



Derby City QDMA uses Explore Bowhunting in youth hunt event



The Louisville-area branch of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) hosted its 2nd Annual Military Youth Hunt October 11-14. The event was held at Camp Piomingo in KDFWR's Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area in Meade County. Twenty-eight youths from military families, together with their mentors, participated in a day of outdoor skills instruction followed by two days of hunting on neighboring private lands.

KDFWR's Explore Bowhunting program was an integral part of the event. Explore Bowhunting helps to impart outdoor skills through fun instruction and hands-on activities. Some of the lessons used at this

event included stealth, shot placement, blood-trailing, and wildlife calls.

All youth participants gained valuable experiences, such as learning how to make an ethical shot and practicing with the Explore Bowhunting shot placement target. Participants were introduced to a variety of scenarios one might encounter after making a shot, to help instill the importance of practice and patience when hunting.

"After learning to make an ethical shot, students next rehearsed blood-trailing – an extremely important skill we

wanted each mentor and youth to practice together before the weekend hunts" said **Katie Haymes**, KDFWR's Explore Bowhunting coordinator. Haymes helped with hunting skills instruction. She added: "Youths and their mentors worked together to follow a mock blood-trail, putting their patience, teamwork and new-found hunting skills to the test!"

KDFWR's **Nicole Nash** led students through the wildlife calls activity, making

[See "Hunt," page 2](#)

INSIDE:



2 McGregor honored



3 Officer of the Year



5 Patriot Games

Dr. Monte McGregor receives Kentucky Naturalist of the Year Award

Dr. Monte McGregor can be often be found scouring Kentucky's waterways for rare and unusual mussel species, or working diligently at the Center for Mollusk Conservation (CMC). However, on Saturday, October 20, he was named the Kentucky Naturalist of the Year by Dr. Jeff Foster.

Dr. Foster presented the award on behalf of the Kentucky Society of Naturalists, after a well received presentation from Dr. McGregor. The group noted his continued efforts to monitor and restore the mussel resources of Kentucky.

Monte has worked with Kentucky's aquatic resources for over 10 years and has been responsible, along with a tremendous staff, for overseeing the development and construction for the Center for Mollusk Conservation (CMC). His work has also included fostering M.S. and Ph.D. students at multiple universities.

Groundbreaking science is a trademark of the CMC. Mussels have been successfully cultured on fish in the facil-



ity and more recently, through *in vitro* techniques. Once mussels reach a size capable of supporting a small pit tag, they are marked and released back in to key locations throughout Kentucky's best rivers and streams. With Monte's leadership and expansive knowledge, he, alongside a dedicated staff, have kept Kentucky at the forefront of mussel recovery and management in the nation and abroad.

"Hunt," continued

it relevant to the impending deer hunt by focusing on rattle bags, grunt tubes, and bleats. "We also let them practice their interpretation of elk bugles, which were a big (and loud) hit with the group," she commented. "It takes practice to perfect any call, so providing the youths an opportunity to try the different calls and then learn calling techniques was very reward-

ing for them," Nash said.

By the conclusion of the event, 12 of the 28 youths had harvested deer, many of which were donated to the Hunters for the Hungry Program by the youths. "One of the many highlights was Cody Holbrook's first buck, taken with a crossbow at 20 yards," said Joe Shreves, QDMA Derby City Branch Leader. "It was an unbelievable event and weekend!"

To learn more, visit QDMA.com or the

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following compliment came from Cumberland District Ranger, Dave Manner, regarding the Clearfield Elementary School Field Day for 4th and 5th graders on the Daniel Boone National Forest. "I want to thank you all for your participation in this conservation day event for the local school district. I hear outstanding reviews from the school on the quality of the presentations/demonstrations and the organization and reception by all involved." **Scott Freidhof, Wes Mattox** and **Steve Bonney** were presenters at this event.

Brian Clark submitted the following: We receive many requests daily for information through a variety of means, including our Facebook page. Virtually all of our staff spend a great deal of time providing expert information to the public about wildlife-related topics, and we frequently receive positive feedback from customers who are impressed with the level of service they received.

The following message was posted on Facebook in response to information provided by **Ryan Oster**, Coordinator of our Fisheries grants program. Oster provided detailed guidance to the angler who was seeking alternative trout fishing venues, in light of construction taking place at his usual trout fishery at Wolf Creek Dam area. Jim DeBruler of Dayton, KY writes: "Awesome! Very helpful and I really appreciate your detailed response... Thanks again!"

Louisville branch's site, derbycityqdma.com. For information on how you can get involved with the Explore Bowhunting program, visit fw.ky.gov, and click on the "Education and Outdoor Activities" tab.

New Hires/ Promotions

Jason Herrala was recently promoted from a Fisheries Biologist II in the Eastern Fisheries District to a Research Biologist in the Big Rivers Research Branch located at the Fish Lab at Headquarters. Jason has a B.S. degree in Fisheries Sciences from Virginia Tech and is in the process of completing a M.S. degree in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture from Mississippi State University where he worked on movement of pallid sturgeon in the lower Mississippi River.

Before coming to Kentucky, Jason worked as both a lab and field technician for the Virginia Tech Department of Fish and Wildlife Sciences. In these positions, he conducted largemouth bass age and growth analysis, enumerated plankton samples, and conducted stream fish community sampling in the New River Valley in Virginia. He also worked as a Fisheries Intern for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association in Kenai, AK where he worked with sockeye and coho salmon.

Rob Lewis in the Fees-In-Lieu-Of (FILO) mitigation program was promoted recently to Environmental Engineer Consultant. Rob is a licensed professional engineer with two degrees, a B.S. in Physics from Centre College and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky. In addition to his education Rob has extensive training and experience in stream restoration.

He brings to the new job the benefit of several years of working as a professional engineer in the private sector and in the last three years as an engineer with the FILO program. Rob will assume the duties of coordination for project delivery and program processes which largely include engineering design analysis, project budget estimates, contracting, and regulatory aspects of the FILO program.

The FILO program is operating under a new contract with the Corps of

Engineers that has placed complicated and difficult time demands on project identification and delivery. "Rob is dedicated to the Department and to the restoration of Kentucky streams and wetlands," said Mike Hardin, Program Manager. "His knowledge and dedication make him ideally suited for the duties of this position and I feel we are fortunate to have him step into this important new role."

Rob's office is at Pine Hills Plaza, Building No. 2 adjacent to the Engineering Division offices along US 60 just east of Department Headquarters. Rob is quickly being converted to a turkey and dove hunter by fellow FILO team members. He can be reached at (502) 564-5277 (rob.lewis@ky.gov) for any questions regarding the FILO program (or for humorous hunting stories).



Officer Neal receives SEAFWA Officer of the Year Award

Wayne County conservation officer **Travis Neal** was chosen by his peers as the recipient of the 2011 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Officer of the Year for Kentucky.

SEAFWA recognizes outstanding officers from each of its member agencies each year with its Officer of the Year Award. This decision is based on the professionalism and dedication displayed while performing his job duties as a Ken-

tucky Conservation Officer.

Neal traveled to the SEAFWA annual conference hosted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to receive the award with colleagues from 15 other states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Command Staff of the Law Enforcement Division congratulates Officer Neal on receiving the award from his peers and for representing KDFWR in a positive light while attending the conference.



Annual Fifth District Trapping Workshop is another success

The annual Fifth District Trapping Workshop, sponsored by the Fur Takers of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife allowed about 50 first-time trappers to experience trapping and fur handling under the guid-

ance of experienced trappers.

Participants set a trap line on the first of the two-day event and then harvested their catch and returned to a central location on the following day to learn proper fur handling techniques.



First annual Wounded Warrior deer hunt held

Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass (LAC) partnered with Kentucky Utilities (KU), Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to host its first Annual Wounded Warrior Deer Hunt in Woodford County.

KU made available 350 acres and LAC 600 acres in hosting nine mobility impaired veterans for a deer hunt. The KU property has been off limits to hunting for more than 25 years, resulting in a "refuge" effect and extremely high deer densities.

The hunt took place on opening



weekend of firearms season and was hoped to help reduce deer numbers and disperse

animals to surrounding properties making them available to other hunters.

KU staff built and strategically placed three incredibly functional ground blinds for the hunt that increase comfort and minimize impacts of bad weather on hunt success.

This event is designed to create an environment where injured service members can build relationships, interact with other veterans

and volunteers, and assist in reducing extremely high deer densities.



Ed Allgefer of Trout Unlimited-Louisville Chapter taught Scouts how to use a fly rod.
John Spence photo

Patriot Games draw 7,000 youth

Department of Fish and Wildlife staff joined with several other partners in helping thousands of Scouts have a blast recently at a regional outdoor gathering on Ft. Knox Military Reservation.

“Patriot Games” was the theme of the October 12-14 event, which was co-sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America-Lincoln Heritage Council and the Army. The event drew over 7,000 registered Scouts and leaders.

The scouts participated in outdoor activities such as fishing, archery, BB guns, and wildlife conservation throughout the day Saturday. Most activities that were offered helped Scouts to meet requirements for badges, demonstrating what Scouting strives to achieve for boys: “Fun with a Purpose.”

KDFWR’s **Tanya Stevens** (aquatic education) taught spin-casting skills alongside members of Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who

instructed in fly-casting.

The U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation (USSAF) and LightsOut Outdoors Archery helped to facilitate shooting ranges. Members of Kentucky Trappers Association demonstrated safe and ethical trapping techniques.

Brian Clark (KDFWR public affairs) taught Cub Scouts about natural resources, food chains, and endangered species at the

Wildlife Conservation station. The Kentucky National Guard provided rock walls for climbing.

The Army provided substantial logistical support for the event, including fresh water, access to a variety of facilities, and security. An Army rock music band provided entertainment.

At Saturday’s closing campfire, six pellet guns and 15 rod/reel combos were awarded as door prizes to youth participants through the Trailblazer Adventure Program – sponsored by USSAF and Cabela’s Outdoor Fund. To bracket Saturday’s festivities, most participants also camped Friday and Saturday nights with their local units on the Ft. Knox grounds near the Patton Museum.

We congratulate the sponsors, as well as all the organizations and volunteers, who helped to make this a fun and memorable outdoor event for so many youths and their leaders!



Cub Scouts learn about the endangered Gray Bat. *Kelly Masterson photo*



Above: Sixteen students from EKU and Berea College successfully graduated from the Fire Fighter Type 2 training held on the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond. Also shown is Chris Minor, FMO for TNC. Above right: Students construct a hand-line around a mock wildfire during the recent fire training course.



Blue Grass Army Depot hosts prescribed fire training field day

The final step in certifying 15 Eastern Kentucky University and one Berea College students as National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualified Type 2 Fire Fighters was conducted on BGAD in October.

This eight-hour field course was the culmination of a web-based class admin-

istered by the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The 16 students participated in reviewing an Incident Action Plan, Fire Incident Check-In, use of engine pumps and the ability to demonstrate various fire hose lays.

Additionally, students were required

to size up a mock wildfire and implement suppression measures. TNC Fire Management Officer Chris Minor led the class and was assisted by Wildlife Division Biologist **Tom Edwards**.

Graduates are now qualified to assist on prescribed fires and to be 'red-carded' as crew members for fire suppression.

State bow fishing records keep falling

By **Walt Kloeppe**, Program Chairman

Bow fishing records in Kentucky continue to topple since the Kentucky State Bowfishing Records Program (KSBRP) started in 2003.

Mirrored after the KDFWR's rod and reel records, the program was launched to recognize record fish taken by archery equipment in the state.

While a baseline seemed to get established early on for many roughfish species, some, such as the Asian carp, continue to be broken every year.

New records continue to get submit-



Greg Pyle and his record gar.

ted with the help of the KDFWR state fish biologists and a handful of appointed volunteer KSBRP officials across the commonwealth to verify new records. In 2012, three new records were set for Bighead

Carp, Long Nose Gar, and Black Mullet. All three of these record fish came out of the Ohio River.

• **Bighead Carp:** 81lb., 12oz., Randall Padgett, Morganfield, Ky.

• **Long Nose Gar:** 31lb., 8oz., Greg Pyle, Evansville, In.

• **Black Mullet:** 3lb., 11oz, Kameron Ray, Henderson, Ky.

For more information on how to enter a state record for either rod and reel or bowfishing, go to fw.ky.gov and click on state record fishes and awards under the recreational fishing section.



ACSC youth deer hunt is another outstanding success

Anderson County Sportsman's Club annual youth deer hunt began with a bang – 19 of them to be exact.

Twenty-six Anderson, Mercer, Woodford and Franklin County youth participated in last month's youth weekend hunt with 19 of them successfully taking deer by the first evening.

The remaining seven returned for

Sunday evening battling very windy conditions and still managed to take two more deer.

By weekend's end, 21 youth had taken seven bucks and 14 does during the two afternoon hunts. An October 6 training outing proved valuable as all showed excellent skills and marksmanship in the field.

Sixth District conservation officers

helped bring the event together and found land owners and guides to make the experience successful.

Thanks go out to all those who made this event possible – local businesses, landowners, guides, and volunteers. With their help 26 youth that may not have had the opportunity to hunt were able to enjoy the outdoors and put food on the table.

