*

## Two new boat ramps on the Salt River nearing completion

**T**he **Engineering Division** is hard at work putting the finishing touches on two new boat ramps along the Salt River below Taylorsville Lake.

One of the new boat ramps is being constructed just downstream of the tailwater below Taylorsville Lake. This new boat ramp will offer a single lane, paved ramp for anglers to fish the immediate tailwater below the lake.

At times, the tailwater below Taylorsville Lake can be a hotspot for black bass, panfish, catfish and sauger. Prior to the construction of this ramp, only bank fishermen had access to fish the tailwater below Taylorsville Lake. Once completed, this ramp should accommodate up to 12 vehicles and trailers.

The second boat ramp is located about 4 miles downstream of the tailwater ramp in the town of Taylorsville. This boat ramp will be similar to the tailwater boat ramp in that it will offer a paved, single lane ramp

and parking for 10 vehicles and trailers.

Anglers can access this ramp by taking Hwy 55 south of the city and then turning right onto Hwy 2885. The new boat ramp will be down on your right hand side about 2-3 miles.

In addition to offering access for boaters, these two boat ramps will also offer a great opportunity for canoes/kayaks to access the Salt River. Canoes can launch from the tailwater boat ramp site and enjoy a leisurely 4 mile paddle downstream to the city of Taylorsville before utilizing the downstream access site as their takeout.

The next boat ramp slated for construction will be the new Barbourville Boat Ramp located off of Hwy 11 just south of the city. This new boat ramp will be constructed on the Cumberland River. Please thank the Engineering Division for their continued hard work to develop more access to Kentucky's aquatic resources.

### “Commission,” continued

National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Quail Forever, Trout Unlimited, Quality Deer Management Association, League of Kentucky Sportsmen, Safari Club International and is an NRA Life Member. He has served as a director on numerous business and trade association boards and for charity.

He is married to Michele R. Ray and their children are Randal Elizabeth 21, Shelby Ann 20, Jordan Marie 20, Olivia Clare 9, and S. Parker 5.

Fryman, an avid hunter and fisherman, also was a major tobacco producer until the tobacco buyout. He now raises cattle and hay on his 250-acre Bourbon County farm. He also owns Fryman's boat dock, which has been owned and operated by the Fryman family since the early 1930s.

He is married to Lana Fryman, Bourbon County School Superintendent. They have a son Ben, and daughter, Beth.

### “APS,” continued

partment 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 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.

## Law Enforcement retirements

### Captain Larry Ashford

First District Captain Larry Ashford retired July 31.

He began his career with the Department of Fish and Wildlife with Wildlife Division as a wildlife aide working at Ballard WMA.

Captain Ashford transferred to the Law Enforcement Division as a Conservation Officer in 1983. He spent his entire career working the First District.

Captain Ashford always maintained a high degree of professionalism and dedication to duty.

He continues to reside in Ballard County.

### Captain Bobby Newman

Captain Bobby Newman began his career with the Law Enforcement Division in 1989 as an officer in the Eighth District (Carter County).

Captain Newman retired as District Captain of the 5th District.

Newman spent seven years in the Kentucky National Guard rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

During his career with Fish and Wildlife he was named Shikar Safari Officer of the Year twice, winning the honor while working in both the Fifth and Eighth Districts. He also received a commendation for his investigation of deer poaching by a county attorney that led to a conviction.

Captain Newman resides in Grant County.



Capt. Ashford



Capt. Newman



Officer Finn

### Conservation Officer II Jeff Finn

Conservation Officer Jeff Finn retired July 30. Finn was a 27-year veteran of the Division of Law Enforcement and his last assignment was in the Special Investigation Section as an Internet Investigator.

Finn began his career in 1983 in the Second District (Simpson County). He was employed for one year as a Kentucky Park Ranger.

Officer Finn assumed the task of developing the division's first Internet Investigation Unit and made it into a nationally recognized Conservation Law Enforcement tool.

Finn was instrumental in the formation of the International Wildlife Cyber Crime Enforcement Group that

is facilitated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2008, Finn was chosen by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) as its National Officer of the Year for his contributions.

Officer Finn resides in Logan County.



Sgt. Snow

### Sergeant Bill Snow

Sergeant Bill Snow also retired July 31. He began his Department of Fish and Wildlife career with the Wildlife Division as a wildlife aide working the Ohio River WMA.

Snow joined the Law Enforcement Division as a First District

conservation officer in 1999 and later rose to rank of sergeant.



Sgt. Whitley

### Sergeant Phillip Whitley

Sergeant Phillip Whitley spent 25 years in law enforcement. He began his career with the Law Enforcement Division in 1985 and was assigned to Magoffin County in the Seventh District. Sergeant Whitley resides in Magoffin County.

## Conservation officers respond in flood-stricken east Kentucky

Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation officers were among the first to respond last month when torrential rains hammered East Kentucky and caused flash flooding that swept homes and vehicles away and left hundreds homeless or stranded without clean water and electricity.

Gov. Steve Beshear declared a state of emergency in Kentucky and Carter, Elliot, Lawrence, Lewis, Mason and Rowan counties each declared states of emergency as well when six to nine inches of rain fell in just a few hours on July 17.

Officers helped evacuate the flood-stricken residents. They brought food, water, medicine and cleanup supplies to many.



## Black bear research update

By Steven Dobey

Although recent temperatures indicate summer is still in full swing, the 2010 bear research season has come to another successful close. This year, researchers with the University of Kentucky endured one of the hottest summers on record – but their efforts have already yielded some exciting new opportunities.

Over a 36-day period beginning May 15, researchers captured 18 (8M:10F) individual bears on 21 occasions along Pine and Black Mountains in Harlan and Letcher counties. Those captures contain nine bears that had never been handled before, including four females.

All 10 females from this summer were equipped with radio collars, bringing the current total to 17 GPS collars collecting data on female bears. GPS data will continue to be collected throughout the fall and winter until bears enter the denning season. At that time, collection intensity is minimized due to the annual lack of activity. This winter, researchers expect 9 radiocollared females to produce cubs.

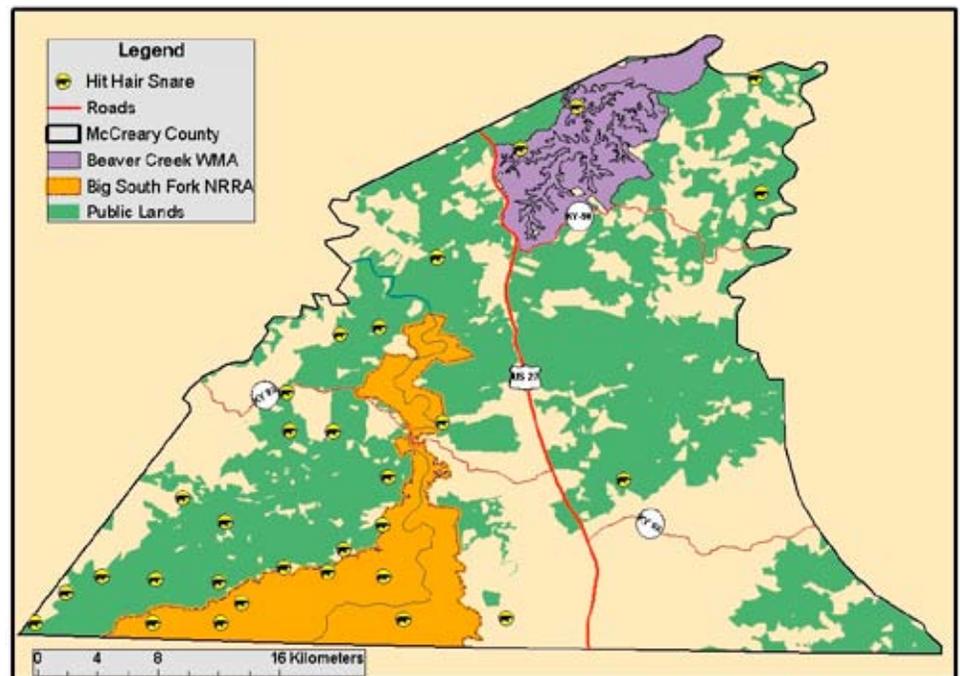
The summer of 2010 also marked a milestone in Kentucky's bear program as research efforts were implemented for the first time in McCreary County. Live trapping and noninvasive hair snare sampling were used to collect the first population data from bears in the northern area of the Big South Fork and southern extent of Daniel Boone National Forest.

The 2010 field season in McCreary County began with the installation of 126 hair snares used as a noninvasive sampling tool across the entire county-wide region. At the conclusion of the six-week sampling period, 159 hair samples were collected from 32 individual snares.

Samples will soon be shipped to Wildlife Genetics International in British Columbia, Canada for microsatellite



Black bear in a hair snare captured by a remote camera in McCreary County, Kentucky.



Locations of successful hair snares during the 2010 trapping season in McCreary County, Kentucky. Overall, 126 hair snares were randomly situated within a county-wide grid composed of 10 km<sup>2</sup> cells.

analyses. Results will enable the individual identification of each hair sample – creating a capture history that will allow an estimation of population size using mark-recapture models.

In addition, researchers also initiated live capture efforts in McCreary County and deployed the first radio collars on

female bears in this new study area. At the conclusion of this summer's field season, researchers captured 15 bears and radiocollared six female bears in this area. As is the case on the Pine Mountain study area, data collected from these bears will greatly benefit the management of black bears in the Commonwealth.

## Lake sturgeon restoration beginning to show progress

The lake sturgeon, a species of greatest conservation need in the Department's Wildlife Action Plan, was once historically widespread throughout medium and large rivers and lake ecosystems from southern Canada to the southeastern United States.

During the late 1800's, many populations of lake sturgeon began to decline dramatically as a result of commercial overharvest, pollution, and habitat loss/degradation.

During the early and mid 1900's, construction of dams on large river systems created barriers to spring spawning migrations. At present, the lake sturgeon population and distribution is estimated to be only 1 percent of its original size.

Presently, the lake sturgeon is listed as endangered in Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. It is listed as threatened in Nebraska, New York and Michigan. Georgia and Alabama list the lake sturgeon as "considered extirpated."

In Kentucky, the lake sturgeon was once reported to be common in the upper Ohio River drainage, but since around 1950, the species has become extremely rare. Less than 20 records have been reported from the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, bordering Kentucky, with only five of which having occurred within the last two decades.

Two records of lake sturgeon are also known from the Cumberland River, both of which occurred in 1954. Since then, the last reported lake sturgeon from the Cumberland River occurred in Tennessee based upon two specimens collected in 1977 and 1978 just below Cordell Hull Dam.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is now in its fourth



Photo of a juvenile lake sturgeon prior to stocking. *Matt Thomas photo*

year of a long term restoration effort to bring back the lake sturgeon population to the upper Cumberland River system.

Beginning in 2007, the Department annually received fertilized lake sturgeon eggs from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These eggs are from wild collected fish from the upper Mississippi River genetic strain. The eggs are hatched and raised to a stocking size at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, prior to being released into the upper Cumberland River, above Lake Cumberland.

At present, there are two main stocking sites at Noe's Dock and Alum Ford (located on the Big South Fork). Prior to stocking, each year-class of lake sturgeon is marked by removing scutes to identify year-class. By individually marking each

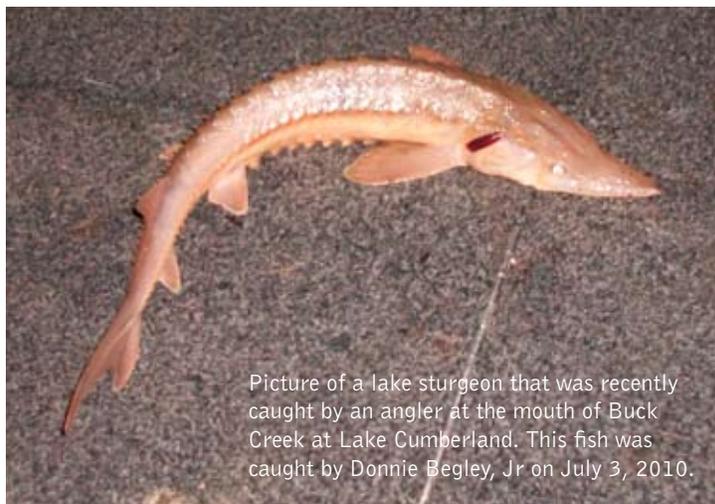
year-class, the Department will be able to evaluate overall growth, survival, and mortality of each year-class once sampling begins for lake sturgeon.

From 2007-2009, a total of 5,655 lake sturgeon have been stocked into the upper Cumberland River. In 2010, a total of 9,000 lake sturgeon will be stocked in the upper Cumberland River.

Already, 5,200 lake sturgeon have been stocked amongst the Noe's Dock and Alum Ford stocking sites. The remaining 3,800 lake sturgeon are scheduled for marking around the end of August and will be stocked by mid September. Similar restoration efforts are also underway in Missouri, Tennessee, Indiana, and Georgia.

There have been several reports of angler catches of lake sturgeon. Just recently, the Department received word that an angler caught a lake sturgeon at the mouth of Buck Creek. Presently it is illegal to harvest any lake sturgeon that is caught in Kentucky.

For more information about the lake sturgeon restoration in Kentucky, please feel free to contact either Steve Marple (Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery Manager) at 502-564-4957 or Matt Thomas/Stephanie Brandt (Ichthyologists) at 502-564-7109 ext. 4463 or 4547)



Picture of a lake sturgeon that was recently caught by an angler at the mouth of Buck Creek at Lake Cumberland. This fish was caught by Donnie Begley, Jr on July 3, 2010.

## Evaluating the effects of grassland management on nesting and migrating songbirds at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

By Kate Heyden

**D**uring the spring of 2009, KDFWR initiated a songbird banding station at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Mercer County. The station followed the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) protocol, set forth by the Institute of Bird Populations and operated on eight dates between May 27 and July 30, 2009. The station contains open grass-dominated areas, as well as patches of shrubs and wooded edge. Although a few native grasses, shrubs and forbs are present in small numbers, the vegetation is primarily made up of non-native, old field vegetation. On the landscape, the station is surrounded by hayfields, cornfields and native warm-season grass (NWSG) fields.

This location was chosen for the MAPS station in order to evaluate the effects on nesting grassland birds by the intensive management continually occurring on the surrounding landscape for the establishment of NWSG fields. A substantial portion (500 acres) of the surrounding area within 2.5 miles of the station was converted to NWSG in 2009, with more conversions expected in the next few years. The area which contains the MAPS station will likely be converted to NWSG sometime in the next 5 years. Thus netting began in 2009 in hopes to obtain baseline data.

During operation, 10 mist nets (32 mm mesh) were opened at sunrise and operated for at least 4 hours. We netted for a total of 340 net hours for an average of 42.5 net hours per day of operation. There were 369 captures of 34 species, for a capture rate of 1.09 birds per net hour. KDFWR personnel, Shaker Village staff and

volunteers banded birds with US Geological Survey (USGS) aluminum leg bands. Morphological measurements and plumage characteristics were recorded including breeding condition, wing chord, mass, fat stores, the extent of flight feather and body molt, and the degree of feather wear. When possible, birds were aged and sexed using the degree of skull pneumaticization and/or plumage characteristics, including the presence or absence of molt limits. Eleven individuals of three Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as listed in Kentucky's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

were captured during the nesting season, including Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum*), Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) and Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*).

KDFWR also initiated a migration songbird banding station at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in 2009. Songbird banding continued through fall 2009 at the same banding site, using the same mist-net locations. The migration banding station operated during fall to investigate the use of this site by SGCN and neotropical migrants. We netted for a total of 329.94 net hours for an average of 36.66 net hours per day of operation. There were 254 captures of 37 species, for a capture rate of 0.77 birds per net hour. Three SGCN were captured during fall netting including Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) and Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*).



Golden Crowned Kinglet.  
Ben Leffew photo

Not surprisingly, several species were caught in migration at Shaker Village that had not been caught during the breeding season, raising the total species captured at the banding station overall to 55. Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) and Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) were the most commonly captured species during the migration season and overall.

Since this banding station captured a diverse and substantial sample of species in 2009, KDFWR would like to continue research at this site, lasting through 2018. The station location and net locations will not change. The large-scale changes occurring on the landscape at Shaker Village offer a unique opportunity for this cooperative project which will provide vital information for conserving grassland birds in Kentucky by quantifying the effects of NWSG conversion on nesting and migrating songbirds.



## BANDING WOODIES

Wildlife and Law Enforcement Divisions were netting and banding wood ducks last week in northern Kentucky as part of our agreement with USFWS. Annual banding data is critical to Kentucky maintaining its early wood duck season. **Dave Frederick, Joe Lacefield, Josh Lillpop and Diane Dawson** from Wildlife and officers **Scott Horn and James Beckett** are pictured.

Management of waterfowl is a cooperative effort between the states, provinces, and federal agencies. Bird banding is one of the most important tools used to manage this



resource on a continental scale. Waterfowl are banded annually in nearly every state and province in North America. Banding migrant and resident populations of various waterfowl species and the subsequent band recoveries have greatly enhanced the understanding of migration patterns, distribution, productivity, annual survival, and harvest differences useful to resource managers responsible for maintaining viable populations and prudent harvest management decisions. This year's wood duck banding efforts have been very successful so far, and trapping and banding efforts will be completed by the end of August.

*Pat Brannen photos*

## Federal auditors impressed with field staff and site visits

By Ryan Oster

**A**s a result of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' participation in the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, the Department is required to undergo a federal audit of our agency's use of such funds every five years.

Our current audit began this past May and is approaching its end.

The audit is required by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service who contracts this effort out to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). For the past few months, four auditors have routinely visited the Department to conduct an evaluation of various compliances towards the rules and regulations governing the use of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration federal funds in Kentucky.

Examples of compliance items that the auditors review and evaluate include the Department's assent legislation, hunting and fishing license certification, in-kind contribution, hunting and fishing license revenue and expenditures, indirect costs, program income, financial management and accounting, real property

records, grant compliance, direct costs, drawdown schedules and processes, payroll, equipment inventory, and an evaluation of the Department's IT system.

In addition, auditors like to make site visits to select areas that are either purchased or managed with Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration federal funds to verify compliance and activities. During site visits, auditors often enjoy the opportunity to meet with field staff that can showcase the various grant related activities that are being implemented across the Commonwealth.

Recently, during July, I had the opportunity to accompany the federal OIG auditors on several site visits in central and eastern Kentucky to highlight our activities for both the Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions.

These areas/projects included Taylorsville Lake WMA and shooting range, Cedar Creek Lake, Kleber WMA, Kentucky River WMA, General Butler ADA fishing pier, Ghent Boat Ramp, Craig's Creek Boat Ramp, Clay WMA, and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery.

The auditors also requested the ability to tag along with field staff conducting

both a Fisheries and Wildlife technical guidance with private landowners. I want to thank the field staff who took time out of their schedules to meet with auditors and offer great descriptions of the various daily activities they coordinate. To say that the auditors were impressed would indeed be an understatement.

All week long, the auditors routinely commented on how impressed they were with the professionalism of our staff and how neat and organized our facilities are maintained. Inventory checks of equipment went smoothly with most equipment being easily located.

I want to thank the following staff for representing our Department during these sites visits: **Bill Mitchell** (Taylorsville Lake WMA), **Scott Ferrell** (Kleber and Kentucky River WMAs), **Nathan Gregory** (Clay WMA), **Scott Barrett** and **Pete Besant** (Minor Clark Fish Hatchery), **Jeff Crosby** (Central Fisheries District Biologist), **Danny Duvall** (Central Fisheries District Technician), and **Chris Grascch** (Private Lands Biologist). The professionalism that was displayed continues to reinforce how proud I am to work for the Department.

## CAVE RUN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME WATCH SUBSTATION OPENS



Rep. John Will Stacy, Program Manager Rick Sears, Democratic Judge Executive nominee J.D. Trimble, District Judge Willie Roberts, Superintendent Charles Mitchell, Frenchburg/Menifee Chamber of Commerce President David Duvall, Executive Director Lola Thomas, Sheriff Rodney Coffey, US Forest Service Supervisor Kim Kipp, Fish and Wildlife Major **Paul Teague**, Senator Tom Jensen, KSP Post 8 Captain John Blanton, UNITE Law Enforcement Director Dan Smoot, 911 Coordinator Christy Wayman and UNITE Law Enforcement Deputy Director Paul Hayes joined the community of Willington for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Cave Run Law Enforcement and Crime Watch Substation on July 15th.



Yellowbank WMA staff receiving a new Kubota UTV, Skid Sprayer, and native grass seed from Commonwealth Chapter of Quail Forever representative Larry Lose.

## Sportsman's organizations help support Green River Region quail management

The plight of the Bobwhite is well-known amongst biologists and sportsmen alike. What was once a prominent game species, thanks to the agricultural systems of old, has declined to the point that most quail hunters feel blessed to find a covey.

The 67 percent decline in bobwhite numbers Kentucky has experienced over the last 50 years is a daunting task to reverse, but with a renewed focus on small game initiatives, and the assistance of hunters and the sportsman's groups they support, the battle is waging.

While the focus on quail management and research has greatly increased at the state level, some local and unexpected issues always arise that don't quite fit into already strapped budgets. Thanks to the generosity of several sportsmen's groups, some of these outlying issues have been mediated lately.

One large player in the support of KDFWR's quail management activities is the Commonwealth Chapter of Quail Forever. This chapter has been very supportive since its inception, providing over \$16,500 worth of donated equipment and materials to Yellowbank WMA in Breckinridge County alone.

Their donations of a Kubota RTV 900 and a Riddick Custom 100 Gallon

Skid Sprayer will be essential for herbicide applications and providing support for prescribed burns on the area.

The chapter also donated enough native warm season grass seed to convert 65 acres of fescue to quality small game habitat on the area, which will benefit multiple game and non-game species alike.

However, these chapter members don't stop at supporting habitat improvements, they also assist with ongoing quail research across the state.

An ambitious, long-term monitoring project of the quail and grassland songbird response to habitat improvements in the Upper Green River region of the state began this spring.

This monitoring will quantify the bobwhite response in the region to over 100,000 acres of improved small game habitat through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. As part of these monitoring requirements, biologists must conduct roadside surveys at 275 points across 14 counties.

To assist with this feat, the chapter made a time-sensitive donation of \$1,000 towards the purchase of nine vehicular GPS units, allowing the biologists to efficiently and accurately survey these locations.

In addition, the Commonwealth

Chapter and the Green River Chapter of Quail Forever have both been instrumental in their support of the small game initiative at Peabody WMA. Both have provided WMA staff with assistance conducting quail covey flush surveys on several occasions,

and both have made donations towards the purchase of seed and shrubs to be planted on the area.

Quail Unlimited (QU) has also been highly involved with small game habitat improvement across the state for many years. In the Green River Region alone, through their regional office, they have donated more than 1,800 pounds of Korean lespedeza, 3,000 pounds of sunflower, 5,000 pounds of corn, 17,500 pounds of wheat, and 4,000 pounds of mixed-grain seed to be utilized on private lands and public WMA's.

This seed is instrumental in the planting of food plots and the creation of fire breaks across the region. QU has also donated thousands of dollars in equipment, seed and shrubs towards the Peabody WMA small game initiative, and is providing financial support for area biologists to attend national bobwhite workshops and trainings to share our work and learn what practices are being implemented in other states.

As an agency, we are extremely fortunate to have so many partners in conservation. Few, if any, government agencies can boast the private support that KDFWR receives, and we understand how hard it is to generate funds, especially in these tough economic times. However, we have always been able to count on the conservation organizations for support.

Thanks again for all you do for the Department and the conservation of natural resources in Kentucky!

## ANNUAL FIFTH DISTRICT FEDERATION FAIR



Conservation officer **Jeremiah Denney** and **Scott Horn** each took a turn helping a young competitor in the casting contest earlier this month during the Fifth District's Annual Federation Fair at the Lloyd Wildlife Management Area. Fifth District Commission Member **Dr. Jim Rich** has been a longtime loyal participant in the annual Federation Fair. His trap team this year included his son, **David**, department staff **Mark Marraccini** and **Dave Frederick** and retired major **David Casey**. Lt. **Greg Davis** scored the shooters.

*Pat Brannen photos*





## Fish & Wildlife K-9 is a hit at Champion Windows Field

On Sunday July 11, before the Frontier Leagues Florence Freedom battled the Washington Things, Conservation Officer Sgt. **Charles Phillips** coordinated a pre-game show demonstrating the unique K-9 handling skills of the North American Police Work Dog Association.

Also represented was Grant County Sheriff's Office, Florence Police Department and Erlanger Fire Department. The crowd was



entertained while Sgt. Phillips explained each handler's specific discipline.

After the demonstration, Officer **Patrick Brannen** occupied an information booth while Sgt. Phillips and K-9 Chocó entertained the kids.

Champion Windows Field was a great location to bring attention to the great hunting, fishing and boating resources of our state and an opportunity we will be taking advantage of in the future.

### "Mail," continued

Please share this with staff members who participated in the response to the Big Bear Creek Drowning Incident.

Allow me to say "Thanks" to all of those who participated in the response. The incident, just as we have experienced in the past, was packed with uncertainty, sketchy details, and extreme pressure yet you demonstrated great professionalism

and composure. Mother nature tested us with the rain and lightening yesterday morning yet you did not walk away; you waited patiently for your chance to return to work. We had twelve or so agencies on scene during the response and it was a privilege to watch you work as one team; and you completed the mission within 18 hours from time of dispatch.

It truly is an honor to work with such dedicated and caring responders. So

again, "Thanks for all you did – I appreciate you!" Job Well Done.

Melissa Combs, Director  
Marshall County Emergency  
Management

*Staff, you do a GREAT job! People notice! They just don't always take the time to call or write to say so. Thank you and keep up the good work and great public relations!*