



Dove
banding
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Pfeiffer Hatchery prepares for major renovation

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources owns and operates two state fish hatcheries. These two hatcheries produce and rear all the warm-water sport fish species stocked throughout the state for the recreational benefit of licensed sport fish anglers.

Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery (being the

smaller of the two state-owned hatcheries) is located in Franklin County, Kentucky, and resides upon 114 acres. The hatchery has 43 ponds that provide 41.1 acres of production water for the rearing of sport fish species.

The water supply for the hatchery is the adjacent Elkhorn Creek, a tributary to

the Kentucky River. This hatchery currently rears largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, blue catfish, sauger and redear sunfish. Recently, the hatchery has also developed rearing procedures for producing alligator gar and lake sturgeon.

During the 2009 production season, Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery reared 621,742 channel catfish; 97,298 blue catfish; 398,029 largemouth bass; 542,017 sauger; 355,804 redear sunfish; 3.6 million white bass fry; and 12.5 million hybrid striped bass fry.

Land for what would eventually become Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery was originally purchased by the Department in 1951. Subsequently, the land was given to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to construct and operate a warm-water fish hatchery until 1986, when the hatchery was deeded back to the Department to operate in perpetuity.

The last recent modernization of the facility occurred in 1993. The facility is now approaching its 60th year of fish production and is in need of several modernizations and upgrades in order to continue to meet the sport fish stocking needs of the aquatic resources of the Commonwealth.

Beginning this fall, Pfeiffer Fish

See "Hatchery," page 3



NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

New Fish and Wildlife Commission Members Joe Fryman, Stuart Ray and David M. Williams took the oath of office from Franklin District Judge Chris Olds Monday, September 13 in Frankfort. Fryman will represent the Eighth District, Ray the third and Williams the second.

INSIDE:



6 New officers



7 Special quail hunt



8 Sloughs banding

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We received a letter recently from Frank Beum, Forest Supervisor, Daniel Boone National Forest. He wrote, "I am appreciative that our agencies have a long and successful history of cooperatively managing fish and wildlife resources on national forest lands in Kentucky. I would especially like to thank again **Steven Dobby, Karen Waldrop** and the many other members of your Department for their tireless efforts to protect our forest visitors during the recent black bear incident in the Red River Gorge."

The following comments were received via email from Donald L. Dunn, USDA, FSA District Director:

"I just wanted you to know that I cannot say enough "good things" about some of your employees. **Eric, Curt, Rachel, Cletus, Jared, Danny** and **Robert** have gone well above and beyond any expectation in helping FSA educate customers and assisting on the CRP program. *(The above named employees are Farm Bill Liaisons William "Eric" Copas and Danny Hughes, CREP biologists Curt Francis and Rachel Bush, Farm Bill biologists Michael "Cletus" Buelow and Robert Hoffman, and Private Lands biologist Jared Handley.)*

When the program was first announced and with the short application period, these folks hit the ground running at full speed. They have participated and assisted in conducting producer outreach meetings, worked one-on-one with farmers, and assisted FSA employees in so many ways. The majority of the meetings were at night, after normal business hours.

I have had the privilege of working as a CED here in Bowling Green when Danny started, then Eric came along and carried the torch until he was promoted. I thought it was over, but along came Jason and later Rachel and Curt, and wow, the

commitment to assisting our customers and providing top-notch service continued. I have worked with Jared and a little with Robert and I am equally impressed with them.

I know there are partnerships in places that do not work. But I am very honored and pleased to have witnessed and been a part of the partnership between KDFW and USDA (NRCS and FSA) that not only has worked, but one that could serve as a model to many others. It is not about turf with your folks, it is about getting the job done. I just wanted you to know that you have a great team out here that are committed to providing exceptional customer service. I for one am very appreciative of you and these folks. As I have told you before, I am not sure who does your employee recruiting, but they are doing one heck of a good job and I would like to learn their selection methods!

Thanks again and I just wanted you to know from a different angle how your employees are performing and assisting the farmers and FSA."

From Pat Rudd and Debbie Eubank of the Union County Farm Bureau Conservation District:

"Last week we held a Safety Day at the Lee K. Nelson Outdoor Learning Lab in Union County and it definitely could have been public relations for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

The local Fish and Wildlife works with four other local organizations on this annual event, and we receive assistance from many organizations for the training stations.

Our first group came in 1993 and approximately 2,920 students have attended the training.

It is a great idea and we would like to share this story with the rest of the state.

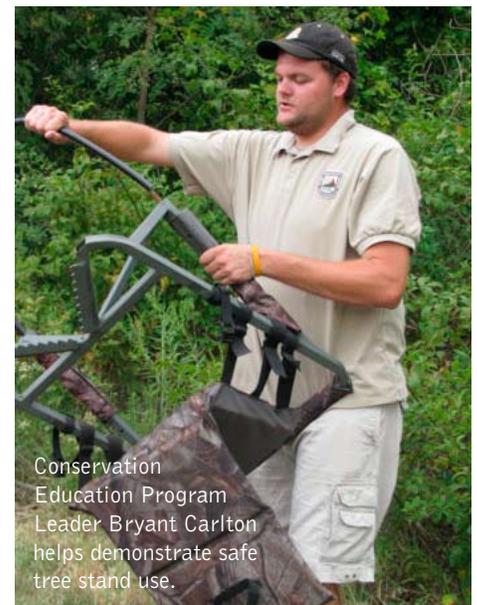
We request the Commissioner's approval for the Kentucky Afield crew to televise our 2012 event September 1. A brief summary follows:

Throughout the day you see bright orange shirts traveling all over the Outdoor Learning Lab. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife logo was on the front with spon-

See "Mail," page 10



Conservation Education Program Leader Clay Brummal shows the proper use of a PFD.



Conservation Education Program Leader Bryant Carlton helps demonstrate safe tree stand use.

Teague named acting director of Law Enforcement Division

Commissioner **Dr. Jon Gassett** named **Major Paul Teague** acting director of the Division of Law Enforcement. The appointment became effective Friday, Sept. 17.

Teague is an 18-year veteran of the Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division. He went to work in Pike County and later transferred to Montgomery County.

Prior to joining Fish and Wildlife, he served nine years with the Mount Sterling Police Department.

He became Eighth District Captain in April 2005 and led the district until his



promotion to major in October 2009.

He will be performing all functions of Law Enforcement Director until further notice.

White-tailed deer herd health checks conducted at Kleber and Dr. Rich Wildlife Management Areas

By **Gabe Jenkins, David Yancy and Tina Brunjes**

Wildlife Division staff and **The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study** (SCWDS) conducted a white-tailed deer herd health check at Kleber and Dr. Rich Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) on August 16 and 17.

These checks require the collection of five adult deer for full necropsy, and are conducted to assess the overall condition of the white-tailed deer herd on the management areas. SCWDS staff examines the deer inside and out, collecting a variety of samples for analysis and disease testing. In a few months a full report will be sent back to KDFWR, so staff can make recommendations on how to better manage

the deer on the given areas.

The last herd health check on Kleber and Dr. Rich WMAs was conducted in 2000. That check indicated the deer herd was in poor condition because of a high deer density and low-quality habitat. Since 2000, the harvest has been increased by having more quota hunts and more liberal bag limits. Also, the WMA staff has implemented various wildlife habitat improvement programs such as prescribed burns, native grass plantings, red cedar removal and timber stand improvement projects.

After 10 years of habitat work and increased deer harvest, staff wanted to re-evaluate the herd to see if their efforts were working. Based on the preliminary herd health results, changes to the white-tailed deer harvest on the areas could be

“Hatchery,” continued

Hatchery will begin its newest and most expensive modernization since being operated by the Department. A feasibility study has outlined several key improvements that will help the facility and its personnel increase production capabilities in the years to come.

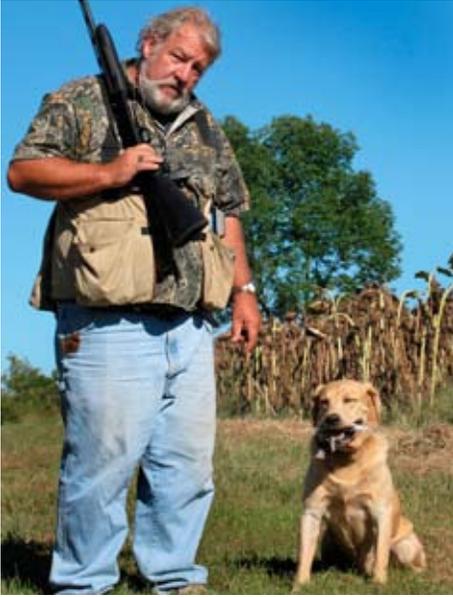
The improvements will include the development of a third hatchery residence on site, the construction of one (4.0 acre) pond, two (0.5 acre) ponds, two (0.9 acre) ponds, and a new fish hatching building. The addition of the new ponds will increase the total acreage of production capacity from 41.1 acres to 47.9 acres.

The construction of a second fish hatching building will help accommodate increased production capabilities of fish species reared intensively in tanks, as well as the number of fish that may be held indoors prior to being stocked.

The feasibility study also provided suggestions for future expansion of the hatchery complex in the event that the surrounding land becomes available for acquisition. Once completed, these improvements will increase Pfeiffer Fish Hatcheries ability to rear more channel catfish, largemouth bass, and various other fish species for stocking throughout Kentucky.

Funding for this massive renovation project is being provided in part through the Sport Fish Restoration Program. For more information on this project, please feel free to contact either Steve Marple (Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery Manager) at 502-564-4957 or Gerry Buynak (Program Manager) at 502-564-3400 ext. 4526.

made. Wildlife Division staff that assisted were **David Yancy** (deer biologist), **Dr. Aaron Hecht** (KDFWR veterinarian), **Scott Ferrell** (WMA foreman), **Charlie Goodrich** (WMA technician), and **Sandy Wilson** (Bluegrass Region technician).



Steve Glenn named Commission chairman

The Fish and Wildlife Commission selected Sixth District Commission Member **Steve Glenn** as its new chairman at its August meeting in Frankfort. Glenn, beginning his third year as a commission member, recently named committees for the upcoming year.

Committee chairs will be First District member **Terry Teitloff** over Adminis-

tration, Education and Policy Committee, Fourth District member **Dr. James Angel** over Fisheries Committee, and Ninth District member **Taylor Orr** over Wildlife Committee.

New Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Steve Glenn prepares to accept a retrieved dove from his yellow Labrador, Dusty. Glenn is entering his third year as a member of the Commission representing the Sixth Fish and Wildlife District. *Mark Marraccini photo*

Administration, Education & Policy committee also includes Orr, **David Williams** (Fourth District) and **Joe Fryman** (Eighth District).

Fisheries committee includes Teitloff, **Dr. James Rich** (Fifth District) and **Stuart Ray** (Third District).

Wildlife committee includes Rich, **Doug Hensley** (Seventh District) and Rich and Angel.

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Logsdon selected as Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area manager

Charlie Logsdon has accepted the position of Public Lands Biologist overseeing the Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area. Charlie departs Wildlife Division's Big Game Program



where he worked extensively with elk in east Kentucky to assume this new role.

Charlie is a 24-year employee with the agency. He previously worked as West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area where he successfully worked with a diverse group of area users.

Also, the department is interested in hearing from potential Otter Creek users and will soon offer an online survey to solicit input about such topics as types of area use, fee structures, frequency of use and more.



Public Affairs Division Director Brian Blank and assistant director Brian Clark recently walked some of the Otter Creek trails with Metro Parks representative Dan Young.



New Law Enforcement Division Lieutenants: James Heady of Warren County in the Second District, Jim Harrison of Clark County in the Sixth District, Jim Gibson of Boyd County in the Eighth District and Richard Adkins of Franklin County, who will serve as Training Coordinator at Headquarters.

Promotions / retirements

The Fish Transportation Section welcomes **Jeff Croxton**. Jeff comes to us from Luther Luckett Correctional Complex where he was a Correctional Officer. Jeff has a CDL class B permit with tanker and air brakes endorsement. Jeff has worked on his family's 120 acre farm for over 20 years raising tobacco, corn, alfalfa hay and beef cattle. Jeff has also implemented wildlife habitat improvements on his farm that seems to be the talk of Henry County.

Jeff enjoys spending time with his two sons Zac, 12 and Jayden, 9. His hobbies include fishing, hunting and any sports that his sons are into.

Art Lander Jr. recently joined the staff of *Kentucky Afield* magazine as a writer. His duties also include editorship of the hunting guides and production of news releases and outdoor columns. Art served 22 years as the outdoors writer for the *Lexington Herald-Leader* before his retirement. He came to the depart-



ment in December 2009 to work in the Information Center before transitioning to the magazine staff. Art actually began his career at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife in 1969, when he served as a summer fisheries technician. After his graduation from Western Kentucky University, he held a variety of state writing and public relations jobs before going to the newspaper. Art is an avid deer and turkey hunter who lives on a Henry County farm with his wife, folk artist Bonnie Lander, and their three children.

Denise Boebinger has been promoted to Administrative Branch Manager over the KDSS Licensing Branch.

Denise has been an integral part of the KDSS team since it's implementation in 1996 and most recently supervised the KDSS help desk. In her new leadership role, Denise will be invaluable in evolving the licensing system to it's next generation.

Please join me in welcoming Denise to her new duties.

Sharon Duvall has been promoted to Administrative Branch Manager over the

Purchasing and Inventory Branch.

During her tenure at the department, Sharon has served as Property Officer, Purchasing Officer and Purchasing Supervisor. Sharon's vast knowledge of government purchasing and inventory is a great asset to the department. In her new leadership role, she will be able to use this knowledge to lead the way in improving our purchasing and inventory practices.

Please join me in welcoming Sharon to her new duties.

Retirement

On August 23, **Colonel Bob Milligan** retired as the Director of KDFWR's Law Enforcement Division. Bob had served in this capacity since June 16, 2006 and in this short time had made great strides in advancing the Law Enforcement Division. A few of his achievements were in the realm of technology, such as an updated radio room, Mobile Data Terminals in the vehicles and a Computer Aided Dispatch System. He also initiated and encouraged professional development courses for supervisors and officers alike.

Bob will be greatly missed by the agency and we wish both he and his family all our best.

Nine new conservation officers graduate DOJT academy

Nine new Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation officers joined law enforcement officers from 16 agencies across the state in graduation ceremonies Friday, Sept. 3, from basic training at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training.

The nine were part of 28 officers of Class 416 who completed 18 weeks of training, which consisted of more than 750 hours, recruit-level-officer academy instruction. Major training areas included homeland security, law offenses and procedures, vehicle operations, firearms, investigations, first aid/CPR, patrol procedures, orientation for new law enforcement families and mechanics of arrest, restraint and control.

Bryan Hill, whose assignment is Logan County, was Class 416's valedictorian. He also won the 110 Percent in Physical Fitness and Defensive Tactics honor. **Robert Spears**, assigned to Pike County, won the Coordinator's Award.

Other new conservation officers



New conservation officer cadets graduating Department of Criminal Justice Training basic academy are front row, from left, Jason Paris, Jesse Haddix, Jason Ice and Christopher Riggsby. In the back row are Steven Fields, Kalen Gibson, Robert Spears, Greg Hill and Christopher Stewart.

graduating and their county assignments are **Steven Fields**, Marion County; **Kalen Gibson**, Casey; **Jesse Haddix**, Grant; **Jason Ice**, Bullitt; **Christopher Riggsby**, Rowan; and **Christopher Stewart**, Butler. Jason Paris also graduated with the group, but has since resigned.

The new conservation officers are working now to complete 12 weeks in the

Department's academy.

Basic training is mandatory for Kentucky law enforcement officers who are required to comply with the state's Peace Officer Professional Standards Act of 1998. The Department of Criminal Justice Training provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriffs' deputies, university police, airport police and others.

Craig, Land graduate APS

Conservation Officer sergeants **Mick Craig** and **Tom Land** were among 20 law enforcement officers from 16 agencies across the commonwealth recognized at a graduation ceremony August 27 for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Craig is assigned to the Fifth District and Land is in the Ninth.

APS, also called the sergeant's academy, is a three-week, 120-hour training program targeted for newly promoted ser-

geants 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 39th to complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Kentucky State Police Sgt. Harvey E. Baxter served as class speaker. Baxter is the first KSP trooper to complete the APS course.

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 Heritage Hunt for Bobwhite at Shaker Village

Who the heck is managing this place?" "Did your mower break down?" "Why don't you clean up those fields?" Sound familiar? To one central Kentucky property manager, comments like these are music to the ears. Not because they enjoy being berated by a litany of negative comments, but because they know their quail habitat management is on the right track.

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill (SVPH), a 3,000 acre National Historic Landmark located in the heart of Kentucky's famed Bluegrass Region, is doing their part to make sure the melodic whistle of gentleman bob echoes on for decades to come.

Prior to 2008, SVPH was operating a large-scale beef cattle operation across much of their acreage. Wild bobwhite were fairly abundant, even as cattle grazed the pastures, mainly because odd areas around the property were allowed to "grow up." While not the best habitat for quail, areas untouched by cows and mowers seemed to provide enough habitat for the birds to survive. Farming operations were not meeting the overriding goals of the property and in 2009, SVPH decided they needed to move in a new direction.

Following lengthy discussions and scores of ideas it was decided that SVPH would work with biologists from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (KDFWR) to create what is quickly being noted as some of the best bobwhite habitat in central Kentucky. Approximately 1,000

acres remain under agricultural lease for row crop and cattle while the remaining acreage is on track to be one of Kentucky's premier quail areas.

Smoke filled the skies as fire was returned to the landscape in February 2009. Nearly 400 acres of thick, cool-season pasture grasses were controlled burned for the first time in decades. Other areas were mowed, grazed, or hayed months earlier, leaving them ready for an herbicide application later that spring.

A mixture of short stature native warm season grasses were planted over much of the property including little bluestem and sideoats gramma accompanied by a diverse forb mixture. More than 200 acres were simply "sprayed and walked away" meaning that post-fire, the only treatment was an herbicide application to remove sod-forming fescue. This practice allows the seed bank that was previously hidden under the fescue to respond. And respond it did. Ragweed blanketed the fields, providing birds with an almost unlimited supply of food that fall and winter.

To evaluate the bird response to the habitat changes, a monitoring protocol was put into place in 2009. Both spring and fall populations are now being tracked. In October 2009, KDFWR teamed up with SVPH to conduct covey counts over much of the property. Twenty coveys were identified across core restoration areas. With continuing habitat development it's expected that even more coveys will be present this fall.

Habitat work continued into 2010 with several more acres burned, sprayed, and planted to quality native vegetation. Plans are already being made to continue the conversions into 2011. As fall quickly approaches, bobwhite around SVPH property will have roughly 1,000 acres of



PRESENTED BY:



EVENT DETAILS

- Date: November 16-17
- Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100
- Drawing date: October 15

WINNER RECEIVES:

- Two half day hunts at Shaker Village
- Overnight lodging for two at The Inn at Shaker Village
- Meals for two at the highly acclaimed Shaker Village dining room
- Guide service and dogs upon request
- Access to 3,000 acres of un-hunted property
- Option to appear on *Huntin' the Backwoods* television show

Visit the donations page at www.kentuckywildlife.com to purchase your tickets.

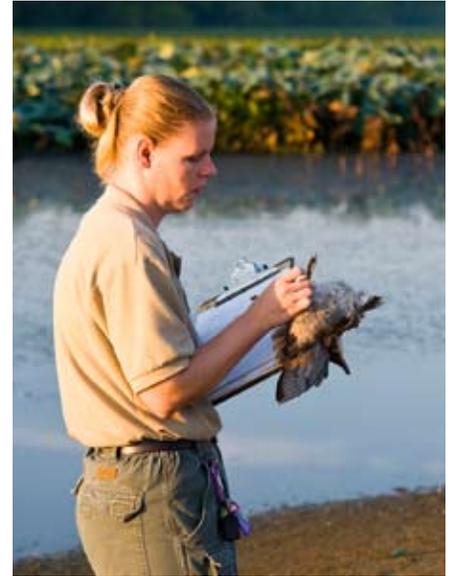


Photos by Ben Robinson

See "Bobwhite," page 8

SLOUGHS WOOD DUCK BANDING

Great shot! Wildlife Division netted about 150 wood ducks with this shot and then rounded them up for banding. Biologist Curt Francis (above left) picked them from the net while technician Carrie Blake recorded the data. *John Brunjes photos*



“Bobwhite,” continued

high-quality quail habitat to call home.

Quail enthusiasts understand that to maintain quality bobwhite habitat, management is required. With limited funds in place for management, SVPH and their partners decided to get creative. In an effort to generate some much needed funding, SVPH has agreed to provide one

lucky quail hunter and his guest with a rare opportunity. This wild population has not seen a gun and bird dog in modern times but that will all change in November 2010. Tickets will be sold for a chance to hunt on this prestigious property.

Wild bobwhites abound at beautiful Shaker Village. Don't miss out on your chance to take part in this exclusive opportunity. Purchase your tickets today, you

won't be disappointed!

For more information about Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill visit www.shaker-villageky.org.

The event is sponsored by Roundstone Native Seed. Partners include Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Quail Unlimited, Quail Forever, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.



Picture of an age-0 alligator gar reared at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery. Twenty gar will soon be surgically implanted with sonic tags in order to conduct an extensive telemetry study that will provide insights into the early life history of alligator gar in Kentucky. *Matthew Thomas photo*

Department prepares for alligator gar telemetry study

As many Department staff are aware, Fisheries Division has embarked upon a mission to restore alligator gar back into their once native waters of western Kentucky.

Initiated in 2009, the Fisheries Division has partnered with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to receive annual alligator gar fry from the Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Tupelo, Mississippi. Since 2009, a total of 13,577 alligator gar have been reared and stocked back into the native areas that these fish once resided in.

Such areas include Obion Creek, Bayou de Chein, Mayfield Creek, Mas-sac Creek, Clarks River, and select areas at Doug Travis WMA, Barlow Bottoms WMA and Ballard WMA.

In order to begin to evaluate our attempts at restoring this species, the Fisheries Division will soon be implementing a telemetry study of stocked alligator gar in the Clarks River system. The objective of this study will include determining the movement patterns of recently stocked alligator gar, in addition to identifying habitat utilized by alligator gar. Dr. Michael Flinn, associate professor, from Murray State University will be the lead researcher on this project.

The study will entail surgically implanting twenty age-0 alligator gar with

ultrasonic tags during late September/early October. The fish will be tagged at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery and held in indoor raceways for several days following the surgery to evaluate short-term mortality due to the surgery.

It is tentatively planned for the tagged alligator gar to be stocked in the Clarks River system by mid October and for tracking to begin immediately following stocking.

The tagged alligator gar will be stocked throughout the entire lower reaches of Clarks River beginning at the downstream section near the Hwy 60/62 bridge, upstream to at most the beginning of the fork of the east and west forks of the Clarks River. The battery life of these transmitters is anticipated to last a minimum of 14 months.

To aid with the relocation of these alligator gar, stationary sonic receivers will be deployed in several key areas to document movement of alligator gar both upstream in the Clarks River system and downstream into the lower Tennessee and Ohio Rivers.

One stationary receiver will be deployed at the confluence of the Clarks River and lower Tennessee River to identify fish leaving the Clarks River. Subsequent receivers will be placed on the Hwy 60 bridge pilings to document potential

movement of alligator gar upstream in the lower Tennessee River.

The remaining stationary receivers will be deployed at both the confluence of the lower Tennessee River and Ohio Rivers, as well as the Hwy 45 bridge in the Ohio River to document movement of alligator in the Ohio River.

Ultimately, the results from this study will help identify the movement patterns and habitat preferences of recently stocked alligator gar. Little is still known about the habitat preferences of young alligator gar. The study will help identify critical habitat that is needed for survival of these fish.

A better understanding of such habitat will allow the Fisheries Division to locate new stocking sites in proximity to suitable habitat. Similarly, a better understanding of the movement patterns of alligator gar will help refine stocking rates and the number of stocking locations needed to best enhance survival of stocked fish.

For more information about this telemetry study, please feel free to contact Ryan Oster (502-564-3400 ext. 4461), Stephanie Brandt (502-564-3400 ext. 4547), or Matthew Thomas (502-564-3400 ext. 4463) for more information. Partial funding for this project is being provided by the State Wildlife Grants Program.

Check those doves for bands

September 1 marks an important day on many of our calendars. It is the beginning of the dove hunting season.

Thousands of hunters flock to the field across Kentucky to pursue the mourning dove on September 1 each season. For years, little scientific data existed on mourning dove populations to help wildlife managers manage this important game species.

In 2004, Kentucky, in conjunction with numerous states across the U.S., began a program to band mourning doves. Each July and August, KDFWR personnel capture and band mourning doves.

The information gained provides im-



Mark Marraccini photo

wildlife regions banded in excess of 300 doves. This season, banders struggled to catch juvenile birds early in the banding season, with adults outnumbering juveniles 5 to 1 in July.

This is the third year in a row we have seen

portant population data such as survival rates, causes of mortality and gives us a better understanding of movements.

In 2010, KDFWR banded 2206 mourning doves across the Commonwealth. This included 1,210 adult and 986 juvenile doves. Each of the 5

this and is presumably because of frequent heavy rain this spring and early summer. Fortunately in August, that trend reversed and our target number of young birds was reached.

We can use the molt to determine the hatch date of juvenile doves. This season, 422 of the juvenile doves were born in June, 299 in May, 155 in July, 88 in April, 7 in March and 4 in August.

So when you head to the dove field, spend an extra second looking at those birds you shoot. One of them might just have a band and by reporting it (www.reportband.gov), you can help with mourning dove management in Kentucky.



John Brunjes photo

“Mail,” continued

sors on the back. A total of 182 students and approximately 75 teachers, presenters and many volunteers were present.

Students sat on bales of straw instead of desks and chairs for the Opening Session to hear the Chief Meteorologist from Channel 25. When students later returned to this same area, they see someone under a turned over ATV “Mock Accident.” Immediately after dialing 911, sirens are

heard. Rescue and three fire trucks, along with the ambulance/EMT rushed down the lane to help our critically injured victim. The WMSK Manager served as our 911 Operator and during all of this time, students learned the do’s and don’ts while driving an ATV. All is well as the Life Flight landed to take the victim to an Evansville, Indiana hospital. Students enjoyed a hayride to the oil tank safety training and they walked to the Water and Outdoor Safety, the Safety House,

Grain Bin, Electricity, Animal Safety, Gun Safety, and Meth.

We are mailing pictures from our two local newspapers covering many of our stations.

We want to take this opportunity to recognize **Curt Divine and his crew**. Curt is the Game Management Foreman and they not only had the Outdoor Learning Lab in top condition, they were a vital part in making this a day the students will long remember.”



Habitat team removes 140 acres of bush honeysuckle from Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA

By Jacob Stewart

Bush honeysuckle is non-native and extremely invasive. It has been utilized in Kentucky as an ornamental, sound barrier along roads, and also used to attract wildlife.

The main means of reproduction is by seed, which is dispersed mainly by birds. Unfortunately, birds have a tendency to deposit the seeds in areas such as canopy gaps and edges where honeysuckle can thrive.

Honeysuckle leaves out before our native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, which allows it to choke out any competition creating a monoculture. This causes a serious threat to the overall diversity and health of the forest.

In the 1980's a few rows of honeysuckle were planted along a number of tree lines to create a softer edge and a wildlife food source on Lloyd WMA. Now almost 25 years later we have a 200-acre block of forest with a mid/under story created

solely of bush honeysuckle with 700-1000 plants per acre.

Over the past year KDFWR's habitat improvement team has worked diligently to remove honeysuckle from the understory of a 200-acre block of forest on Lloyd WMA. So far we have been able to cut and apply herbicide to around 140 acres of honeysuckle.

This is the first battle in a long war. Our goal for the first go around is to get

the honeysuckle knocked back to a manageable stage, and then we will need to come back every year for site evaluation. If the honeysuckle persists, we will then need to do spot treatments.

As you can see in the pictures below (look for red hard hat in the "before" photo), removing the honeysuckle has opened the understory so that light can reach the forest floor encouraging regeneration of desirable native plants.

McMillian's Landing boat ramp is re-named

Anglers and boaters who utilize McMillian's Landing boat ramp on the Lake Cumberland Tailwater will now notice a new sign at the site.

The ramp has recently been renamed the C. Williams – J.L. Fox Ramp. The ramp is being named after Cloyd Williams (1887-1972) and John Lee Fox (1922-1989) whose passion for the land and area

helped make this ramp what it is today.

The ramp is located in Monroe County and is the last public boat ramp available on the Lake Cumberland Tailwater prior to flowing into the state of Tennessee.

Many anglers have utilized this ramp to catch rainbow and brown trout, in addition to the abundant and large striped bass in the tailwater system.

Agency conducts habitat burn at Headquarters

KDFWR biologists recently controlled-burned two grassland habitat areas at agency headquarters in Frankfort to improve the fields' condition for wildlife and habitat demonstration purposes.

The two "tallgrass prairie" plots – converted from mowed tall fescue lawn to low-maintenance native warm season grasses and forbs over 10 years ago – require periodic management to keep them from being overcome by trees and shrubs, and to "set back" the grasses so they don't become too thick for the forbs (wildflowers and legumes).

The timing of controlled burns is important. This burn was conducted in late summer to kill woody plants and promote the forbs. Numerous cottontail rabbits, songbirds, and insects such as praying mantises escaped out ahead of the flames.

The fires were set carefully on the downwind side of the field areas and allowed to creep into the wind to consume the thick grass thatch that had accumulated over the past 3 years. Grasses can build up so much in Kentucky's fields that the rank ground cover inhibits animals like quail, rabbits and some grassland songbirds from being able to move around on the ground, which is necessary for the survival of these species.

Plants often respond quickly after a burn. The native grasses have already grown several inches in the two weeks since the burns.

Above right: As the fire approaches from behind, this praying mantis was one of hundreds that moved out ahead of the flames. A rabbit scurried quickly to new cover. *Mark Marraccini photos*

Right: Within days, native grasses, rid of the thick ground thatch, had begun new growth. *Brian Clark photo*



Wildlife biologist Laura Patton handled the drip torch during a grassland habitat burn at KDFWR headquarters last month. *Mark Marraccini photo*



KDFWR and Elk Creek Hunting Club & Sporting Clays host 4th annual KECC Sporting Clays Challenge

Several teams of shooters converged on the Elk Creek Sporting Clays facility on September 10 for a fun time of shooting, fellowship, and food and raising money for the annual KECC campaign.

Most participants in the shoot were current or retired state employees, including KDFWR's own retired **David Casey** (former Director of Law Enforcement), and current employees **Mark Marraccini**, **Pat Barnard**, **Dave Frederick** and **Brian Clark**.

The shoot raised \$180 for KECC. Although all the Fish & Wildlife employees and retirees made strong showings, other participants edged us out in the rankings.

Dave Frederick participated in the competition and also coordinated the event, with help from **Regina Penn** and **Susie Paul**. Thanks to Dave for all his work on this event, and to Elk Creek for again hosting this special event that helps to support a cause that helps so many!

COMPETITION RESULTS

- High Overall Individual: Rex Pitts
- High Overall Female: Nanette Miller
- High Overall Team: Rex Pitts, Doug Pulliam, Tom White and Steve Eades (BBW&E)
- Low Overall Team: Alex Roig, Lee Linebaugh, Gerry Gevedon and Boone Logan
- Long Bird Shoot: Steve Grosshans
- 5-Stand Shoot: Lee Limbaugh



Brian Clark moves on a target.



Nanette Miller nails a clay target in an excellent round of shooting; she claimed the prize for high over-all female score.



David Casey, Pat Barnard and Jim Miller tally the scores.

Elk tag benefits Boy Scouts

The Department recently entered into an agreement with Asher Land and Mineral. As a result they qualified for and are receiving one elk tag.

Asher Land and Mineral donated the tag to the Boy Scouts, who used it in a fund raiser. The tag brought in \$7,700.00.

Boone Logan is a member of their Board and also is District Executive with the Bluegrass Council, Boy Scouts of America. He wanted to pass on his appreciation to the Department for this great program.