



September 2011

—VOL. 6 NO. 9—



Explore
Bowhunting
Page 10

Convicted poacher pays restitution, receives worldwide hunting ban in Kentucky case

A North Carolina man agreed to pay the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources more than \$5,300 in restitution and fees after pleading guilty to federal charges of illegally killing and transporting wildlife from Kentucky.

U.S. Magistrate Judge E. Robert Goebel also banned 44-year-old Rodney L. Poteat of Salisbury, N.C., from hunting anywhere in the world for two years as a condition of unsupervised probation, according to David J. Hale, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky. Poteat is a former resident of Hart County, Kentucky.

Poteat was charged in a two-count information on July 27. Goebel sentenced Poteat Sept. 7 in U.S. District Court at Bowling Green. The restitution is to compensate Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for the fees Poteat would have paid for hunting in Kentucky for several years.

According to court records, Poteat transported a 14-point white-tailed deer from Hart County to his North Carolina home on November 27, 2010. Poteat was required to purchase a non-resident hunting license and deer permit prior to hunting in Kentucky. He also was required to report the harvest of any deer taken in Kentucky, and to make a report before

transporting the deer outside of Kentucky.

The case caught the attention of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife special investigations officers when hunters from the Hart County area reported that Poteat claimed one of his mounted deer was taken in North Carolina. However, the other hunters had trail camera photos taken in Hart County of a live deer with a distinctive antler configuration identical to Poteat's deer mount.

Kentucky officers notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents of the investigation. Federal agents teamed with North Carolina officers for a visit to Poteat's home.

Confronted with the photo evidence, Poteat admitted to hunting in Kentucky

since 1999 without purchasing the required licenses. He surrendered four deer head mounts, two turkey mounts and a bobcat mount to investigators.

Poteat also plead guilty to knowingly transporting a bobcat from Kentucky to his North Carolina home without purchasing a non-resident hunting license prior to hunting in Kentucky. He also failed to report the harvest of a bobcat taken within Kentucky.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Ream prosecuted the case. Investigators with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated in the case.



TELECHECK BY PHONE or ONLINE

There are now two ways to telecheck your harvest – by phone or online.

- **Telecheck by phone**
1-800-245-4263 (800-CHK-GAME)
- **Online Telecheck**
fw.ky.gov/app/onlinetelecheck/Verify.aspx

INSIDE:



2 Teague retires



6 Dewey Lake youth event



11 Dog Day

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Stephen "Fish" Pumphrey from Gilbertsville wrote, "On behalf of Kentucky and especially Western Kentucky users of our God-given natural resource waters of the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam, thank you for our wonderful new access ramp. I personally already feel better about paying for personal and guide fishing licenses. Give a special thanks to the **engineering and construction crews** whose gift of work and know-how made this project a reality. Keep up the good labor of working for Kentucky sportsmen."

Barry MacDonald wrote the following in an email to John Morgan, "I was dove hunting yesterday and was checked by a **Bullitt County Game Warden**. I have been checked years ago and it was a rude experience. Yesterday was a very different experience. The Game Wardens were very professional and friendly and even joked with me. I am sorry I did not get their names. Nice to see them out and about. Keep up the good work!"

Chuck Wright of Louisville sent the following email through our Info Center: "I wanted to commend **Officer Whelan** for his friendly demeanor on Saturday Sept 3. My father, brother and I were hunting in the New castle Dove field and had the opportunity to talk with Officer Whelan. This is the kind of excellent Kentucky man that everyone should meet when they are in the field hunting. It was a beautiful day and the meeting with Officer Whelan made it all the better. Please pass this note on to his supervisors. He deserves a "pat on the back."

Joe Huecker of Louisville wrote the following: "I'm writing to express my

thanks to the Conservation officers who came to the opening day dove hunt at the WMA in eastern Henry County. I was suffering from heat exhaustion when they arrived. If I hadn't been so depleted I would have thought to get their names and thank them personally.

They did three things that made all the difference in the world, and I believe kept me from a hospital trip. The first officer gave me a bottle of his own water. Both officers kept inquiring about my condition. The second officer gave me a ride out of the field, which I don't think I could have walked. My brother joined us and he took my car keys to drive us home.

Might not sound like much but I was very ill and remained ill for a couple of days. Thank you, guys!"

The Commissioner's office received copies of two letters from Chief James M. Townsend, with the Louisville District, USACOE. He stated, "The Louisville

District of the Corps of Engineers hosted the 2011 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Project Managers' Regulatory Conference August 15-19. Attendees included staff from the Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Great Lakes, and Ohio River Division, as well as the Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Huntington, Nashville, Pittsburgh, and Louisville Districts." He complimented **Doug Dawson** on his outstanding presentation, "Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program" and **Rob Lewis** for his outstanding presentation "Design Consideration for In-Lieu Fee Programs."

He stated, "Your willingness to share your knowledge and expertise greatly contributed to the success of the conference. On behalf of the Louisville District Regulatory Program, thank you for your participation in the 2011 Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Project Managers' Regulatory Conference."

Law Enforcement Acting Director Paul Teague retires

The Law Enforcement Division is saying goodbye to another longtime Conservation Officer. Major **Paul Teague** retired effective August 31.

Major Teague started with the Law Enforcement Division in 1992 and was assigned to the 7th District as an officer for Pike County. Eventually he transferred to the 8th Law Enforcement District where he spent the majority of his career.

He served as a district Sergeant and then was promoted to Captain of the 8th District. In 2009, he was promoted to the rank of Major and transferred to Headquarters.

He was serving as the Acting Direc-



tor of the Law Enforcement Division when he retired. Major Teague is looking forward to hunting this fall and spending time with his wife, Charlotte, and daughter, Callie.

Engineering sets the bar with rebuild of Kentucky Dam tailwater boat ramp

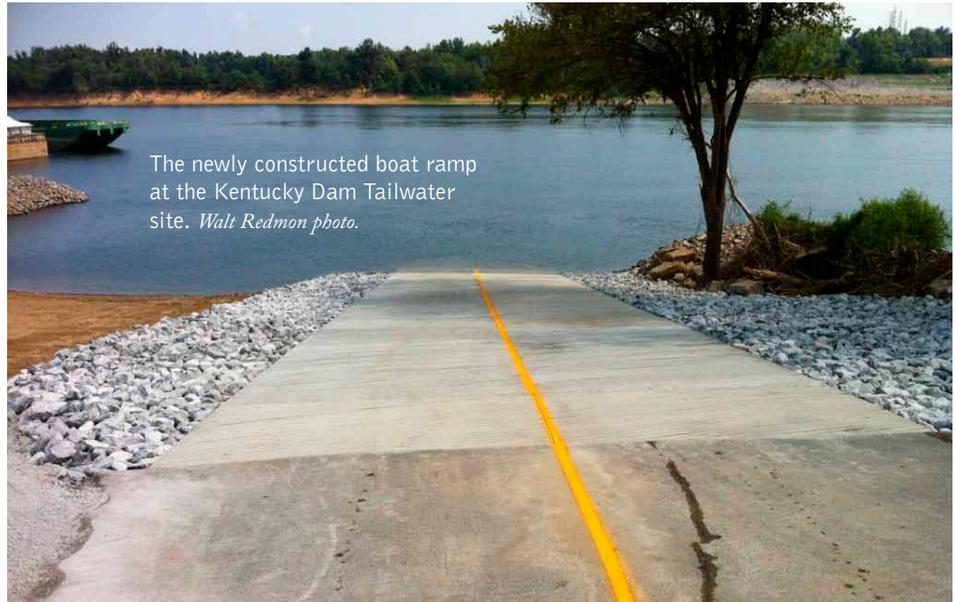
Engineering Division is pleased to announce that the boat ramp below Kentucky Dam has officially received its much needed face-lift. This boat ramp provides the only boating access directly into the tailwater below Kentucky Dam.

The tailwater below Kentucky Dam is arguably one of the best multi-species fisheries present throughout all of Kentucky. Quality fisheries exist for blue catfish, channel catfish, striped bass, white bass, hybrid striped bass, sauger, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and spotted bass.

The tailwater is regionally renowned as a hot spot for snagging paddlefish. Bow fishermen also frequent the tailwater due to its abundance of Asian carp.

For years, during periods of low water the ramp became difficult for anglers due to its sharp dropoff and numerous pot-holes that had developed over time.

The rebuild of the project began in early August and was completed and re-opened to the public on August 18. Because of the popularity of this ramp, staff from the Engineering Division were able to develop a short term boat ramp lane for the public to utilize during the rebuilding



The newly constructed boat ramp at the Kentucky Dam Tailwater site. *Walt Redmon photo.*

process. The completed project provides a dual lane boat ramp, in addition to the restriping of the existing parking lot.

Completed in roughly three weeks, this project provides the testimony to the hard work and dedication of the staff from the Engineering Division in maintaining and improving boating access in Kentucky.

Staff involved with this project

include **Greg Logan, Ed Davis, Richard Cook, Rodney Smith, James Culver, Casey Stockton and Walt Redmon.** Keep up the great work.

The KDFWR would also like to acknowledge its partnership with the Department of Parks on this project. This rebuild would not have been possible without the cooperation between our two agencies.

New hires/promotions

Jennifer Fisher joined the agency on September 1, 2011 as an Internal Policy Analyst I. Jennifer works in Administrative Services Division as the Agency ProCard Administrator.

Jennifer has a bachelors degree from Morehead State University in Communications and a minor in Marketing. She came to us from the Kentucky Department of Revenue where she worked in the Individual Income Tax section. There she was responsible for providing assis-

tance to taxpayers.

In her spare time she works for a family owned Thoroughbred business in Finchville, Kentucky. Jennifer is getting married this November in Ohio, where she is originally from. Please join us in welcoming Jennifer to the department in her new position.

We would like to welcome **Wes McFaddin** to the Purchase Region private lands biologist position. Wes will be covering Calloway, Graves, Marshall, McCrack-

en, Trigg and Christian counties. Wes has been a technician at the Ballard WMA since 2008 and worked as an Elk technician in 2007. Wes has been working on his MS through ECU and holds his BS in Wildlife Management from ECU as well. Wes has a diverse background of training and experience with prescribed burns, TWS certification, pesticide applications, Class A CDL, wildlife surveys, NWSG, moist-soil management, farm equipment, heavy equipment and more.

Teamwork to the rescue

By Charlie Baglan

The blue lights had already been triggered as a youth on a wave runner came slicing full-throttle across the No Wake zone. But there was no pursuit that Saturday afternoon at Harmon Creek on Lake Cumberland; the lad was coming straight for us. "I need your help! Please! My dad is hurt."

Officers **Travis Neal** and **Jerrod Alley** responded quickly to the lad's directions. They found Michael Holcomb, 39, on the main lake grimacing in pain from a broken foot. His lifejacket had his back and Officer Neal had Wayne County EMS en route.

The Nicholasville man agrees that

his 'less than graceful PWC landing' from wake jumping on Lake Cumberland turned into a day for the Holcomb history books. "Why didn't I just go to Herrington?" he rumbled.

Thankful that his son had the presence of mind to know where to seek help, that the two were wearing lifejackets, maintained positive attitudes, and that no alcohol was involved, Alley and Neal realized this boating accident could have been far worse.

As the summer boating season winds down, hats-off to conservation officers across Kentucky. Their training and cooperative spirit with other law enforcement and emergency personnel are

one more example of how we are the Holcomb family's partner (and your partner) in the great outdoors.



Officers Travis Neal and Jerrod Alley assisted an injured man on Lake Cumberland and called the Wayne County EMS for help.

Charlie Baglan photos





Above: A bank fishing pull off area at Peabody WMA. Right: An improved boat ramp and parking area at Musky Lake. *Jeremy Shiflet photos*

Fishing access increased on Peabody WMA

The Northwestern Fisheries District recently helped develop several new public bank fishing areas at Peabody WMA.

Staff used heavy equipment to clear new areas for bank fishing access, in addi-

tion to improving several boat ramps and parking areas on the Ken Unit of Peabody WMA in Ohio County.

Bank fishing was limited on this portion of the WMA due to the construction of several berms around the lakes which made access by bank fishermen difficult. Heavy equipment was used to punch holes in several key berms and smooth out additional areas for bank fishermen to utilize.

If these areas prove to be popular fishing locations, several additional areas have been identified for development during

future years. Staff will soon add fish attractor habitat in close proximity to these bank fishing areas to help improve angler catch rates.

Improvements to several boat ramps and parking areas were also made by staff at Ken Lake and Musky Lake. For directions to this area, interested parties can download maps of the Peabody WMA at fw.ky.gov/kfwis/viewable/PeabodyAll.pdf.

Much of this work was completed by Northwestern Fisheries District fisheries technicians Michael Kinney and Tim Abney. Keep up the great work.

Safety Day held at Higginson-Henry WMA

About 200 Union County fifth graders and 69 adults participated in the 16th annual Safety Day at the Higginson-Henry WMA on September 1, 2011.

The Safety Day event is a joint cooperative event with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau and numerous local businesses.

The purpose of the event is to promote safety to children in situations that they may not encounter on a daily basis. This year there were presentations on Safety House (fire safety), Electrical Safety, Oil Tank Safety, Gun/Animal Safety, Water/Outdoor Safety, Grain Bin Safety and Meth Lab Safety.

The day began with a welcome from

the Yellow Team from the Amazing Race, locals Gary and Mallory Ervin and ended with a mock ATV accident complete with local Search and Rescue personnel and the Life Flight helicopter landing at the scene.

The weather was great, the kids were great and another great event is in the books at the H&H WMA.

Dewey Lake youth event more popular than ever

By Richard Mauro and Rusty Hamilton

Some outdoor activities have seen declines in participation by youth in recent years, but the outing at Dewey Lake seems to be picking up momentum.

Officially known as The Floyd County Hunter Education and Dewey Lake Fish and Game Club Annual Youth Squirrel Hunt, 95 children between the ages of 7 and 15 participated in the activities this year.

The fun however wasn't limited to only the youngsters that officially signed in – parents, guardians, and other family members were also welcomed.

As you might suspect, the annual event is focused around the opening weekend of squirrel season - this year August 19 and 20. Participants have the option of making it a 1½ day outing by signing in Friday evening and camping out, or a one day outing by registering Saturday morning.

Everything associated with the event is completely free for youngsters and their families, including registration, all meals and drinks, activities, prizes, and camping.

Those who chose to sign in Friday were rewarded with dinner prior to retiring to their tents or campers for the night. The menu varied with many different types of meat and side dishes, but elk burgers were the most featured part of the dinner.

For those who wished to participate, the squirrel hunt was held on the Dewey Lake Wildlife Management Area Sat-



Rusty Hamilton photos

urday morning. To allow them to hit the woods at daybreak, a special early morning breakfast was fixed for the kids who were hunting and their accompanying adults.

It was a successful hunt that included mentoring and quality experiences. Saturday afternoon was the time for a multitude of outdoor activities. These included canoeing, shooting BB guns and archery, casting, and turkey calling.

Children were divided into three age groups, 7-9, 10-12, and 13-15, so they could enjoy the events with their peers. Meals were not

neglected on Saturday either. Bountiful feasts were served up for both lunch and dinner.

The final part of the program was much anticipated by most everyone. Each youngster was given a raffle ticket and a complimentary orange hunting cap.

The drawing for the raffle was held Saturday evening, with the order young-

See “Dewey,” page 7



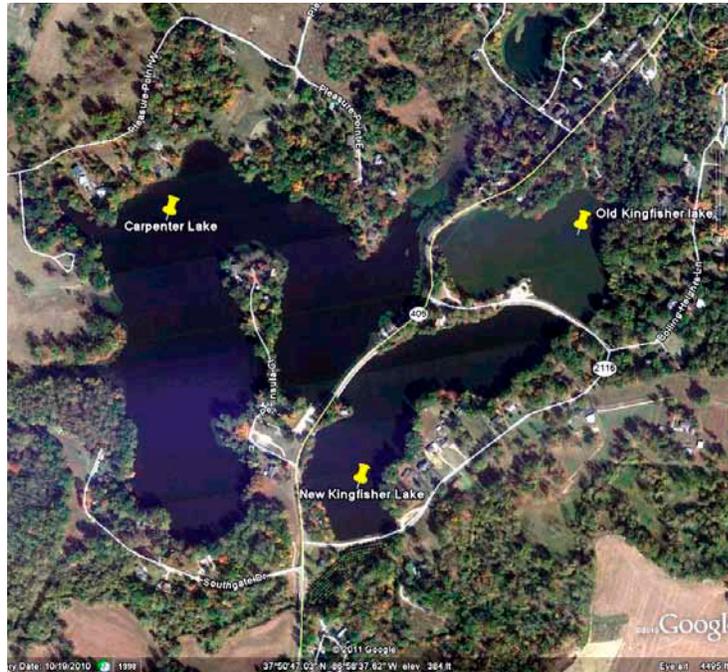
Fisheries hosts public meeting about renovation of Kingfisher lakes

Fisheries Division Director **Ron Brooks** and staff from the Northwestern Fisheries District recently hosted a public meeting on August 31, 2011, to discuss plans to renovate both Old and New Kingfisher Lakes (collectively referred to as “Kingfisher Lakes”).

Old Kingfisher Lake was opened to fishing in 1900, while New Kingfisher Lake was opened in 1942. Both lakes are located in eastern Daviess County and receive considerable fishing pressure despite containing suffering fisheries.

The proposed renovation activities discussed at the meeting included a complete draining of Old Kingfisher Lake and partial draining of New Kingfisher Lake. **Rob Rold**, Northwestern Fisheries District Program Coordinator, presented project details and conceptual illustrations to the nearly 80 individuals in attendance. Most in attendance lived in the immediate proximity of Kingfisher Lakes and could be affected by the renovation project in some form or fashion.

The largest part of the discussion



focused around the proposed breaching of State Highway 2116 in order to connect the two (now separate) lakes during the renovation.

Connecting the two lakes would allow boaters access to both lakes from the water, instead of having to utilize two

separate boat ramps. Additionally, the breaching of State Highway 2116 would allow for the development of additional bank fishing access along the existing highway.

The concept of the renovation was supported by an overwhelming majority of those in attendance. Many details are still to be worked out, however; the

renovation project is still slated to begin later this fall with the start of the drawdown.

For more information on the Kingfisher Lakes renovation project, please feel free to contact Rob Rold (Northwestern Fisheries District Program Coordinator) at (270) 273-3117.

“Dewey,” continued

sters were drawn being the order they could select available prizes. All of the children receive at least one prize and some lucky ones won two. Many of the items were highly coveted as 10 shotguns were given away.

Saturday evening was also the time of the trophy presentation. The top three scoring youths in each of the activity categories except canoeing, were awarded a trophy.

Participation in the Dewey youth event has been steadily climbing since it was first held just over 10 years ago when approximately 35 kids signed up. The last three years have been the most heavily

attended with the number of youngsters registered averaging about 100.

As you might imagine, most of the children that have been participating thus far are from local counties, but all youngsters within the allowable age bracket are welcome regardless of where they are from. Plans are to continue to hold the outing on the opening weekend of squirrel season in the future.

Of course the great success of the event would not be possible without the countless hours provided by volunteers, and staff of various agencies.

Likewise the ability to host it free of charge to participants was due to the contributions of these people as well as the

approximately 150 sponsors, mainly local business, who donated a treasure-trove of food, materials, and prizes.

Greatest thanks should go to the hosts, The Dewey Lake Fish and Game Club and Floyd Co. Hunter Education Assoc., who were enmeshed in all aspects of planning and administration of the event.

Personnel from the Corps of Engineers at Dewey Lake, KY State Parks, and most all divisions of KDFWR also contributed much time and material.

The dedication of all of these individuals, as well as the enthusiasm of the youngsters involved, should do much to ensure the success of the Dewey Lake event well into the future.

New docks completed

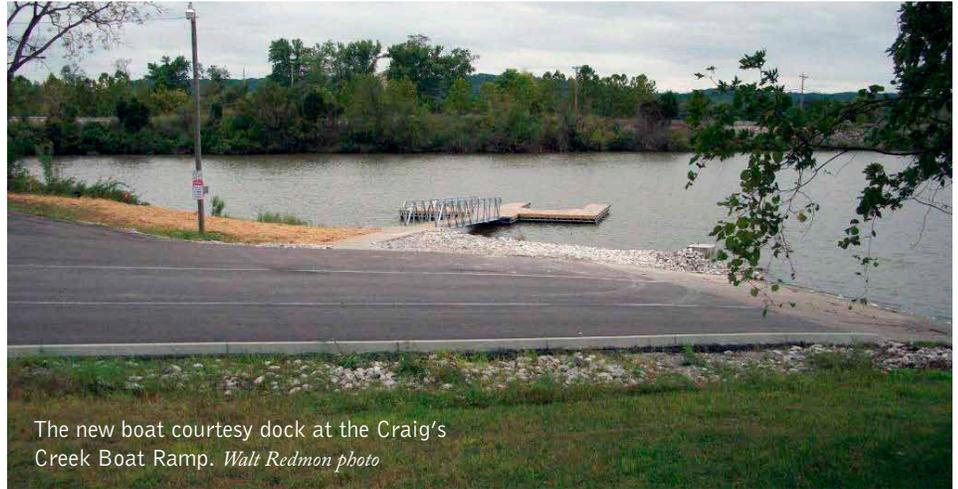
Staff from the Engineering Division recently completed the construction of a new boat courtesy dock at the Craig's Creek Boat Ramp just upstream of the Markland Dam.

The Craig's Creek Boat Ramp was recently rebuilt as a result of a partnership between the City of Warsaw and the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The City of Warsaw completed much of the work themselves and actually completed the project under budget. As a result of surplus funding, the KDFWR was able to purchase and construct a new boat courtesy dock at the site.

The Craig's Creek Boat Ramp is a large ramp that is able to accommodate approximately 75 vehicles and trailers. We are certain that the boaters who utilize this facility will much appreciate the new dock.

Additionally, staff from the Engineering Division also completed the construction of a refurbished fishing pier at Reformatory Lake in Oldham County. Reformatory Lake is a small lake that receives considerable bank fishing pressure and we are certain that the new pier will be highly received.



The new boat courtesy dock at the Craig's Creek Boat Ramp. *Walt Redmon photo*



Refurbished fishing pier at Reformatory Lake. *Ryan Oster photo*



WHITE CLOVER SEED DONATED

The Wilderness Trail Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Chapter donated white clover seed for use in planting the Taylorsville Lake Wildlife Management Area. With the seed are WMA Manager Billy Mitchell, and Wilderness Trail members Scott Luna, his daughter and JAKES member Annaliese Luna, and Chapter President Kenny Nash.

Archery partnership expanding

By Brian Clark,
KDFWR Public Affairs Division

Cultural changes have created what some education and outdoor recreation experts have described as a “nature deficit” among many in our society. This is reflected in long-term declines in participation in hunting and fishing in Kentucky and nationwide.

One change that has contributed to this problem is urbanization, and the resulting loss of connectivity between people and the land. Another factor is the increase in the availability of electronic and other activities that compete with people’s involvement in the outdoors.

To address declining participation in wildlife-related recreation, KDFWR continues to work with partnering organizations to find innovative ways that we can leverage our resources for more synergistic results. This year we obtained a significant investment from the Archery Trade Association (ATA) for the purpose of increasing recruitment and retention of hunters and shooters.

ATA is the organization for archery manufacturers, retailers, distributors, sales representatives and others working in the archery and bowhunting industry. It has served its members since 1953.

In recent years ATA has partnered with state wildlife agencies to



Archery Trade Association (ATA) representatives met with KDFWR Commissioner Jon Gassett and other KDFWR staff on August 29 to discuss expanding our archery partnership.

further the mutual goals of keeping people healthfully engaged in outdoor activity through archery shooting and bowhunting.

Over the past year, KDFWR and the Archery Trade Association (ATA) have worked together to co-fund and launch in Kentucky the Explore Bowhunting

program, which introduces participants to the skills needed for hunting.

ATA is providing matching funds for two years to assist KDFWR with costs associated with the program, such as staffing, equipment, and curriculum materials.

KDFWR is currently working with ATA to explore ways that we can expand our partnership to provide even more people with archery shooting and hunting opportunities. A primary emphasis of this expanded partnership will involve working with selected cities to develop family archery ranges and programs that are easily accessible. By getting families engaged in archery, we can also provide hunting opportunities to many who would otherwise never consider it.

To learn more about the ATA, and other ways they’re working with state agencies to increase participation in archery shooting and hunting, visit their Web site:

archerytrade.org/

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION



Did you know that so far in 2011, Facebook participation has risen from 500 million to 750 million? KDFWR Public Affairs Director Brian Blank spoke on Sept. 2 to Marion County community and business leaders at their monthly “First Friday Forum” about the importance of Facebook and other social media for enhancing customer relations, and how Kentucky Fish & Wildlife is increasingly using these media for two-way communication with the public.



EXPLORE BOWHUNTING



Four new Explore Bowhunting programs got underway during August. **Above:** At Grayson Middle School, students learned about face paint and camouflage and how to build a blind. **Left:** Explore Bowhunting staff and Hunter Education volunteers helped the Kentucky National Guard at Lake Cumberland 4-H camp.



Banding wood ducks at Sloughs

Green River Region staff and a few volunteers netted waterfowl for banding at Sloughs WMA during late July through late August.

The Sloughs WMA staff captured and banded 610 wood ducks, along with 110 recaptures in their four early morning

rocket net attempts.

Several volunteers got to handle live ducks for the first time. Student interns and any other staff desiring experienced extensive hand-on aging and sexing techniques got the opportunity.

Trappers reported that they started

early, but were back at the shop by eight each morning.

The site was cleared up and all of the equipment was stored for later use this coming February...when they band Canada geese.



DOGS AT WORK

"Bring Your Dog to Work Day" was a popular and profitable effort as a few dozen staff members brought their loyal companions and raised another \$120.75 toward the agency's KECC target of \$7,200. To date, we've raised almost \$5,000. Taking prizes in the event were from left, Donna Covington and Lilly as "Best Behaved," Regina Penn and Sophie as "Smallest Dog," Brenda Ward-Hill and Koda as "Biggest Dog," Jon Gassett and Lullabelle as "Cutest," and Myra Minton and Lucy as "Best Dressed."

Lee McClellan photo