KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSIONER'S NEWSLETTER

November 2010

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Come join your Kentucky Fish and Wildlife team for a town hall meeting

Exchange ideas and engage in open conversation about fish and wildlife management during a series of town hall meetings being held across the state.

The Department is conducting these meetings to listen to the public's concerns and to provide information about the conservation and stewardship of Kentucky's natural resources.

The nine town hall meetings begin Nov. 29 in Gilbertsville and conclude with the final session Dec. 16 in Morehead.

The meetings encompass Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's goal of striving toward a more informed and involved public. Commissioner Jon Gassett and managers of the department's various programs will be on hand to answer questions, provide updates and discuss issues of interest to hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters and other wildlife/outdoor enthusiasts. The commission member representing the district will also attend the meeting.

All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. local time. Meetings, dates, locations and counties in each district include:

• **Gilbertsville, 1st Wildlife District, Monday, Nov. 29.** Meeting to be held at the Kentucky Dam Village Convention Center. This district includes Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall and Trigg counties.

• **Powderly, 2nd Wildlife District, Tuesday, Nov. 30.** Meeting to be held at the Merle Travis Music Center, 750 Cleaton Road. This district includes Allen, Butler, Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, Hopkins, Logan, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Union, Warren and Webster counties.

• **Lexington, 6th Wildlife District, Wednesday, Dec. 1.** Meeting to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park, North Exhibit Hall, Iron Works Road. Use the main entrance. This district includes Anderson, Boyle, Casey, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Powell, Rockcastle, Scott and Woodford counties.

• **Greensburg, 4th Wildlife District, Monday, Dec. 6.** Meeting to be held at the Green County Country Club, 57 Marshall Ridge Road. This district includes Adair, Barren, Cumberland, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Taylor and Washington counties.

• **Louisville, 3rd Wildlife District, Tuesday, Dec. 7.** Meeting to be held at the E.P. "Tom" Sawyer Park Community Center, 2201 Lakeland Road. This district includes Breckinridge, Bullitt, Jefferson, Meade, Oldham, Shelby and Spencer counties.

• **Prestonsburg, 7th Wildlife District, Wednesday, Dec. 8.** Meeting to be held at the Jenny Wiley State Resort Park Convention Center, 75 Theatre Court. This district includes Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Harlan, Knott, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry and Pike counties.

• **London, 9th Wildlife District, Thursday, Dec. 9.** Meeting to be held at North Laurel High School Auditorium, 1300 East Hal Rogers Parkway. This district includes Bell, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, Wayne and Whitley counties.

• **Edgewood, 5th Wildlife District, Wednesday, Dec. 15.** Meeting to be held at the Edgewood Senior Center, 550 Freedom Park Drive. This district includes Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Kenton, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson and Trimble counties.

• **Morehead, 8th Wildlife District, Thursday, Dec. 16.** Meeting to be held at the Perkins Center, KY 32. This district includes Bath, Bourbon, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Rowan and Wolfe counties.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This email came in from Angela Auter. "Yesterday (Sunday, October 17) I was driving along I-65 N when I had a tire blow out around 3:30. Fortunately, (and somehow astoundingly) the two right lanes were clear and I was able to get my vehicle off the side of the expressway.

Lt. James Heady (Badge #202) was behind me and had his lights on as I made my way across the two lanes of I-65. Lt. Heady was very nice, introduced himself, checked to see if I was OK and offered to change the tire for me. I mentioned that I had AAA and could call them.

He indicated that the stretch of I-65 was not the best and that it might take AAA a while to get there and it would take him only a few minutes to change the tire.

In today's society we are so quick to complain but not to praise. I really want to pass along my thanks and appreciation to Lt. Heady and to recognize him for his help yesterday. "

Susan Krechel, M.D. writes, "Kudos to the state of Kentucky and the Wildlife Area manager **Tim Kreher**. I am a field trialer and resident of Missouri (known for its conservation areas). The West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area is managed the best, I have seen. Thank you for making this wonderful area available to all."

Dr. John Jenkins writes, "I have been an active Retriever field trialer and hunter for 45 years. The majority of the trials I run are located at St. Louis, Memphis, Nashville and West Kentucky Wildlife Area in Paducah.

Today, thanks to KY DNR (KDFWR) and Tim Kreher, Paducah is by far my favorite area."

NOTE: We received several comments similar to these regarding Tim and the WK-WMA. Thanks, Tim, for your outstanding efforts and your excellent representation for the Department.

The following comments resulted from Dr. Craig Infanger's UK NRCM Internship Forum. **Kristy Stroud** was a speaker at the Forum and the following are comments from participants. Dr. Infanger stated, "Kristy did an excellent job. Her talk was well-targeted to our audience of younger students and she was enthusiastic and well-prepared. There is no question that Kristy did a remarkably good job of motivating our students about internships and future career opportunities. Please allow me to share some reactions from our attendees to Ms. Stroud's

See "Mail," page 8

New hires and promotions

Veteran Law Enforcement Division dispatcher **Barry Stigers** is the new Tele-communicator Supervisor in the dispatch section.

Barry will supervise the other telecommunicators assigned to Dispatch. He will also diagnose radio problems and equipment issues.

Barry will be instrumental in the implementation of the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that is currently being designed. He will also be deeply involved in the rollout of the new Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) that will be installed in each officer's vehicle.

The Salato Center welcomes **Bart Riddle** as a new member of the Animal Care crew. Bart has served as a Maintenance Worker for the KDFWR since 2004 and comes to Animal Care with a great deal of experience working with animals, mostly in a farm setting. He's a hard worker and has caught on to his new duties quickly. We are proud to have him.

James Tracy was recently hired as a wildlife technician servicing Barren, Rough, Nolin, and Marrowbone WMAs. Mr. Tracy has a B.S. degree in Agriculture, and an A.S. degree in Agricultural Technology from Eastern Kentucky University. He has served five years with KDFWR as a seasonal wildlife technician stationed at Barren River Lake WMA.

Mr. Tracy has vast knowledge of the area and issues pertaining to the area, and has extensive agricultural experience and advanced maintenance/repair experience that will undoubtedly make him a strong asset to the agency.

Eric McGinnis joined the agency on October 16 as an Internal Policy Analyst I in the Grants Branch of Administrative Services. Eric will be responsible for the SWG, Hunter Education and Archery in the Schools grant programs.

He has a Bachelor's degree from Sullivan University in Finance. He came to us from Wausau Paper in Harrodsburg where he worked as a Pricing Coordinator. There, he was responsible for analyzing financial documents to determine product pricing for customers with the goal of increasing profit margins.

Eric is an avid golfer and enjoys playing the guitar. Please join us in welcoming Eric to the department in his new position.

Kentucky eagle tracking website unveiled

A young eagle wearing a satellite transmitter. *Bryan Watts, CCB photo*

In May 2010, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) partnered with The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) to attach two satellite transmitters to nestling bald eagles at Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ballard County.

The nestling eagles (one male and one female) originated from two different nests on the WMA. They wear a 70g solar-powered GPS satellite transmitter, attached externally, like a backpack. Solar panels recharge the transmitter's battery. We're hoping that three to five years of tracking data will be recorded for each of these birds.

The transmitter will not affect the eagle's ability to fly, forage or breed.

Each transmitter, or tracking device, will allow KDFWR to follow the young bald eagle's movements, providing information on dispersal, roosting and foraging patterns, as well as, the survival of each eagle.

A website on the project has recently been unveiled to allow the public to view up-to-date maps of the eagle's movements and information about the project.

Both of the young eagles dispersed from their natal territory during August-September of 2010. Even though the male started his journey over a month before the female, they both flew to northern Illinois, where they are currently just 30 miles from each other on the Illinois River.

Please visit our Bald Eagle Tracking Website at *fw.ky.gov/baldeagletracking.asp* for more details. This is the first study tracking bald eagles using satellite telemetry in Kentucky.

FILO projects receive two awards

Two Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program (FILO) projects received awards in 2010.

The Slabcamp Creek project in Rowan County was selected to receive the U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Honor Group Award for Natural Resources in December 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The project was nominated by Mr. Bill Lorenz, Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The FILO program, the University of Louisville-Stream Institute, Advanced Enterprises, Inc. and the U.S. Forest Service are working together to restore three miles of altered streams and associated riparian area by returning natural stream channels, bottomland forests, and wetlands in a first-of-its-kind ecosystem restoration project on National Forest System lands.

The project provides a pilot demonstration and research applications in the field of stream restoration.

The Mill Creek project received a Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Environmental Commission Award at an October 22 ceremony in Lexington.

The project is adjacent to Mill Creek Elementary School on land owned by the Fayette County school system. The completed project is now being used by students as an outdoor classroom.

The project was designed by the University of Louisville-Stream Institute.

Seed harvested at Blue Grass Army Depot

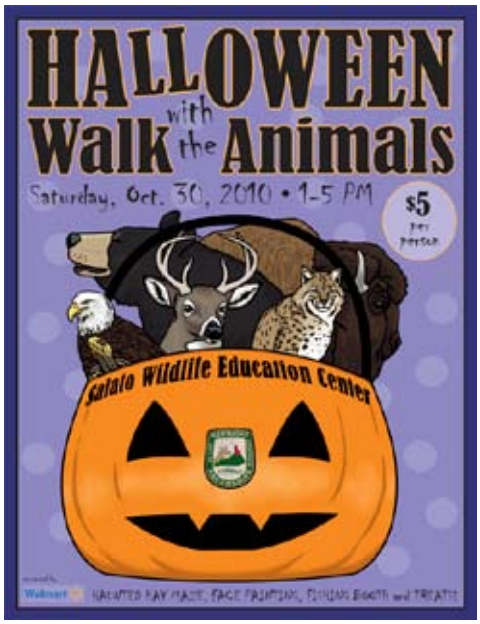
Marcia Schroder is shown recently harvesting Indiangrass seed from native ("wild") grassland remnants on the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) in Richmond. The seed harvester is on loan from John Seymour of Roundstone Native Seed Company in Upton, Kentucky.

This year's drought conditions have negatively impacted the production of seed in these grassland remnants. Big Bluestem has also been harvested, but the seeds are unusually small. Little Bluestem will be harvested if this species develops seed.

The native grass seed harvested on BGAD will be sown back on the depot on tracts under agreement with KDFWR. Conversion of fescue to native warm season grasses is a major component of habitat improvement on this quail focus area.

As the native grassland acreages increase, we will be working on ways to avoid the "way too dense" stands of grass typical of some of our native grassland plantings.

Next spring we will begin experimenting with cattle grazing and prescribed fire (patch-burn-graze) on the native grasslands in hopes of achieving the right mix of grass/forb densities and heights so needed by quail and other grassland wildlife species.



Halloween Walk With the Animals raises money for Salato Center

The annual Halloween celebration at Salato, sponsored by the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has been going on longer than any of the current staff can remember. Based on the condition of some of the decorations, the event is older than time itself!

This year we did a clean sweep, renovated, and spruced things up to make this one of our best events ever. The weather cooperated with a cool, sunny day, and when we opened the doors, the line reached toward the end of the parking lot.

All told, 1,692 visitors attended and preliminary numbers suggest that we netted over $6,000 to support the Center.

The Salato Center would like to thank all of the KDFWR employees who gave up a Saturday afternoon to help us make this such a great event! To **Chad Miles, Rachel Shipley, John Brunjes, Sharon Sparrow, Zach Campbell, Brenda Ward-Hill, Carrie Self, Pat Barnard, Wendy Bohn, Marcelle Bryant, Carrie Chappel, Brent McCarty** and **Tim Slone**: Thank you!

Largemouth Bass Stocking Initiative: 2011 update

Fisheries technicians Jason McDowell and David Baker fin clip largemouth bass at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery. Bass are clipped prior to stocking in order to evaluate the impacts of stocking largemouth bass in the fall.

Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted) are the most popular sport fish group in Kentucky.

Annually, more than 344,000 anglers (48% of the total anglers in Kentucky) target this group of sport fish across the lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams of the Commonwealth.

This translates into over 4 million angler days of fishing effort by anglers targeting black bass across the Kentucky.

Because of their popularity in Kentucky, as well as throughout the Southeast, a considerable amount of research is directed towards the management of black bass populations.

In Kentucky, extensive research projects have examined the utility of various management practices in order to optimize black bass populations. Such management practices include special creel and minimum length limits, nutrient enrichment and supplemental stocking.

In 2005, a unique supplemental stocking initiative was developed to augment weak year-classes of largemouth bass throughout Kentucky. Titled "Kentucky's Largemouth Bass Stocking Initiative," this project is considered the first of its kind to take a proactive approach to identifying weak year-classes of age-0 largemouth bass during the fall.

When below average year-class production is observed, largemouth bass are immediately stocked in an attempt to establish an average or better than average year-class. The benefit of this project is that it directs limited largemouth bass hatchery resources where they are most directly needed and present the best chance for survival.

Now in its sixth year of evaluation, the Largemouth Bass Stocking Initiative continues to provide significant insights into the utility of supplementally stocking largemouth bass on a statewide basis. Relying on historical trend data, fisheries research biologists have developed lake specific regression models using fall electrofishing data of age-0 largemouth bass.

Densities of age-0 largemouth bass collected during the fall are then compared to the densities of age-1 largemouth bass the following spring in order to determine the recruitment of the year-class. By analyzing long-term trends, fisheries biologists hope to be able to accurately identify poor year-class production of largemouth bass during fall samples, prior to waiting until the following spring when these fish recruit to the age-1 population.

Once a poor year-class has been identified during fall sampling, supplemental (hatchery-reared) largemouth bass can be stocked in an attempt to help increase the density of age-0 largemouth bass in the fall and ultimately next spring as age-1 fish. The ultimate goal of this research project is to minimize the production of poor year-classes that may ultimately lead to reduced angler catch and harvest.

Sampling during the fall of 2010 has indicated that the majority of lakes across Kentucky had average to above average year-classes of largemouth bass spawned during the spring. Despite this, several below average year-classes of largemouth bass were observed at Carr Creek Lake, Guist Creek Lake, Greenbo Lake, Reba Lake, Herrington Lake, Fishtrap Lake, Taylorsville Lake and Laurel River Lake.

To mitigate for these below average densities of age-0 largemouth bass, hatcheries and transportation staff have recently stocked fingerling largemouth bass at the following locations: Carr Creek (11,100 fingerlings); Guist Creek (3,600 fingerlings); Greenbo (2,725 fingerlings); Reba (1,225 fingerlings); Herrington (40,050 fingerlings); Fishtrap (11,500 fingerlings); Taylorsville (15, 250 fingerlings); and

See "Bass," page 6

Youth take 32 deer at Grayson Lake hunt

One hundred and five youngsters under the age of 16 participated in a very successful Grayson Lake WMA youth deer hunt on Nov. 6-7, 2010.

Thirty-two deer were harvested and the great majority of youngsters who participated were able to see deer while in the field. The rut was in full swing, which resulted in many antlered bucks being taken.

The largest was an 8-pointer with a 20.5-inch outside antler spread taken by Trevor Mobley of Broadhead, Kentucky. Three 9-pointers and two other 8-pointers were also taken, and many other hunters were very pleased to take smaller bucks or does.

The hunt provides a great opportunity for youths and accompanying adults to spend quality time together outside and in addition to the regular statewide seasons. It is held annually and is an open sign-in hunt in which no eligible youngster is turned away.

The region open for the hunt totals nearly 10,000 acres so overcrowding is not a problem on this very scenic WMA of mixed woods, fields and lake shore.

Above: Caleb Damron, from Pikeville. **Below:** Shawana Porter, of Webbville, Kentucky.
Harold G. Middleton photos

Trevor Mobley, of Broadhead, Kentucky

"Bass," continued

Laurel (39,800 fingerlings).

Prior to stocking, all largemouth bass are marked by having the left pectoral fin clipped in order to identify them as 2010 stocked fish. This clipping will be used to evaluate the impact of the stockings during spring 2011 electrofishing samples.

The actual densities of age-1 largemouth bass at these reservoirs will be compared to the predicted value of age-1 largemouth bass from the regression equations. Research biologists will ultimately be able to determine how significant of an increase the stocking of supplemental largemouth bass has to the population. As more years of data are entered into the regression equations, the more accurate the regression equations become.

For more information on the Largemouth Bass Stocking Initiative, please feel free to contact Chris Hickey at (502)564-3400 ext. 4467.

A modern day frontier woman

Reprinted from *The News Enterprise*
Elizabethtown
By Becca Owsley

Mary McQuillen may not have been raised an outdoorswoman, but it didn't take her long to figure out she was one.

McQuillen grew up in Louisville. She married young, and her husband was an avid hunter. They moved to Hardin County in 1979 and built a log cabin home from scratch.

"Didn't know anything about fish and wildlife until I got married," McQuillen said.

After being around hunting, McQuillen was hooked and started hunting in 1980. She loves hunting and the outdoors.

"Hunting isn't just all about killing," McQuillen said. "If I harvest an animal it's good, but if I don't it's no big deal. It's still good to be out in nature, to hear the sounds, to sit there by yourself, to commune with nature and with God and look at His creation."

Her biggest prize was an 8.5 point buck she shot on her property.

McQuillen's husband is her biggest supporter and taught her everything she knows about hunting. Now married for 42 years, the couple have renewed their vows twice.

"I've married him three times and haven't divorced him yet," she said. "I can't imagine life without him; he's still my best friend.

"You have to enjoy and do some things your spouse does," McQuillen said, regarding their joint interest in hunting. That's part of what she said contributes to a lasting marriage.

McQuillen has worked for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources since 1984. The first five of those years she served as a volunteer.

"I told them they couldn't get rid of me and might as well hire me," McQuillen said.

For the past 21 years she has been employed by the department.

Of the four hunter training officers in the state, she is the only female. She covers 30 counties in Kentucky.

There are more than 900 volunteers across the state, and McQuillen said she couldn't do her job without them.

With such a large area to cover, it's hard to do with just four people.

As a hunter educator, McQuillen leads hunter education courses throughout the year. The classes are for beginning hunters and were formerly called hunter safety classes, but since the word "safety" denotes danger, the name was changed.

Kentucky regulations require anyone born in 1975 or later to take the hunter education course. Some locations in Kentucky have stricter regulations. At Fort Knox, anyone 60 and younger has to have taken it, and at Land Between the Lakes, anyone born in 1969 or later has to have taken it. The class is required to be taken only once. Her supervisor at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, Information and Education Branch Manager **Bill Balda**, said she does her job very well.

"She brings experience to the program and has a passion for the subject," Balda said. "She has the welfare of her students foremost in her mind."

This time of year, as hunting season approaches, McQuillen is very busy because many people put off taking the course until the last minute. Sometimes there aren't enough openings. There are plenty of openings in the off season, McQuillen noted.

McQuillen also conducts workshops, works with archery school tournaments, does safety and survivor talks and works with the outdoor women's program.

While she's not a conservation officer, she still interacts with many hunters in her classes.

There are a couple of big mistakes she sees hunters making each year. One is that hunters seem to think they don't have to get the landowner's permission if an area is not posted, she said. A hunter always has to get the landowner's permission. Because of hunter trespassing, there are now fewer farms on which to hunt.

She sees two major safety mistakes. One is the failure of the hunter to identify the game. Hunters often get excited and just shoot; they may not be shooting at what they are hunting for.

Another safety issue involves tree stands. Most hunting accidents involve people falling out of tree stands.

It's not the fall but the landing that gets you, McQuillen said.

She enjoys talking about hunting safety with kids and is amused when the kids "rat out" their parents. Without realizing their parents may get in trouble, kids often will tell her about deer hanging in their parent's barn when it's not deer season.

At age 58 she thinks she might retire in a few years but is not sure she wants to.

"I hate leaving what I love to do," McQuillen said.

Above all this she's a mom, and to her daughter Cris Kane, who now lives in Alabama, a pretty good one.

"She's been an amazing mother and certainly someone to look up to," Kane said. "She wasn't the mom in pearls and high heels but she made her own way in the world."

While there were a hundred things Kane said she could say about her mom, she could sum it up in one phrase: "She's an amazing woman."

WMA road renamed to honor former state senator Kenneth Gibson

Members of the Kentucky General Assembly and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources dedicated the White City Road within the Joseph Fay Britt White City unit of the Peabody Wildlife Management Area in Hopkins County as the Kenneth O. Gibson White City Highway on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the management area.

The General Assembly took action through Joint Resolution during the 2010 session to rename the management area highway to recognize and honor former State Senator Kenneth O. Gibson, of Madisonville. Gibson represented the citizens of Hopkins County as the state senator from the 6th District from 1974 to 1986.

During his tenure, Gibson served as chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The former senator was joined by members of his family in attendance at the ceremony and said he was honored by the tribute.

Retiring State Representative Eddie Ballard and State Representative-elect Ben Waide of Madisonville joined Wildlife Division Director Dr. Karen Waldrop in speaking during the dedication.

"Mail," continued

performance."

"Of all the speakers, Kristy Stroud's message interested me the most. Afterwards I had the opportunity to approach Kristy and ask her about future possible internships. She gave me the contact info and said to contact her any time and she would help me set up something."

"Attending the internship forum was one of the best things I have done to help me understand my options for the future. After hearing Kristy Stroud's experience of interning at KDFWR and learning that she eventually pursued work at Salato was very exciting to me."

"Kristy made a very good point that, although it may be an unpaid internship, the amount of experience it gives you alone is well worth it in today's job market."

The following came from Michelle Cole who recently attended a Becoming An Outdoorswoman workshop (BOW). "Thank you for the biggest life changing weekend that I have ever experienced! I absolutely had one of the best times of my life. All the women and the instructors were incredible!"

"I came to this workshop not knowing what to expect, but I left there with new friends, new interests and a great appreciation for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. My husband and I own a place on Lake Cumberland. I have always fished with him, but I have never hunted. Come spring, I hope to be picking up my gun instead of my camera and go hunt with him. Thank you to everyone who makes this workshop possible. You will never know how much I appreciated your time and effort that goes into these workshops. I already have it scheduled on next year's calendar!"

Mr. Herbert D. Binder from Shepherdsville writes, " I would like to say Thank You for helping with a hunter/trespasser here in Bullitt County on my property. A special thanks goes to **Officer Daniels** and **Officer Mahurin**, True Professionals. Again, I am grateful for your help."