



Kentucky's newest WMA

More than 50 local sportsmen, media representatives, and project partners gathered on site near Lebanon, September 16, for the dedication of the new Marion County Wildlife Management Area and State Forest.

The area is co-owned by KDFWR, the Division of Forestry, and Marion County Fiscal Court. It was purchased using funds from three sources: Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (from nature license plate sales, environmental fines and un-mined mineral taxes); the federal Wildlife Restoration Program (from fees on sale of hunting and shooting equipment and ammunition); and the Game and Fish Fund (from hunting and fishing license sales).

The 1293-acre wildlife area is mostly forested and has rugged terrain. It currently has one parking area, on Siloam Road south of US 68 near Penick. The Marion Co. WMA is open through the 2010-2011 hunting season under regulations applicable to Marion County.



Representatives of project partners included (l-r): Steve Kull, Ky. Division of Forestry assistant director; John Mattingly, Marion Co. Judge Executive; Dr. James Angel, 4th District Fish & Wildlife Commission member; Taylor Orr, 9th District Fish & Wildlife Commission member; Benjy Kinman, KDFWR deputy commissioner; Lisa Wellings, Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund administrative assistant; and Tony Wheatley, KDFWR land acquisition coordinator. *Brian Clark photo*

Department receives grant to improve hunter/angler access

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was one of 17 states to have recently been awarded federal grant funds to implement a new "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program" (VPA-HIP) through the

United States Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency.

The goal of this new program is to provide incentives to landowners and operators of privately held farms and ranches to open up access to their lands for the purpose of

increasing hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching recreational opportunities.

As part of the highly competitive grant application process, the Department

See "Grant," page 14

INSIDE:



5 VHS testing



7 Trout reg study



12 Fishing event

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This has been a good month! The Commissioner's Office has received a lot of great comments about our staff. We try to pass along the good messages we receive to let you know that you DO make a difference and people do notice! Keep up the good work and again, thanks, for all you do for KDFWR and for being great ambassadors to the public!

On behalf of the Greenup County Farm Bureau, Greenup County Cooperative Extension Service, and the Greenup County Soil & Water Conservation District, we would like to express a sincere thank you for allowing Conservation Officers **Rob Howard** and **Buddy Grayson**

to participate in the Great Ag Adventure that was held Friday, September 10th at the Greenup County Fairgrounds. Over 300 4th grade students and their teachers learned about the importance that the Department of Fish & Wildlife provide to our community each and every day! Once again, thank you for allowing your conservation officers to assist in educating the youth in Greenup County.

Commissioner Rodney Brewer, with the Kentucky State Police writes, "I wanted to personally thank you for hosting the recent "United in Conservation" fishing outing for all of the KSP and KD-

FWR families. The turnout was impressive and I've received many positive comments about the event. The hospitality and food were fantastic and was certainly appreciated by all in attendance. Please pass along to all of your staff who helped make this event possible. We appreciate the support and ongoing partnership between our agencies and stand ready to assist you in matters of mutual concern."

The following comments come from Dean Henson who is the Naturalist for the Park. "On behalf of Pine Mountain State Resort Park, I wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to you and the KDFWR for participating as a co-sponsoring partner of Hawktoberfest on October 1-3. I'm also grateful and indebted to select KDFWR staff for providing core weekend program content. Specifically, I'd like to recognize **Jamie Cook, Kate Heyden, Ben Leffew,** and volunteers **BJ Whaley** and **Loren Taylor**. The effort of these individuals contributed much to the overall success of the event and was most gratifying to me as event host. The professionalism and responsibility demonstrated by your fine staff insured a safe, fulfilling and enjoyable experience for all participants. Please extend our gratitude to these division employees for their help in making this year's Hawktoberfest a weekend experience that will be remembered by participants for years to come."

The following comes from Michael L. Piccirilli, Chief – Federal Assistance for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. "We would like to thank you (Dr. Gassett) and your staff for the assistance extended to Mr. John Watkins during his recent visit to review several of Kentucky's federally as-

CARR, CARROLL GET BIG AWARD FROM KESS



Kelly Carr and Steve Carroll of Engineering Division split a \$2,500 award they received for submitting a cost-saving suggestion as part of the Kentucky Employee Suggestion System. The system makes cash awards to employee suggestions result in the improvement of state service or realize a financial savings. The awards range from a minimum of \$100 to 10 percent of the first year's documented or estimated savings, up to a maximum of \$2,500. Carr and Carroll suggested an alternate method for acquiring surveying equipment and technology and also netted substantial returns when disposing of worn out equipment. Carr and Carroll received their checks from Deputy Commissioner Benjy Kinman and Engineering Assistant Director Tim Layson.

See "Mail," page 13

New hires and promotions

Effective October 1, 2010, **Melissa Trent** was promoted to the Grants Branch Manager position within the Administrative Services Division. Melissa has over eight years' experience with state government, serving the past six with the Department in our grants branch. Her in-depth knowledge and experience with Federal Grants and Accounting will be a tremendous asset to our customers and serve her well in her new job duties.

Derek Beard has been selected as the Bluegrass Region Regional Coordinator for the Wildlife Division. Derek is a native of Ohio and currently lives in Frankfort, Kentucky. Derek received his Bachelors in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University. He has worked for KDFWR for the past 7 years as a Farm Bill Biologist and Farm Bill Liaison out of the Frankfort and Lexington NRCS offices and has 4 years experience with CDP Engineers, Inc. prior to joining the Department.

Captain Myra Minton is serving as Acting Assistant Director in the Law Enforcement Division at Headquarters. Captain Minton is the first female to ascend to the position of Law Enforcement Captain. She graduated from the Southern Policy Institute Administrative Officer's Course with honors, has a Bachelor's Degree from Ohio Northern University, and is a 12-year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division.

The Fisheries Division would like to welcome **B. J. Jamison** to the Department as the new Environmental Biologist Specialist in the Department's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program.

B. J. is originally from Fleming County, Kentucky. He obtained a B.S. degree from Eastern Kentucky University where he majored in biology. B. J. has a strong educational background in aquatic ecosystems.

He previously worked for an environmental consulting firm gaining valuable experience in conducting surveys for fed-

erally listed species, assessments of aquatic ecosystems, and environmental compliance and permitting. B. J.'s educational background and experience will be a valuable asset to the Department's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

B. J. currently resides in Lexington with his wife Lesley and two dogs, Dakota and Georgie. He enjoys working with all things aquatic. He has a reef aquarium at home with over 20 species of live coral, 16 reef fish, and countless other marine invertebrates. He is very excited about the opportunity to work with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and looks forward to growing as a biologist during his time with the Department. His first day on the job was September 16.

The Fisheries Division would like to welcome **Bethany Westrick** to the Department as the new Environmental

Biologist Specialist in the Department's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program.

She is originally from Carrollton, Kentucky where she grew up loving the outdoors. She obtained a B.A. degree from Bellarmine University where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry. Bethany went on to earn a M.S. degree in Biology from Eastern Kentucky University. Her thesis work focused on studying the role of hormones in parental care behaviors in convict cichlid fish.

Bethany's previous experience includes working in a private water-quality testing lab and as a project leader for the USDA Forest Service on the Daniel Boone National Forest. During her time with the Forest Service she monitored streams with culverts and assessed the impacts of the culverts on fish movement.

See "Hires," page 4

CLAY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY



District Fisheries Biologist John Williams, Conservation Officer Stacey Bryant and Wildlife Biologist Will Bowling contacted about 1,000 students while participating in the 2010 Clay County High School Career Day on October 1.

“Hires,” continued

She has extensive experience in fish sampling and assessment of physical impacts to streams. Bethany's educational background and experience will be a valuable asset to the Department's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

Bethany currently resides in Louisville and is an outdoor enthusiast and is especially interested in the conservation of aquatic ecosystems. She is very happy and excited about the opportunity to work for KDFWR. Her first day on the job was October 1.

The Fisheries Division would like to welcome **Joseph Zimmerman** to the Department as the new Environmental Biologist Consultant in the Environmental Section.

Joseph previously served as the Program Coordinator for the Department's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program where his duties included program oversight, stream and wetland restoration,

contracting, construction oversight, and post-construction monitoring. The FILO program, as it is commonly known, currently has 84 miles of streams in various stages of restoration and Joseph has had a significant role in the success of the program.

Joseph is originally from Tennessee where he obtained a B.S. degree from Tennessee Tech University in the field of Fisheries Science. Joseph went on to earn a M.S. degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee. His thesis work focused on the seasonal variations in fish assemblages of warm water streams in four southeastern national parks. Joseph's experience and educational background will be a valuable asset to the Department.

Joseph currently resides in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, and is an avid hunter, fisherman, outdoor enthusiast and a lifelong Tennessee Volunteer fan that is patiently waiting for another National Championship in football. His first day in his new position was September 16.



2010 special youth elk hunt

Each year, five lucky youths are drawn for a special 3-day firearms either-sex elk hunt held at the Paul Van Booven WMA.

Richard Brown, Skye Combs, Zachary Devers, Laura Hall and John McKinney arrived Friday afternoon to perfect weather and bugling bulls. This year, all five harvested a bull on the very first day of the hunt!

On Friday evening, the Passing on the Tradition Support Group and several members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation hosted the young hunters for a cook-out at the University of Kentucky's Robinson Forest Camp.

Webb's Butcher Block graciously provided the steaks, and the UK Department of Forestry made the Camp available for both the cookout and to hunters and their families who wished to stay there during the hunt.

KDFWR biologist **Dan Crank** and technician **Todd Duff** were on hand all weekend to assist the hunters.

ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Sixth District Conservation officer Damon Foster, Garrard County, drives from the tee as retired captain Joe Carrier looks on during last month's annual KDFWR golf scramble at Bob-O-Link Golf Course in Lawrenceburg. The team calling themselves "This Clark Is Not Minor", consisting of Allen Trusty, David Hale, Rod Middleton and Pete Besant, won this year's event with a score of 8-under-par. Another Fisheries team, "The Fish Heads", made up of Dane Balsman, Ryan Oster, Jeff Ross, Dave Dreves and Ron Shearer, took second place with 7-under par. Finishing in last place again at 3-over-par was the team of Mark Cramer, Chad Miles, Karen Waldrop and Jon Gasset.



Fisheries Division receives federal funds to test for VHS in fish

The Fisheries Division has recently received federal funding through the United States Department of Agriculture – Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) to conduct surveys of select fish populations through the Commonwealth as part of a Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) surveillance program.

VHS is a deadly fish virus and an invasive species that was diagnosed as the causative agent in several large fish kills in lakes Huron, St. Clair, Erie, Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River in 2005

and 2006. Worldwide, VHS is known to afflict over 50 species of freshwater and marine fish.

Historically, VHS was most commonly associated with freshwater salmonid populations in Western Europe dating back to the late 1930's. Today, the virus still continues to cause epidemics in European trout farms.

VHS was first documented in the U.S. in 1988 in marine trout and salmon. By 2000, VHS started to become of notice in several marine fish species off the eastern Canadian province of New Brunswick. Several different types of the virus are currently known world-wide with each virus type affecting different species of fish.

VHS can be spread from fish to fish through water transfer, as well as through contaminated fish eggs and bait fish from infected waters. The virus is believed to be able to survive for at least



A gizzard shad infected with VHS.

14 days in the water.

The virus first infects the gill tissues before moving to internal organs and blood vessels. The virus grows best in fish when water temperatures are between 37-54°F. The majority of fish kills have been documented during water temperatures of 37-41°F.

Rarely has a VHS fish kill been documented above 59°F. Fish that survive the virus can become lifelong carriers of the virus. Symptoms of fish that have become infected with VHS include hemorrhaging of their internal organs, skin and muscle.

Some fish have been found to exhibit no external symptoms, while others may show signs of bulging eyes, bloated abdomens, bruised (reddish) tints to the eyes, skin, gills, and fins. Some fish also exhibited open sores that may look like the lesions from other diseases.

Living fish that may be afflicted with

VHS may appear listless or limp, often hanging just beneath the surface of the water. Some fish may also exhibit constant flashing or circling.

To date, no sign of VHS has yet been documented in Kentucky. Unfortunately, Kentucky is considered a high risk state for VHS introduction. As a result, this funding will help monitor and assess the current status of VHS in Kentucky.

A total of 19 water bodies will be sampled for VHS testing. These water bodies were selected for a variety of reasons including: (1) high potential

for VHS occurrence (i.e. direct connection with a VHS infected watershed); (2) presence of large numbers of transient vessels; (3) high angler use and potential impacts from live bait introductions, fish stockings, and ballast water release from a VHS positive state.

Fish samples will be collected from Yatesville Lake, Green River Lake, Barren River Lake, Rough River Lake, Laurel River Lake, Lake Cumberland, Lake Barkley, Taylorsville Lake, Kentucky Lake, Ohio River, Licking River, Kentucky River, Green River, Rolling Fork Lake, Tradewater River, and the Mississippi River.

Fish samples will be analyzed by the United State Fish and Wildlife Service Warm Springs Fish Health Center. For more information on VHS, please feel free to contact Jeff Ross, Assistant Director of Fisheries at 502-564-3400 ext. 4461.

EmPOWERing landowners to improve habitat

Louisville Gas & Electric and Kentucky Utilities (E.ON U.S. companies) have partnered with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (KDFWR), USDA Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), and numerous other conservation agencies and nonprofit organizations in a growing, "green" program in Kentucky designed to help private landowners improve wildlife habitat. The utilities have together committed \$25,000 to sponsor POWER: Promoting Our Wildlife & Energy Resources in their service territory.

The new LG&E and KU sponsorship was celebrated with a ribbon cutting held Sept. 17 on a transmission line near Midway. The POWER Program offers payments to landowners for pre-approved habitat projects on transmission (super high voltage) line corridors. In return for payment for prescribed practices, landowners agree to maintain their project and keep woody vegetation from growing on the enrolled area for a period of 3 years. Landowners whose projects are pre-approved for funding can receive up to \$50



per acre per year for enrolling land under a transmission line.

Utility corridors occupy hundreds of thousands of acres in Kentucky. Most of this acreage is maintained with periodic mowing or spraying to keep tree tops from growing into power lines or roots from interfering with pipelines. This program offers a way to meet maintenance requirements while providing more stable wildlife habitat.

LG&E and KU have designated particular lines in several central Kentucky counties for a 1-year pilot-test of the program in their territory. Big Rivers Electric Corporation is also sponsoring the program throughout its territory, which covers much of western Kentucky. Interested landowners should call 1-800-858-1549 or visit fw.ky.gov/pdf/powerprogram2010.pdf for more information about the program.

BGAD designated as Northern Bobwhite focus area

KDFWR Wildlife Biologist Tom Edwards presented Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) Commanding Officer, Col. Brian L. Rogers with a plaque designating the depot in Madison County as one of Kentucky's eight Northern Bobwhite Focus Areas.

"Blue Grass Army Depot is committed to being an active partner and friend of Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife. The depot will help ensure that the history and presence of this bird remains, in the eyes of everyone, a prominent feature of Kentucky's rural land-

scape," said Col. Rogers.

KDFWR's and BGAD's combined efforts to restore quail populations include conversion of fescue to native grasslands, introduction of ground disturbance to create much needed quail brood range and development of suitable cover to protect the birds from adverse weather and predators.

Controlled fire, removal of cedar trees from fields and harvest and replant-



Photo courtesy Samuel G. Hudson

ing of native grass seed are some of the quail habitat improvement methods being implemented on BGAD.

Evaluation of brown trout trophy regulations in the Lake Cumberland tailwater

The trout population in the Cumberland tailwater currently faces severe challenges due to impacts from the Lake Cumberland dam remediation. However, recently completed research showed that the trophy regulations for brown trout implemented in 1997 did in fact have the desired results.

Rainbow trout were managed through 2003 under more liberal statewide regulations consisting of no size limit and a creel limit of eight fish.

In 2004, a 15 to 20-inch protective slot limit and five fish creel limit, only one of which may be over 20 inches, was enacted on rainbow trout. No bait or gear restrictions were enacted for either species.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a 20-inch minimum length limit and one-fish-per-day creel limit on improving brown trout size structure in the Lake Cumberland tailwater, with the primary goal being increased numbers of quality (larger than 15 inches) and trophy-size brown trout (20 inches and up).

Our study area was the upper 38.3 miles of river from Wolf Creek dam to the Hwy 61 bridge. This area received annual stockings of approximately 38,000 8-inch brown trout over the course of the study. These trout were marked with either a fin clip or wire tag in order to distinguish each year's stocked cohort.

Monthly diurnal electrofishing for the current year's stocked brown trout allowed us to follow growth and condition. Annual population assessments were made using nocturnal electrofishing in November with five boat crews spread throughout the upper tailwater.

After the implementation of the trophy regulations, we found a significant increase in the mean electrofishing catch rate in each of the four analysis groups (all



Increasing opportunities for trophy brown trout, like this one caught from the Lake Cumberland Tailwater, are the goal of the Fisheries Divisions quality management strategy. *Dave Dreves photo*

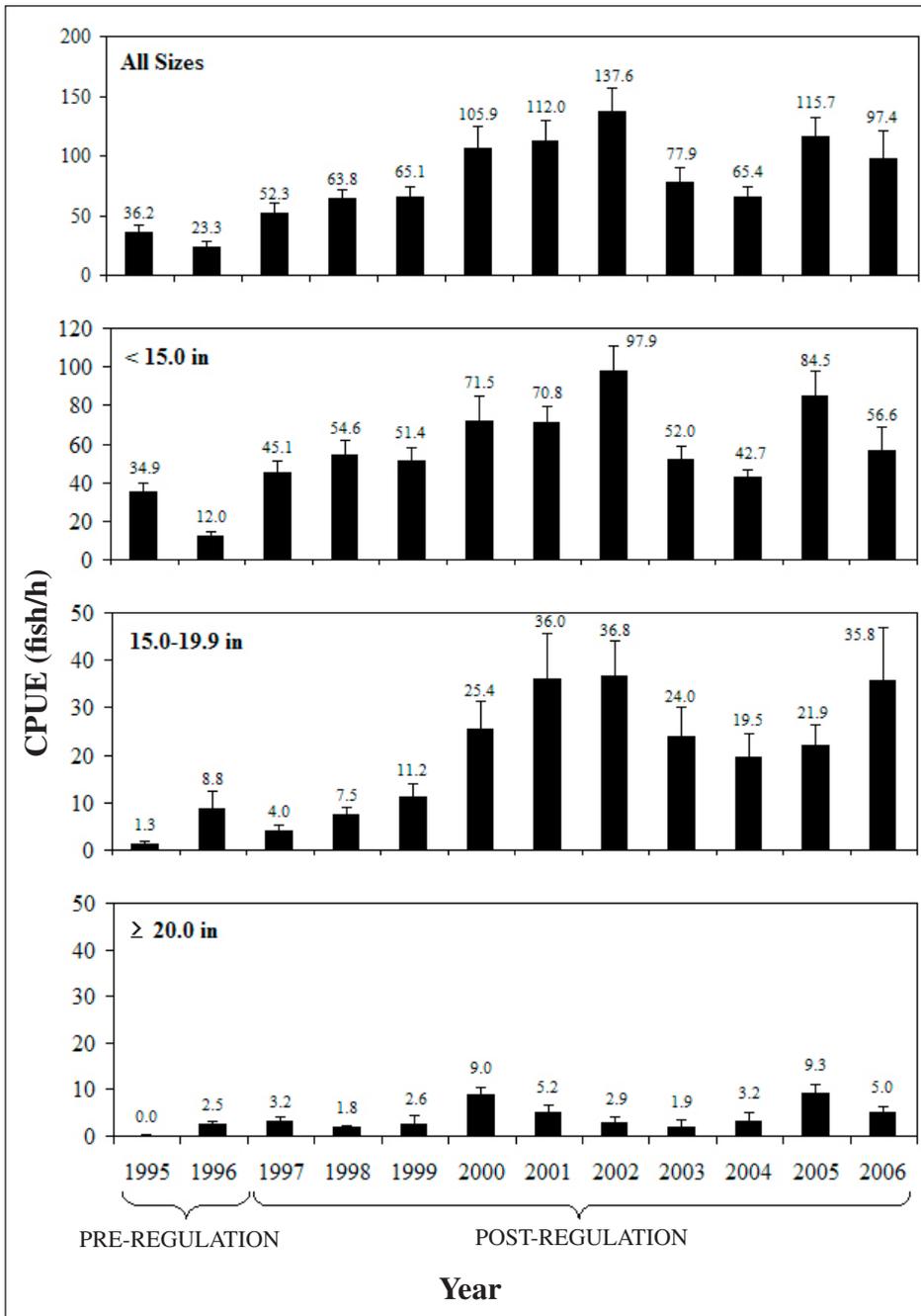
sizes combined, under 15-inches, 15 -19.9 inches, and larger than 20 inches). There was also a very positive response in the angler's creel.

In 1995, only five percent of the brown trout caught by anglers were 15-inches or larger and only two-tenths percent was 20-inches or longer. Following implementation of the trophy regulations, angler catch of 15-inch and up brown trout increased to 24.9 percent and 29.2 percent of total catch in 2002 and 2006, while the angler catch of 20-inch fish increased to 1.6 percent and 2.7 percent in post-regulation years. Even though the population increased, there was no observed decline in growth rate or condition of brown trout.

Electrofishing catch rates and angler success dramatically declined in the latter years of the study (2003 and 2004). We believe that these declines are correlated with poor water quality in the upper river as higher than normal spring rainfall amounts occurred in the Lake Cumberland drainage basin that resulted in abnormally high discharge.

The high discharge severely depleted the winter-stored cold, oxygenated water in the hypolimnion of Lake Cumberland leading to discharges in the fall that were much warmer and lower in dissolved oxygen than in previous years. We suspect that both rainbow and brown trout moved

See "Trout," page 8



Fall electrofishing mean relative abundance (fish/h) of <15.0 in, 15.0-19.9 in, 20.0 in, and all sizes of brown trout in the Lake Cumberland tailwater from 1995 to 2006. \geq Error bars represent the standard error.

“Trout,” continued

downstream, out of our study area, seeking more preferred conditions.

The fact that there were observed declines in electrofishing and angler's catch rates of both trout species in the Lake Cumberland tailwater, even though they were regulated differently, further support the theory. The less than ideal environmental conditions resulting from high dam discharge in some years also negatively impacted both brown trout growth rate and condition.

If not for the poor water quality during 2003 and 2004, the brown trout population in the Lake Cumberland tailwater may have shown an even stronger positive response to the trophy regulations.

This research demonstrates that a high minimum size limit and very restrictive creel limit can result in an increase in quality and trophy sizes of brown trout. These improvements in size structure, and the overall increase in density, can be realized without any accompanying reductions in growth or condition in certain situations and without gear or bait restrictions.

Our low initial density apparently left “room” under the carrying capacity for further expansion of the brown trout population in the Lake Cumberland tailwater. The brown trout species is especially well-suited for a trophy fishery because of its rapid growth to large sizes, ability to tolerate warmer water and lower susceptibility to angling increases long-term survival.

The concept of severely limiting harvest to provide a trophy fishery for one trout species, while managing an additional salmonid species for a more harvest-oriented fishery is unique. This strategy of partitioning the trout fishery allows for wider angler acceptance of restrictive limits.

KDFWR is popular stop at Boy Scout Jamboree

About 12,000 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers and Explorers camped and participated in outdoor activities at Louisville's E.P. Tom Sawyer park last weekend as part of Kentucky's Boy Scouts of America Centennial Jamboree, the state's largest boy scout event ever. A department aquatics education exhibit manned by Conservation Education Program Leader **Zac Campbell** (below) was a popular attraction. Other Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet agencies also provided experts to help impart outdoor knowledge and skills to Scouts participat-

ing in the event.

Carrie Self from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife provided information about fishing, hunting and boating to Scouts at the KDFWR booth (right). **Brenda Hill** and **Michael Gray** also provided shooting simulation opportunities at the booth with the LaserShot game. Susan Medley from the University of Louisville (pictured below in red) and **Brian Clark** from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife taught 30-minute wildlife conservation classes for Cub Scouts and parents.



Man gets 20 years for assaulting conservation officer

It took a Muhlenberg Circuit Court jury only 16 minutes last month to convict a local man of assaulting a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources conservation officer. The jurors then recommended a 20-year sentence for a series of incidents that included dragging the officer with a vehicle, a high-speed chase and a head-on crash.

Jurors on Sept. 15 found Kevin D. Latham, 40, of Breman in Muhlenberg County, guilty of assault in the third

degree on a police officer, and first-degree wanton endangerment — both felonies — and of being a persistent felony offender. The verdicts were delivered before Muhlenberg Circuit Judge Brian Wiggins. Commonwealth's Attorney Ralph Vick prosecuted the case.

The incident began on Peabody Wildlife Management Area (WMA) May 7, 2010, as Conservation Officer **Scott McIntosh** was checking people for permits required for area users. Latham,

sitting in his Pontiac Sunfire convertible on the Highwall Lake boat ramp on Cedar Grove Road, refused to produce an area use permit or identification when asked. He also refused to tell McIntosh his name and to step out of the vehicle.

Latham kept reaching underneath a pile of clothes for an unknown object; McIntosh kept moving Latham's hand away from the seat. When Latham reached to

[See "Assault," page 11](#)

BOW event marks 15th year of Kentucky program

More than 100 women participated in the September 2010 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman weekend workshop at the Kentucky 4-H Leadership Center on Lake Cumberland.

This event marked the 15th year KDFWR has hosted a BOW event to encourage women to learn more about the hunting, fishing, boating sports and other wildlife-related activities.

Volunteer Coordinator Beth Spivey-Minch voiced her appreciation to several employees from various divisions who assisted with setting up the workshop and instructing during the four teaching sessions.

"I'm continually amazed at the effort and professionalism of fish and wildlife people who work with us on this program. It is what makes Kentucky's program the best in the country, and why this agency is a leader in conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities for our residents," said Spivey-Minch.

"All I can do is say thanks to all those who gave their time to the workshop," she added.

From Law Enforcement, **Travis Neal** taught boating safety while **Jerrod Alley** with K-9 officer **Rex** provided a search demonstration for evidence. Wildlife division assisted with loading, transporting people and registration came from **Naomi** and **Sandy Wilson**.

John Williams and **Ryan Oster** from Fisheries taught advanced fishing during the weekend. Administrative Service's **Pat O'Connell** served up advanced archery hunting classes.

From the I & E Division, **Brent McCarty**, **Mary Carol Cooper**, **Laurie Davi-**



son, Dave Baker, Jamie Alton and **Norm Minch** all taught numerous classes in their respective areas of expertise, including archery, wildlife habitat, survival, nature photography, fishing and others.

Non-department volunteers instructing 30 sessions during the weekend event without which the program could not occur. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife

Foundation, Kentucky Network of Outdoor Women and participants provided scholarships for six first-time participants to attend. For more than 40 women, this was their first event of this kind.

Participants were on hand from several other states including Washington, California, New Jersey, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee.

Paducah Shooters Supply owner fined for helping hunters commit wildlife violations

The owner of Paducah Shooters Supply was ordered to pay a \$15,000 fine Wednesday, October 13, in U.S. District Court in Paducah for a misdemeanor violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, aiding and abetting the taking of migratory birds – ducks and geese – in a manner not permitted by regulation.

Lynn McCutchen was charged with knowingly altering a shotgun so as to render it capable of holding more than three shells in violation of Federal migratory bird hunting regulations. His plea agreement allows for \$10,000 of the fine to be probated upon the completion of special conditions set forth in the plea agreement.

The events were set into motion last January when Kentucky Conservation Officer **Greg Youree**, while checking

waterfowl hunters, overheard duck blind conversations about the Paducah sporting goods store performing modifications on Benelli Super Black Eagle II shotguns that would increase their capacity to four shells, illegal under federal waterfowl hunting guidelines. Youree followed up on the information and confirmed that Paducah Shooters Supply was offering the modification service.

He notified United States Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Bob Snow who sought and received permission to initiate an undercover operation. During the investigation, the sporting goods store modified a shotgun to float a fourth shell. Federal agents and state officers **Lt. Chad Parker**, **Sgt. Denny Broyles**, **Tony Dunk-**

See "Violations," page 11



Manchester hosts first Fall Fest Fishing Derby

The Manchester Police Department, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association hosted the First Annual Fall Fest Fishing Derby at Bert T. Combs Lake on September 25 in Clay County.

The event drew in about 60 kids and parents. Conservation Officer **Stacey Bryant** worked the event and represented the KDFWR and the KCOA.

Manchester Police Chief Jeff Culver,

officer William Goins and others were on hand and represented the city. The event was a big success.

Participants ate and fished. Special thanks to the Department and Seventh District officers for providing rods and reels for the event. And special thanks to the KCOA for their sponsorship of the event, and to Captain **Tim Catron** and Conservation Officer **Brian Bowling** for gathered up and providing some of the event's needed materials.

"Assault," continued

start the car, McIntosh attempted to take the keys as Latham repeatedly struck his arm. McIntosh used his pepper spray, but Latham still managed to start the vehicle. Latham put the car into gear and dragged McIntosh about 15 feet before the officer could escape. Latham had gained enough advantage to elude McIntosh's immediate pursuit.

Muhlenberg Sheriff's Office deputies recognized and identified Latham from the vehicle description radioed by McIntosh. But it was Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Peabody WMA Foreman, **Fred-**

die Adkins, who noticed Latham's vehicle at an area convenience store. Adkins radioed McIntosh, and continued to give location updates as he followed Latham after he left the store.

Latham eventually eluded Adkins by driving through a cornfield. Once back on a road, Latham swerved too wide in a curve and slammed head-on into McIntosh's truck. Latham's car rolled, but it came to rest upright. Latham continued fleeing, but the chase ended when his car slammed into a tree.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer **B.J. McCoy** and sheriff's deputies arrested Latham.

"Violations," continued

er, Kyle Webb, Josh Hudson and Youree then executed a federal search warrant on Paducah Shooters Supply. They examined records and turned up numerous instances of the sporting goods store modifying Benelli Super Black Eagle shotguns. They followed that by interviewing persons from the records who had shotguns modified, and also traveled to neighboring states Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois to interview store customers.

United States Magistrate Judge W. David King ordered that \$10,000 of the fine may be probated upon the completion of special conditions. McCutchen agreed to recall Benelli Super Black Eagle shotguns modified by Paducah Shooters Supply and to restore the modified bolts to a condition which prevents the shotgun from being capable of "floating" a fourth shell. The recall will be free of charge to customers who have had Benelli shotguns previously modified at Paducah Shooters Supply.

This recall is to be advertised in the Outdoors Section of the *Paducah Sun* on four occasions, and will also be prominently posted at Paducah Shooters Supply. The agreement also calls for either articles or paid advertisements to be placed in *Ducks Unlimited* magazine, *Wildfowl* magazine, and *Shooting Sports Retailer* detailing the illegality of modifying the bolt of Benelli Super Black Eagle shotguns to enable the shotgun to "float" a fourth shell for the purpose of hunting waterfowl and other migratory birds.

"This is the first case like this in the country," said Snow. "This business was clearly modifying shotguns for the purpose of aiding hunters to illegally hunt waterfowl. Greg (Youree) did an excellent job following up with his investigation after picking up on it in that duck blind."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randy Ream, and it was investigated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement.

UNITED IN CONSERVATION FISHING EVENT



Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer spoke with KDFWR Commissioner Dr. Jon Gassett and Justice Secretary J. Michael Brown near the registration table where 237 participants signed up. KSP and KDFWR employees and their families joined with others for some fishing, retriever and electro-fishing demonstrations and then grilled burgers and hotdogs.



Deputy Commissioner Benjy Kinman helped grandson, Jacob, land a catfish.



Brenna Brooking of Administrative Services Division prepares to help nephew Landen Dale, 4, set a hook.



Above: Jarrod Holbrook helps son, Zander, 3, remove a catfish. Right: Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Steve Glenn demonstrated retriever work with his golden retriever, Sunny.



“Mail,” continued

sisted grant programs. The purpose of the visit was to monitor, evaluate and acquire a better understanding of some of the project activities covered under multiple State Wildlife Grants (SWG) and monitor and evaluate management activities at Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA.

In all cases, major planned activities were being accomplished in a very effective and efficient manner. In particular, Grant KY T-51, ‘Fish Barrier Removal on West Creek in Licking River Watershed’, is a testament to KDFWR putting SWG grant funds to work to accomplish several State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) goals. This is an excellent project and a great example of your Department partnering with the County to accomplish work to enhance Kentucky’s non game species and potential federal endangered and threatened species.

These findings will be placed in the project files in Atlanta. Please convey our particular thanks to Messrs. **David McChesney** and **Ryan Oster** for their assistance and hospitality during the monitoring trip. In addition, please pass along our thanks to **Chris Garland, Steve Beam, Danna Baxley, Steve Marple** and **Jacob Culp** for their help during the trip. Their understanding and knowledge of their respective programs was very helpful. We now have a much better understanding of the activities being undertaken in the region, the challenges and roles of your staff in the process and the importance of the Federal Assistance program to their activities.”

The following comment was posted to our Facebook page by Patrick Hatfield:

Kenton County officers Horn and Fossett gave an excellent presentation to my Wolf Cub Den, in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. Thanks for the time and attention you gave my cub scouts and their parents. Also, thanks for your continued service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The following comes from Colonel

Jerry L. Veach, (Retired) U.S. Army. “I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work your staff does for the outdoorsmen, women and youth of Kentucky on a daily basis. I want to specifically acknowledge the efforts of **Zak Danks**, Private Lands Biologist in Mayfield during the Youth Dove Hunt this year. He set up and managed the hunt on a section of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge in a most professional manner. His check-in procedures, orientation, and safety briefing were thorough yet friendly – adults and youth alike were impressed by this young man. He is a super ambassador for our KDFWR. At the end of the first day, he even remained longer than necessary to sit down with the young boys and girl using several of the birds that had been shot, showed them how to age the birds and distinguish juveniles from adults. I wish I had taken a picture with my cell phone of him sitting with the young hunters around him attentively watching and learning from a true professional. It would have made a great KDFWR poster. I encourage you to continue the Department’s support of Youth Hunts.”

The following comes from Scott C. Ball, President for the Association for

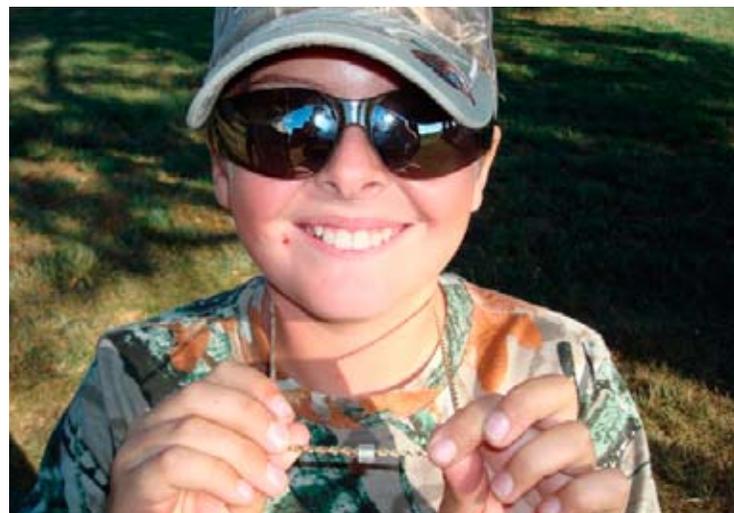
Conservation Information (ACI). “It is my pleasure to congratulate the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources on the success of your public communication and outreach endeavors, as indicated by the results of the Association for Conservation Information’s annual awards contest.

At a ceremony during ACI’s annual conference, your **Division of Information & Education** received the following awards: Print News Release – 2nd place, 3rd place. The ACI Awards Contest allows member agencies to showcase their very best work products. In addition, all participants learn and grow from the judges’ constructive feedback and by sharing ideas and techniques that make us better conservation communicators.

Also, please accept the Association’s gratitude for allowing your Division of Information and Education to serve as host for the 2010 ACI Conference in Louisville. Your staff, led by conference coordinator **Michael Gray**, provided a first-rate conference experience, delivering informative sessions and warm hospitality. They are to be commended.

Again, congratulations on your Division of Information & Education’s awards, and best wishes for continued excellence in conservation communication.”

SUCCESSFUL DOVE HUNTER



Talon Cockrel of Paducah is all smiles while showing the band he recovered after taking a banded bird during a Bourbon County dove hunt last month.

“Grant,” continued

developed and outlined a proposal that would focus its efforts on improving the existing Dove Access Program, create a new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Hunter Access Program, and implement a new Landowner Fishing Access Program.

Under the new Landowner Fishing Access Program, the Department will seek to improve public access as part of a three step approach involving stream bank fishing access, access to privately owned lakes and ponds, and access to privately owned boat ramps.

“In the Department’s Strategic Plan, there is a specific goal to implement a fishing access program such as this by state fiscal year 2012,” says Fisheries Division Director Ron Brooks. “This federally funded program will allow the Department to meet this goal, while at the same time reward landowners who are willing to provide public access to anglers interested in fishing their private ponds, using their boat ramps, and accessing streams from their property.”

Brooks expects that this program will help open up access to some amazing fisheries throughout Kentucky, particularly in streams where the only access would be through private property. There will be increased access particularly for anglers wishing to fish for trout, smallmouth bass, and rock bass, as well as other sport fish species.

Interested landowners may wonder what this program has to offer them. “Landowners will be rewarded financially through this program,” states Brooks. “The amount of payment will depend upon a host of factors including the quality of the access, angling opportunities, and the amount of restrictions required by the landowner.”

Department staff will work with interested landowners to accommodate their needs and concerns regarding allowing the public open access to their property. “There are many people in Kentucky who currently

gain a sense of satisfaction from letting people access streams, ponds, and lakes without the need for an additional compensation. We hope that this program will entice those landowners who are currently “on the fence” to enroll in the program through the use of a financial incentive.”

The Division is excited about the program and the number of additional fisheries that will be made available to the public through the VPA-HIP. “I fully expect that Kentuckians will understand and respect the opportunities that are being handed to them through this program.”

On the wildlife side, Assistant Director of the Wildlife Division Dan Figert explains that the VPA-HIP will be used to enhance the Department’s existing dove access program by increasing the field size and increasing the amount of payment to landowners to plant dove friendly fields, in addition to developing a voluntary access program in the Green River CREP area.

“Our hope is that hunters will have increased opportunities for dove hunting through the dove access program and in-

creased opportunities for deer, turkey, small game, and wildlife viewing opportunities in the Green River CREP area,” said Figert.

“The maximum amount of money landowners enrolling in the dove access program can receive will increase from the current \$3,500 per field to \$10,000 per field, depending on the acreage enrolled and the crop planted. Landowners enrolled in the CREP will be eligible to receive as much as \$12.50 per acre if they choose to open their property for deer, turkey, and small game hunting and wildlife viewing. Lastly, CREP landowners will receive additional funds to help with mid-contract management.”

Kentucky was the only state in the Southwest United States Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4 to receive this funding. In total, over \$11.76 million were awarded through the VIP-HIP. A total of 28 state applications were submitted for funding.

For more information about the Department’s efforts under the VIP-HIP, please feel free to contact Dan Figert (502-564-3400 ext. 4534), Ron Brooks (ext. 4466) or Ryan Oster (ext. 4461).

HEADQUARTERS SPOONBILL



Cavin Ammons wasn’t the only person surprised when he landed this large spoonbill while fishing in Upper Sportsman’s Lake at Headquarters in the morning, September 24. He also caught an exceptionally large channel catfish a few weeks earlier.

First Anderson County youth deer hunt is a hit with kids and adults

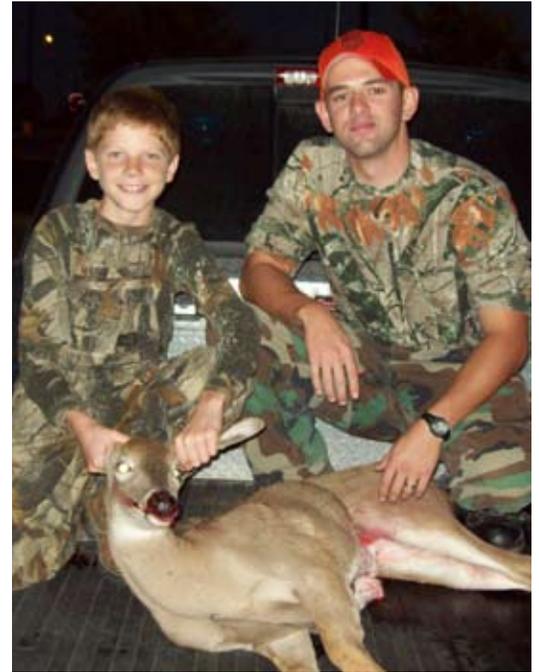
The first annual Anderson County youth deer hunt was a huge success.

Anderson County Conservation Officer Phillip Crane, with the assistance of Franklin County officer Jason Wells, hosted a youth deer hunt in Anderson County during youth deer hunt weekend, October 9-10.

Twelve lucky youth from Anderson County and surrounding areas participated in the hunt and took six deer, despite extremely warm weather conditions.

Crane also received help from local sportsmen and landowners. He offers special thanks to Steve Hartley (Steve Hartley Outdoors), Kenny Nash, Jason Wells, Bill Spears, Scott Luna, Jimmy McGuffin, Jeremy Abell, Brandon Carney, Adam Wells, Aaron Burkhead and family, Shane Mink and Mike Hockensmith. Crane says the hunt could not have happened without their help.

A big thanks to sponsors Kentucky Conservation Officers Association, Wal-Mart, Darnell/Burkhead Meat Processors, and Markwell's Processing, and to Shannon Crane, Emily Wells and John Gilbert Peach for helping with the food. Crane offered thanks to the Anderson County Sportsman's Club for allowing us to utilize their facility and firing range.



Crane says it was worth all of the time and effort to see the kids' eyes light up after getting to participate in the hunt. It was a first for many. "Our youth is the future of our hunting heritage, so please take a kid hunting," said Crane. "You will not regret it."