



Federal officials confirm gray wolf taken in Kentucky

Federal officials recently confirmed that an animal taken by a hunter near Munfordville in Hart County on March 16 is a gray wolf.

A DNA analysis performed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Wildlife Research Center in Colorado determined the 73-pound animal was a federally endangered gray wolf with a genetic makeup resembling wolves native to the Great Lakes Region. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Oregon confirmed the finding.

How the wolf found its way to a Munfordville hay ridge at daybreak in March remains a mystery. Wolves have been gone from the state since the mid-1800s.

Great Lakes Region wolf biologists said the animal's dental characteristics – a large amount of plaque on its teeth– suggest it may have spent some time in captivity. A largely carnivorous diet requiring the crushing of bone as they eat produces much less plaque on the teeth of wild wolves.

Hart County resident James Troyer took the animal with a shot from 100 yards away while predator hunting on his



Gray wolf. USFWS public domain photo

family's farm. Troyer, 31, said he had taken a coyote off the property just two weeks earlier.

But when he approached the downed animal he noticed it was much larger. "I was like – wow – that thing was big!" he recalled. "It looked like a wolf, but who is going to believe I shot a wolf?"

Because a free-ranging wolf has not been seen in the state for more than a century, biologists were skeptical at first. However, wildlife officials were aware that a few radio-collared northern wolves have wandered as far south as Missouri in the past decade.

Wolves resemble coyotes, except they are much larger. From a distance, the size difference is difficult to determine.

Troyer convinced **Kevin Raymond**, a wildlife biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, to look at the animal. Once Raymond saw the animal was twice the size of a coyote, he contacted furbearer biologist **Laura Patton**, who submitted samples to federal officials for DNA testing.

Because state and federal laws prohibit the possession, importation into Kentucky or hunting of gray wolves, federal officials took possession of the pelt. Since this is the first free-ranging gray wolf documented in Kentucky's modern history, federal or state charges are not expected because there were no prior biological expectations for any hunter to encounter a wolf.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following letter came to us from Chairman Marc Puckett with the National Bobwhite Technical Committee. "On behalf of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee I am writing to commend the staff of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Agency for their long term commitment to, and leadership within, the National Bobwhite Technical Committee. I can't say enough about the job **John**

Morgan has done, not only as a steering committee member, but also in heading up the ad hoc committee on the NBCI's Model Focus Area Program. His passion and dedication are obvious to all.

Ben Robinson's leadership with the Outreach sub-committee is also notable. He has stepped up and taken charge of this committee. This year's meeting saw the best attendance and participation yet

within the Outreach committee.

And **Dan Figert** has done a wonderful job as NBTC chair and is now serving in the role of past-chair where his quick and clear thinking add immeasurably to our success.

I appreciate your support of their roles. There are a number of good quail teams out there, but I see none that have served the NBTC or the quail community at large as effectively as this group from Kentucky."

Captain Herb Booth retires

Captain Herb Booth, the Department's longest-serving employee, is passing that distinction on to someone else. He has finally retired.

Booth stepped down July 31, after 39 years in Law Enforcement Division. He began working October 16, 1974, and takes with him a wealth of institutional knowledge that will be missed.

His service to the hunters and anglers of Nicholas County, the Eighth District and the Division has been of the highest caliber, and his dedication to the resource was beyond reproach.

He began as a Conservation Officer in Nicholas County and ascended through the years to the District's top law enforcement rank.

His co-workers agree that 39 years is a long time to do any job, but say Herb has done it with integrity, passion and quiet leadership. We could count on Herb to give his best on every case or duty he was assigned.

The loss of his experience will be felt across the Division, but we are positive that he will provide that quiet counsel when the Division or District needs it. Always a pleasure to work with, Booth's attitude and support will be missed.



DR. ANGEL REAPPOINTED

Fourth District Commission Member Dr. James R. Angel was reappointed to an additional four-year term by Gov. Steve Beshear. Franklin District Judge Robert Olds administered the oath of office to Dr. Angel at the start of the August 14 Commission meeting.

Yarbrough retiring from Fisheries Division after 32 years

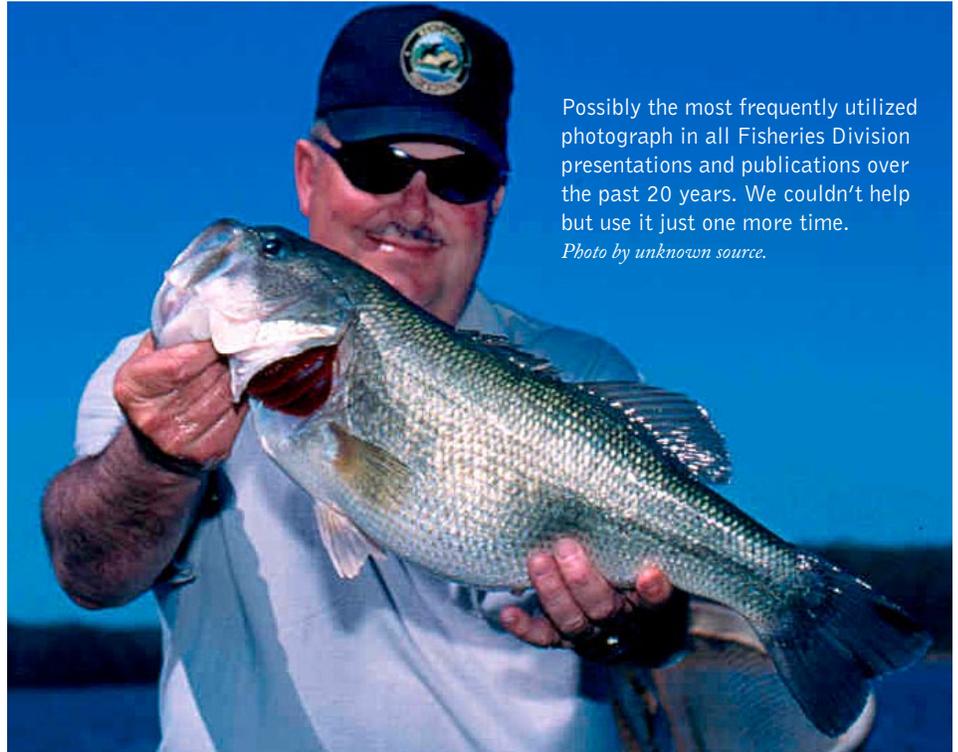
The Fisheries Division is proud to announce the recent retirement of one of its most seasoned employees. **Terry Yarbrough**, Fish and Wildlife Technician III with the Western Fisheries District, retired July 31, 2013, having worked for the Department for 32 years.

Terry began his career with the Department in 1981 where he worked as a Wildlife Aid. It was in this position that Terry cherished the opportunity to be part of the earliest efforts of trapping wild turkeys and relocating them throughout various counties as part of the Department's initial efforts to restore turkeys in Kentucky. In 1986, Terry transferred to the Fisheries Division.

Hailing originally from western Kentucky, Terry's intimate knowledge about both Kentucky and Barkley Lakes made him an invaluable asset in terms of the conservation and management of the sport fisheries of these two premiere lakes. Terry's input was regularly welcomed in terms of planning and coordinating fish sampling projects on these and other lakes throughout the western counties of the state.

Over his career, he helped collect innumerable numbers of fish using a variety of gear types including electrofishing, gill-netting, trotlining, and back-pack electrofishing.

Arguably Terry's most crowning achievement was his involvement, coordination, and implementation of all fish habitat projects on Kentucky and Barkley lakes, as well as throughout the western fishery district region. We estimate that Terry oversaw the work and development of over 4,600 deep water brush piles;



Possibly the most frequently utilized photograph in all Fisheries Division presentations and publications over the past 20 years. We couldn't help but use it just one more time.

Photo by unknown source.

2,000 shallow water brush piles; 7,700 stake beds; 350 PVC fish attractors; and several thousand cypress tree plantings. Additionally, Terry annually spearheaded the marking of hundreds of underwater stumps for the benefit of anglers and for boater safety during low water periods.

Terry is an avid angler and hunter. During his younger days, he developed a strong reputation as an outstanding tournament bass angler, having won too many tournaments to mention. He enjoyed just about every aspect of fish and wildlife whether it was fishing for bass and crappie or hunting for deer, turkey and waterfowl.

In his retirement, we are assured that Terry will take full advantage of the opportunity to spend more time with his wife, children, and his passion for hunting and fishing. We wish him well in his new grass mowing business that will help to supplement those retirement checks.

On behalf of the Fisheries Division and the entire Department, we thank Terry for all the years of hard work and effort he brought to this agency. He will definitely be missed, and we hope to see

him out on the water enjoying his passion of flipping bushes for largemouth bass in the many years to come.

Regina Penn retires

Regina Penn started work with the department in 1996 and served many roles during her years with KDFWR.

Regina's communication and "people" skills as well as her outgoing personality will be missed by the department. The positions Regina held with the department over the years afforded her the opportunity to know and work with a vast majority of the department's staff.

She was always willing to resolve any staff issues as quickly as possible. We wish her the best with all her future endeavors.



Another camp season ends



**Tim Slone, Director
Information &
Education Division**

We've wrapped up another successful summer camp season, and a huge "Thank you!" is due everyone who helped make it so.

4,669 Kentucky youth – one more than a year ago – experienced a week of conservation camp they will remember for the rest of their lives. Some caught their first fish. Earned their Orange Card. Paddled a canoe. Swam in a lake. Broke a clay target.

Those happy memories will last forever.

And so many of you had a hand in making those things happen. Thank you.

Many groups provided scholarships that made attending camp possible for financially challenged families. A number of Department staff made it a personal mission to seek out additional scholarship money.

New this year, each camper received a Junior Sportsman's License included in the camp fee as Department educators did their part to recruit the next generation of hunters and anglers. The increase in license sales will help the Department gain a larger share of federal aid dollars.

Operating three conservation camps is a team effort. Camp staff spend 11 weeks away from their families to make sure campers are safe and having fun.

Conservation officers help load youth onto buses, escort them to and from camp, and reassure nervous parents. Administrative Services staff process mountains of invoices generated by the camps. Camp superintendants and maintenance staff work day and night as campers and counselors creatively find ways to break equipment, stop up plumbing, or disable air conditioners.

Again, thank you for another great conservation camp season.

Roost structures installed for endangered Indiana Bat

By Ryan Taylor

The Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) was listed as an endangered species in 1967 due to human disturbances that caused the death of thousands of bats.

Population counts in 2011 put the species under 500,000 individuals with 17 percent of the population located in Kentucky. White-nose Syndrome is currently the primary cause of the Indiana Bat population decline. The disease has been found in Trigg County, Breckinridge County and Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky.

To help improve roosting habitat at Yellowbank WMA, where Indiana Bat colonies have been confirmed utilizing the Town Creek Tract, area staff and GRR Private Lands Biologist, **Jared Handley**, installed ten artificial BrandenBark roost structures this summer.

The structures were erected in the Town Creek embayment which consists of



bottomland hardwoods off the Ohio River which seasonally flood. This flooding kills many trees within the embayment creating natural roosting sites, however, the natural roost trees usually deteriorate within five years.

The erected artificial structures will

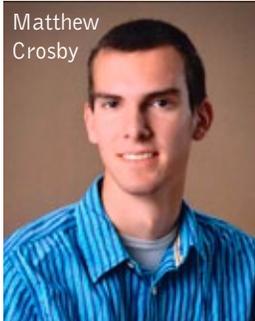
provide excellent roosting habitat for at least 20 years, and have already shown signs of use.



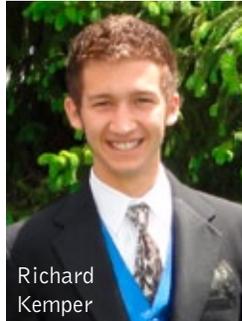
Crosby, Kemper, Harp are 2013 Jenkins scholarship recipients



Carson Harp



Matthew Crosby



Richard Kemper

Jenkins, and in memory of his late wife, Jo.

Crosby and Kemper each graduated from Franklin County High School. Harp is a graduate of Ohio County

Jeff Crosby. He plans to attend the University of Kentucky and major in electrical engineering. He earned a 3.88 GPA.

Kemper is the son of Engineering Division Technical Associate **Lee Kemper**. He plans to attend Bluegrass Community and Technical College and major in professional manufacturing. He earned a 3.98 GPA.

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013 Donan and Georgia "Jo" Jenkins Scholarships are **Carson Clay Harp**, **Matthew Thomas Crosby** and **Richard Kelsey Kemper**.

The annual scholarships continue to be sponsored by retired Second District Law Enforcement Captain Donan

High School. All are 2013 graduates.

Harp earned a 3.62 GPA and plans to attend Kentucky Wesleyan College and major in biology and chemistry. He is the son of Wildlife Division Regional Coordinator **Scott Harp**.

Crosby is the son of Central Fisheries District biologist and program coordinator

Spencer's idea nets Employee Suggestion System award

June 19, 2013

"Hello,

Congratulations! On behalf of the Employee Suggestion Council, I am pleased to inform you that your suggestion, regarding Office - Postal has been approved by the Employee Suggestion System Council.

It has been determined that you are eligible to receive a monetary award in the amount of \$460.00.

The Employee Suggestion System Council would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your suggestion. We hope you will continue to show interest in this program and submit future suggestions to help improve governmental operations."

Information Center's **Bo Spencer** received the bonus from the Employee Suggestion System for his idea to place a label on a guide or other single publication without using an envelope.

"This is a simple but effective solution that is saving the department some real money," said Information and Education Division Assistant Director **Norm Minch**. "It also prevents us from succumbing to the temptation to load up an envelope with a lot of other publications, which increases the postage cost."



SOFTBALL CHAMPS

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife finished up the Summer Softball League by bringing home two trophies. One was for winning 4th place in the tournament, the other for becoming "Division II Champions" during the regular season. Back row: John Mitchell, Keith Parker, Derek Rogers, Dave Dreves, Daniel Stoelb, Jason Herrala and Rob Lewis. Front row: Tina Wood, Brenda Ward-Hill, Kristy Nowak, Katie Haymes and Vickie Welch. Not pictured: Ryan Kausing and Caleb Haymes.

Stream team completes restoration project at Crane's Nest Branch

The FILO program has completed its restoration project of 2,380 feet of intermittent stream channel and tributary at Crane's Nest Branch.

Crane's Nest Branch, located in Knox County, drains into Richland Creek which is host to existing populations of the federally threatened blackside dace. "The upper Richland Creek watershed is an important refugium for blackside dace. A restoration effort on one of its tributaries such as Crane's Nest Branch benefits the species by reducing siltation within the basin," stated Mike Floyd with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The pre-construction conditions were poor at best with the channel suffering from severely eroding banks, no pool/riffle complex, and no connection to the floodplain. This resulted in a stream channel with poor habitat for fish, macroinvertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians.

Beaver Creek Hydrology and Joe Asher, Inc were contracted for the design and construction of the new channel. "Beaver Creek Hydrology is very grateful to partner with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) on these types of projects. KDFWR provides restoration services on a very large scale and we enjoy working with biologists and engineers that have a passion for what they do," stated Case Davis of Beaver Creek Hydrology.

Actual construction of the project began in the fall 2012. Since the historic channel had been straightened and relocated to the toe of the hill, the channel needed to be moved to the center of the valley and proper sinuosity and a bankfull



Above: Post-construction image of Crane's Nest Branch showing biologists conducting a final walk-through site visit. Left to right: Case Davis (Beaver Creek Hydrology, Design/Engineer), Joe Asher (Joe Asher, Inc.), Bethany Mulhall (KDFWR biologist in charge of project monitoring), and Brian Belcher (Beaver Creek Hydrology, Design/Engineer). **Below:** Preconstruction image of Crane's Nest Branch showing a section of straightened channel used as a road. *Andrew Mowrey photos*



bench were built.

Various grade control structures were installed, pools excavated, and riffles constructed to provide stability and high quality habitat. One other aspect of the project was to create "ground curtains" to raise the groundwater table. By doing so, the stream should now hold water year-round thus providing much needed refuge for aquatic organisms during dry periods.

Even while construction was ongoing, FILO staff noticed several immediate,

positive responses. Crayfish chimneys began showing up throughout the newly graded floodplain, red-spotted newts started to become abundant in many pools, and fish began migrating into the project area from downstream reaches.

The landowner commented that "the Crane's Nest Branch Project has created a beautiful environment, replacing invasive species overgrowth with native grasses and trees, making the stream more accessible for all ages to explore the aquatic environment. Visitors to the property are impressed with the quality of work and the improvement in the sound of the water, the quantity of water pools, and the ability to actually see the stream."

The resounding success of projects like Cranes Nest Branch is an example by which to measure future stream restoration projects.

The FILO program recognizes that the success of this project could not have been accomplished without the hard work and cooperation of the landowner, designer, and contractor. For more information about the Crane's Nest Branch restoration project or the Stream Mitigation Program (FILO), please contact Andy Mowrey at (502) 564-5262.

Fisheries Division acquires new boat ramp facility

Fisheries Division has completed the acquisition of the New Haven Boat Ramp in Nelson County.

This boat ramp, located on the Rolling Fork, was acquired from the Knights of Columbus. The facility currently provides a single lane, paved boat ramp and gravel parking.

Fisheries Division thanks **Tony Wheatley** for his efforts in completing this acquisition, as well as the staff from the **Engineering Division** who assisted with the gathering of survey data and



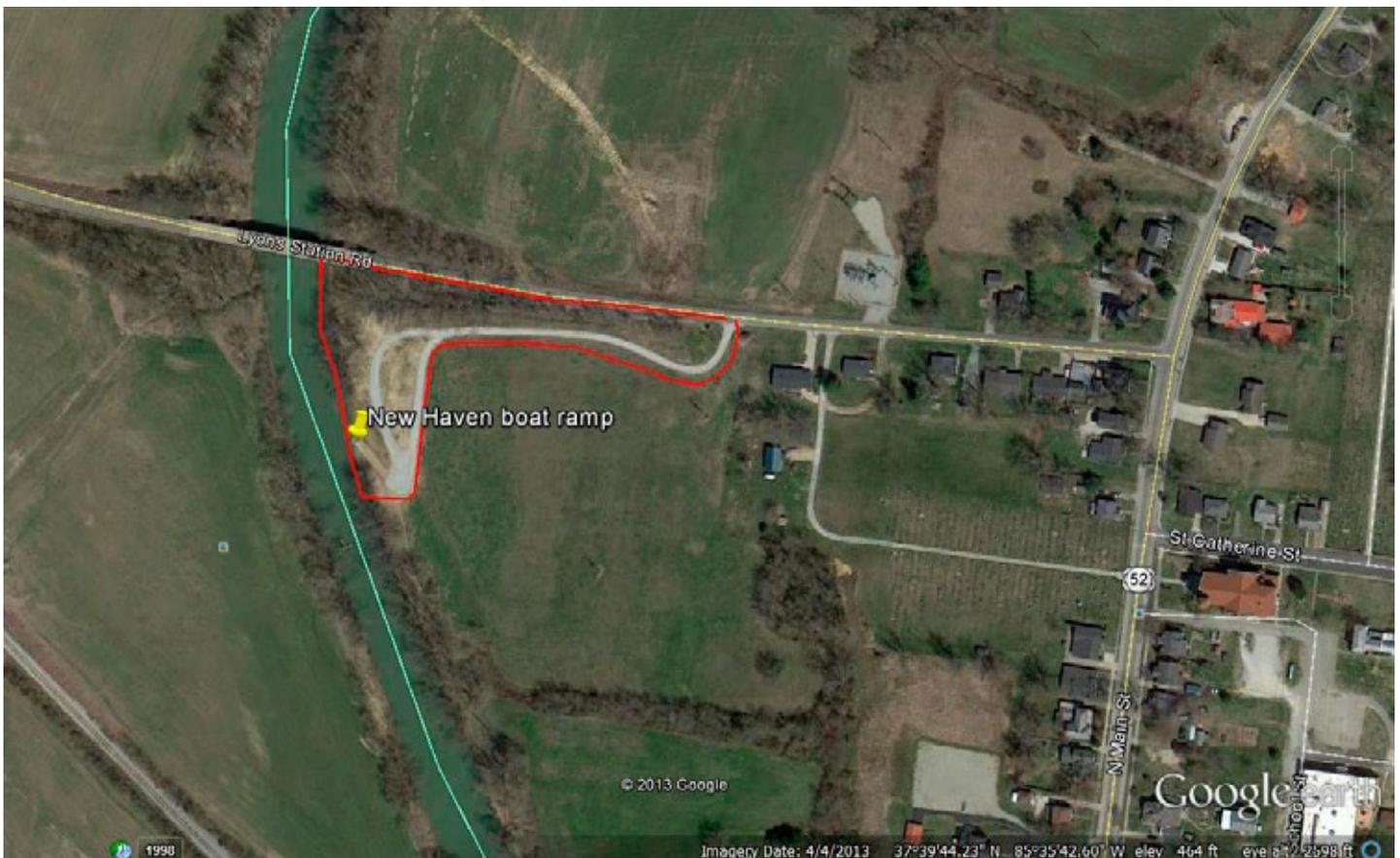
Ryan Oster photo

other important aspects of the project.

This property was acquired using revenue from the State Game and Fish Fund and the project will be managed to ensure for the public's continued recreational boating and fishing access on the Rolling Fork.

Anglers can access this boat ramp by traveling south out of Bardstown on Hwy. 31E, then turn left on KY 52 in the town of New Haven. The ramp is located on the left after about a quarter-mile.

This boat ramp provides ideal access for small john boats, canoes and kayaks.



Mussel Tagging

By Nancy McIver,
Commissioner's Office

I recently had the opportunity to help "tag" mussels at the Department's Center for Mollusk Conservation. WOW,



what an amazing and complex facility! **Sunni Carr** provided a "nickel tour" of the facility and explained the process. **Monte McGregor** and his crew of biologists/scientists have

come a long way with rearing and raising mussels. While I won't even attempt to understand all the ins and outs of the whole process, it is an amazing site to see.

Realizing that these tiny little animals are so very important to filtering our waterways is a difficult concept to wrap my mind around. I can remember playing in the creek when I was a kid (just a few years ago, mind you) and occasionally finding a shell. I had no idea what it was or why it was there or even that it was actually an animal. I just knew it was something neat to play with for a little while.

A number of staff from Headquarters and Pine Hill assisted in the two day tagging effort. Monte says we tagged 4,342 wavyrayed lampmussels, 1,100 plain pocketbooks, and 633



~1800 wavyrayed lampmussels

pink muckets for a grand total of 6,075 stockable mussels. These animals have been reared for about one year from just a few adult mussels.

The process of tagging consisted of one person sorting through handfuls of the tiny creatures, pulling out the larger ones (which were hardly as big as a thumb nail). The smaller ones were left to go back and grow more. They had to be dried off on paper towels, and a dot of super glue with a single red glitter dot applied to the shell. Then, a small drip of accelerant was

applied over the glue to speed up the drying process.

After the glue had dried a few seconds, the mussel was placed in a small container of water for the first rinse, then moved to another container of water for the second and final rinse. Some received a

numbered tag as well.

They are actually able to track these mussels and see how they are doing. It was a very tedious process but was a lot of fun. Have you ever tried to get super glue off of your skin? It doesn't release very easy. And, glitter, well that's another story. Ha!

Thank you to all who helped but, most of all, thank you to Monte and his crew of experts, and to Sunni and her ability to smooth talk and get things done when needed.



Some wavyrayed lampmussels received white bee numbered tags in addition to the glitter.

New ProCards will activate next month

Beginning September 1, 2013, the state is changing banks that process our ProCards. Cardholders will be receiving new cards and the old cards will be collected by the Administrative Services Division by the end of August.

There will also be new management software, called PaymentNet, for the review, coding and approval of purchases. Please watch for any emails concerning this change as we transition to the new card system.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Administrative Services Divisions, Accounting Branch.



LEAGUE OF KENTUCKY SPORTSMEN ANNUAL FAIR

Sgt. Mick Craig lends a teaching hand to 5-year-old Peyton Dempsey as mom, Brittany Klette, watches during the annual Fair of the Fifth District League of Kentucky Sportsmen at the Lloyd Wildlife Management Area. Peyton and Madison Klette, 5, looked over the trophies (above), and Conservation Officer Chris Fossitt stood ready to score youngsters' casts. Trophy winners of all age classes joined officers Fossitt and Jason Ping for the photo after the competition.



Responsible Fatherhood goes fishing

Madison County residents gathered at Lake Reba Saturday, June 1 during the free fishing derby sponsored by Richmond Parks and Recreation.

More than 100 children accompanied by parents, grandparents, and other family members participated in the event which was also sponsored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Kentucky Conservation Officers Association and Foothills' Responsible Fatherhood Program.

This is an annual event that started in 1992. Many youngsters experienced fishing for the first time.

Foothills' Responsible Fatherhood program was thrilled to be involved in this year's event. "It was great to participate in this community event and show our support to fathers," said Bill Arrowood, Responsible Fatherhood Lead Case Manager.

"Whether or not a father is living in the same home as his child, he is still an important and valuable part of the family," said Arrowood. "Our program encourages fathers to be engaged and involved in the lives of their children, families, and communities."

The Responsible Fatherhood Program provides free job coaching, financial advice, and relationship and parenting seminars to residents in Clark, Estill, Madison and Powell counties. Foothills is a subcontractor to Gateway Community Services Organization, which provides the same services in Bath, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, and Rowan counties.

Foothills provided water, breakfast bars, and reusable water bottles. Three lucky kids received free fishing poles as door prizes. Foothills also provided worms, and children were able to dig for their own bait.

The Responsible Fatherhood Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Adminis-



Responsible Fatherhood staff Braden Davis, Clay Jackson, David Stipes, and Bill Arrowood were joined by Conservation Officers Rufus Cravens, Jarad Northern and David Marques at the fishing event.

tration for Children and Families, Grant #90FK0014. These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race,

gender, age, disability, or religion. For more information about Foothills' Responsible Fatherhood program, call (859) 624-2046.



SMALLMOUTH MEMORY

Jefferson County 11-year-old Sean Oser came up with a lifelong conservation camp memory when he landed this 21 ¾-inch smallmouth at Camp Wallace. Coming in the summer's final camp week, it was a fitting memory for several camp staff as well.