



December 2010

—VOL. 5 NO. 12—



KDFWR Commissioner Gasset named AFWA new vice president

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) selected Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commissioner Dr. Jon Gasset as its new vice president Monday, Dec. 13, at its Washington D.C. headquarters.

AFWA's Executive Committee named Gasset to the vice president position when Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Director Rebecca Humphries stepped down to accept a position with Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Gasset previously served as AFWA's secretary/treasurer and is currently vice chair of its executive committee.

Over the past century, AFWA has emerged as a powerful, effective and collective voice for fish and wildlife conservation. It consists of fish and wildlife agencies from all 50 states, and more than 100 other representatives from territorial, provincial and federal fish and wildlife agencies, the conservation community and sportsmen industries.

They work together toward achieving AFWA's vision of healthy fish and wildlife resources throughout North America managed by effective, well-funded fish and wildlife agencies and supported by informed and involved citizens.

"We had a vacancy and Jon was gracious enough to step up and volunteer his

help," said AFWA President Curtis Taylor, Chief of West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section. "He and I will be working closely together over the next several months. Jon has always done an excellent job in everything he's done for us."

Gasset came to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife in 1999 to head the agency's elk restoration program. He was promoted

to Wildlife Division Director in 2001. He has served as KDFWR commissioner since 2005.

"AFWA is a strong and unified voice for all 50 states, and I look forward to working with all of them in addressing the various issues that can benefit our fish and wildlife resources," said Gasset.

Gasset's term as AFWA vice president begins Jan. 1, 2011.



The Commissioner's Office extends a sincere thank you to all staff and their families for another outstanding year. We hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season!

INSIDE:



3 Bravery Awards



5 New ramps



8 Heritage Hunt

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

These comments came in a letter from Joy Nicholopoulos, Acting Regional Director with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She wrote the following: "The USFWS recently sponsored a workshop on White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) which brought together over 90 representatives of Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to discuss the precautions we must take and the potential devastating effect to hibernating bats WNS may cause. Realizing experience is sometimes the best teacher, we searched for a representative from a state agency in the north or southeast that is actively engaged in planning and preparing a response to the fungal invasion.

Brooke Slack of your agency immediately came to mind and she was kind enough to participate. She gave a well-received presentation on how Kentucky is responding to the issue and also added very insightful points to the subsequent discussion.

Ms. Slack's knowledge and professionalism shone throughout the workshop and she represented your agency superbly. I want to thank you for allowing her the opportunity to attend and share her vast knowledge with us."

This email came from Dwayne Steely, London, KY, to **Ben Robinson**. He wrote, "Let me start by saying again how thankful we are for the opportunity to spend two wonderful days at Shaker Village quail hunting. You, along with Don, and everyone we met were so gracious and wonderful. My son, Nathan, was so excited by the experience he still hasn't stopped talking about it. He

now believes he can age every bird he sees by looking at the feathers. He may very well be a biologist someday. Thanks again for everything."

The following letter came from John and Donna Parker of the Jetland Farms, LLC who were awarded a Landowner award at the December Commission dinner. "Dear **Jon, Karen, Tim, Tammi** and **everyone at KDFWR**. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful evening. Donna and I had the opportunity to visit with some old friends and make some new ones. Thanks for the Northeast Regional Landowner of the Year Award, it is both a proud and humbling moment in my life. I am proud of what we have accomplished and humbled by the accomplishments of others. Thanks for your cooperation with all of the other agencies in planning and

carrying out our projects. We hope to continue with our efforts of combining a working farm with a viable wildlife habitat. Thanks again for the award and for all you have done and continue to do."

A note from Nancy McIver in the Commissioner's office: "I want to say "Thank You" to all of you who helped with making arrangements for the District Employee Appreciation Lunches and Town Hall meetings. There were a lot of you who provided leg work in getting phone numbers of caterers and/or facilities to hold the meetings, and I greatly appreciate your assistance. A "Thank You" as well goes to all staff that participated in the lunches and evening meetings. On behalf of our Executive Staff, we appreciate all that you do for the Department and Sportsmen and Women of Kentucky."



McQueary, Gibson receive Bravery Award

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jon Gasset and Acting Director of Law Enforcement Division Major Paul Teague presented the Kentucky Conservation Officers Bravery Award to officers **Jeremy McQueary** and **Brian Gibson** December 2, at the Salato Wildlife Education Center.

The Kentucky Conservation Officers Bravery Award may be bestowed on officers of this agency who perform extraordinary acts of bravery in the line of duty by the commissioner and director of law enforcement after determination by an awards board that:

- The officer acted voluntarily, without regard for personal risk of life or limb.
- Said action was undertaken at a moment of clear and obvious peril.
- Said action was clearly above and beyond the call or risk of ordinary duty.
- Said action was performed during great mental and physical strain and anguish.

On May 2 this year, McQueary and Gibson navigated the dangerous and raging flood waters of the Upper East Fork of Little Barren River and completed a four-hour-long rescue of an elderly woman after flood waters came into her home and threatened her life.

The Bravery Award Citation reads as follows:

“On Sunday, May 2nd, torrential rains covered the south central part of the state, leaving citizens in Metcalfe County searching for higher ground. A call into the Metcalfe County EOC was received from an elderly woman who lived near the Upper East Fork of the Little Barren River. She advised that the river had topped its banks and water had begun



to come into her home. She requested help and wanted to evacuate her home. Officers had been in contact with the elderly woman as they looked for passable roads to her residence. With every call the anguish and fear in the woman's voice became more and more prevalent, as she described the increasing depths of water rising into her home.

“Once on the scene Officers McQueary and Gibson were shocked to see the power and momentum the river had gained. The river's backwaters covered acres and acres of flat farmlands. Houses and barns were flooded, farming equipment and vehicles were submerged and power lines lay just above the surface of the water. Between the officers and the elderly woman's residence was a raging river which was tearing down trees, lifting the blacktop from the roadway, and white capping as it surged over everything in its path, taking large debris along with it and crashing over the bridge downstream.

“The woman's home was barely visible across the river due to the foliage and continuous rainfall. Several onlookers stood by as officers made a plan. With nightfall quickly approaching Officers McQueary

and Gibson decided they had to act immediately; the rain was not letting up, and the water was continuously rising. They unloaded Officer Gibson's jet-drive boat off the side of a driveway into the flooded backwaters. With directions from a landowner in regards to the submerged farm equipment, vehicles, fencerows and electrical lines, they were able to navigate their way to the tree line where they found an entry point into the raging river. The officers then maneuvered their boat crossways in the river to help maintain

some maneuverability, it rocked side to side and debris pounded the sides of the vessel. The officers battled the current and debris and managed to make it to the tree line on the opposite side where they located a opening. Once in the backwaters on the opposite side they navigated towards the home on the elderly woman. Officer McQueary waded through the flooded waters to her home which was totally surrounded by water and had water standing in the home already. Officer McQueary assisted her to the boat.

“Once in the boat the officers and victim started across the backwaters toward the raging river. With the power of the current increasing as they moved toward the river, the boat began to sputter and died. Unable to get the boat started back, the officers and victim began drifting aimlessly towards the extreme current. The officers knew if they reached the main channel without boat power, the chances of survival were slim. They quickly freed the jet-drive impeller of grass and debris and got the boat started back, but it still did not have enough power to fight the

See “Bravery,” page 4

Kitchen, Thomas, Detherage honored by Southeast, NASBLA and Shikar Safari



Eric Thomas, Glenn Kitchen and Doug Detherage were honored as Southeast, NASBLA and Shikar Safari Kentucky Officers of the Year. The Kentucky Conservation Officers Association recognized their award by presenting them each with a Henry Golden Boy .22 rifle.

Eighth District conservation officer **Glenn Kitchen** was named the Southeast Fish and Wildlife Association's Kentucky Officer of the Year, Seventh District officer **Eric Thomas** was named the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' Kentucky Boating Officer of the Year, and Shikar Safari named Sergeant **Doug Detherage** as its Kentucky Officer of the Year.

The awards were formally announced December 2 during an awards dinner at the Salato Wildlife Education Center. The awards are determined by a panel of peers that reviews applications and conducts interviews.

The Southeast Officer of the Year award goes to an officer showing a wide range of skills, including public outreach, excellence, attitude, teamwork, achievements, efficiency and innovation, and leadership. Kitchen was recognized for his achievements that included 36 civic and school programs, youth fishing derbies, and assistance with archery programs.

He manned the Benton Emergency Operations Center during ice storm relief efforts, and has an excellent working relationship with other law enforcement agencies. He also issued 84 citations, and conducted

544 license checks and 260 boat inspections.

Thomas was selected for the Boating honor for his outstanding service to the agency in multiple facets of recreational boating safety. Thomas rescued more than 40 people when raging flood waters struck Floyd County.

He also taught six boater education courses, developed a close working relationship with the local rescue squads, and rescued a woman from a male attacker who was attempting to drown her.

The Shikar Safari Officer of the Year Award is based on Law Enforcement Activity. The officers cases are one the determining factors in this award. Sergeant Detherage was selected for this award because of his enforcement record and persistence in protecting the wildlife and citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Detherage made 18 illegal taking of deer cases, two illegal taking of wild turkey cases, two waterfowl cases, three raccoon cases, two small game cases, 15 fishing violations, and 41 boating related cases.

Detherage also charged three individuals from Florida hunting deer in Kentucky prior to the season opening. From this case he seized a slug gun and a nine point buck that had been harvested illegally.

"Bravery," continued

current and they were losing ground fast. Using a paddle Officer McQueary pushed off the bottom as Officer Gibson navigated the boat sideways, slowly reaching shallow water. Now that the boat was out of the current, it stalled again. With nightfall quickly approaching the officers began working vigorously to get the boat back running. The boat finally started and they were able to begin the treacherous crossing again. The officers told the victim to keep her head down; they did not want her to see the debris and obstacles that lay ahead of them. Again, the officers sped into the current and turned their boat sideways, fighting large debris and treetops as their boat rocked and they fought the raging current looking for an exit to the opposite side. Finally they found an exit and sped through the trees and back into the river's backwaters and out of the current to safety, culminating in a four hour rescue.

"On this day, Officer Gibson and Officer McQueary acted bravely and voluntarily performed extraordinary acts of bravery during extraordinary conditions. They acted with no regard for personal risk of life or limb during a moment of obvious and extreme time of peril. Their actions this day were clearly above and beyond the call or risk of ordinary duty, as these officers acted without swift water training or experience working in these types of extreme conditions, and were successful. These two officers unselfishly risked their lives entering treacherous waters which they stood little or no chance of surviving if they made any mistakes at all. Their actions that day were an act of bravery; they adapted and overcame extreme conditions to help another human in need."

Just one year ago, McQueary also was presented the Conservation Officers Lifesaving Award for his quick actions in administering rescue breathing and CPR to a person who had become unresponsive, stopped breathing and had no pulse. That person returned to breathing on his own and survived.

Engineering Division continues working hard despite the weather

Staff from the Engineering Division have continued working hard during this winter season to construct and improve boating access facilities across the Commonwealth.

The small boat ramp projects on the Salt River below Taylorsville Lake and near the City of Taylorsville have received their final touch ups and are now fully completed. Initially completed back in August, these two projects were recently paved and the parking areas striped.

These two access areas will open small boat and canoe/kayak access to the lower sections of the Salt River.

This section of the Salt River provides fishing opportunities for channel catfish, all three black bass species (largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass), and panfish. In addition, recent stocking efforts by the Department hope to re-establish the sauger population within this section.

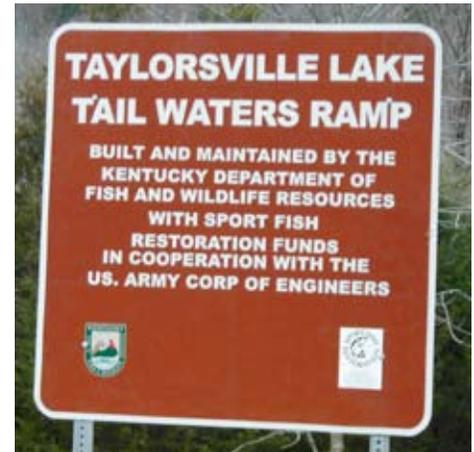
Additionally, the Barbourville boat ramp project was also recently completed. This project is located just south of the city of Barbourville, off of Hwy 11 in Knox County.

This project was a partnership with the City of Barbourville who provided the land in the form of a 25-year lease to the Department. This

project will open up recreational fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass, rockbass, walleye, and catfish in the upper Cumberland River.

Another project recently completed includes the boat ramp and bank fishing access area in the City of Hazard. This access facility is located on the North Fork of the Kentucky River.

Prior to the construction of this site, the nearest boating access facility was located in Perry County Park. This project was joint partnership with the City of Hazard and already the Department is hearing word that it is receiving a consid-



erable amount of use.

Projects on the horizon include the construction of the Town Creek Boat Ramp in Breckinridge County. This boat ramp is situated in the middle section of the Ohio River, just inside the Town Creek tributary.

The ramp will be located adjacent to the Hwy 144 bridge crossing, just northeast of the City of Cloverport. Preliminary designs will allow for the parking of up to 8 vehicles and trailers with the potential for an additional 3-5 parking spaces.

Other upcoming projects include the renovation of the Kentucky Dam Tailwater boat ramp in Marshall County. The Department recently took over the interest in the site from the Department of Parks through a license agreement with TVA.

This is the only public boat ramp that services the immediate tailwater below Kentucky Lake Dam. Also, two small boat ramps are planned for construction in Owsley County on the South Fork of the Kentucky River at Hacker Branch and upper Wolf Creek.



Recently completed paving of the boat ramp and parking area at the City of Taylorsville boat ramp.



Recently completed paving of the parking area at the Taylorsville Lake Tailwater boat ramp.

Increasing angler catch rates of largemouth bass is the heart and sole behind the Ohio River Largemouth Bass Stocking Program. *Ryan Oster photo*



Supplemental largemouth bass stockings in the Ohio River: an update

The Ohio River is the largest tributary, at least by volume, to the Mississippi River. Flowing over 980 miles long from the eastern portion of the U.S. to its confluence with the Mississippi River near Cairo, IL, the Ohio River has a drainage basin of more than 189,422 mi².

Effectively creating the northern border for the state of Kentucky, the Ohio River represents a significant aquatic resource to the anglers and boaters of the Commonwealth.

Angler concerns over the decline in largemouth bass in the Ohio River became apparent to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) in the late 1990s. As a result, the KDFWR, in partnership with the Ohio River Fish Management Team, began aggressively sampling these populations in order to

develop an understanding of the factors that may be negatively influencing these sport fisheries.

These surveys indicated that growth of largemouth bass in the Ohio River was rapid; however, the relative densities were believed to be well below the carrying capacity. Largemouth bass reproduction was found to be negatively influenced by a variety of factors including fluctuations in water levels, limited spawning habitat, lack of nursery habitat, and extreme siltation.

In an effort to help improve largemouth bass populations in the Ohio River, the Fisheries Division began a multi-year research project in 2007 to examine the impacts of supplemental largemouth bass stocking in the Ohio River.

While a wealth of literature exists on the effects of supplemental stocking large-

mouth bass in lakes and ponds, relatively little research exists pertaining to the effects of stocking largemouth bass in a large river such as the Ohio River.

One previous study conducted on the Arkansas River documented that supplemental stockings of fingerling largemouth bass contributed 15-20 percent of the age-0 population and 9-13 percent of the age-1 largemouth bass population the following spring. The limitation of this study was that it did not follow the effects of supplemental stocking at future years (i.e. age-2, age-3, and contribution to the anglers catch and creel).

In total, 16 embayments (encompassing over 2,000 acres of water) in the Markland Pool were selected to receive annual stockings of 2-inch largemouth bass from 2007-2010. Stocking rates have ranged from 100.3-101.0 fish/acre. Prior to stocking, all largemouth bass were marked with oxytetracycline (OTC) in order to produce marks that would differentiate them from naturally-produced largemouth in the Markland Pool.

Results from the first year-class of stocking (the 2007 year-class) showed that stocked fish comprised 74.3 percent of the number of age-1 largemouth bass collected in embayments of the Markland Pool during the spring of 2008.

The following year (2009), this same year-class again comprised over 74 percent of the total number of age-2 largemouth bass in samples collected from embayments. By age-3, stocked largemouth bass comprised 46.2 percent of the total number of age-3 fish. Largemouth bass in the Ohio River typically reach 12-inches (the legal minimum size limit) by age-3.

Results from the second year-class (2008) stocking again showed that stocked fish comprised almost 57 percent of the number of age-1 fish collected during the spring of 2009. At age-2, stocked fish comprised 56 percent of the number of age-2 largemouth bass from embayments.

See "Stockings," page 9



Town Hall meetings pushed into January by winter weather

Town Hall meetings and employee appreciation luncheon meetings in the Fifth and Eighth Fish and Wildlife Districts have been pushed into January by winter storms, but meetings in Districts One, Two, Three, Four, Six, Seven and Nine attracted hundreds of sportsmen and sportswomen anxious to help with their own observations and thoughts.

At the 6th District employee meeting, Garrett Moore, son of Administrative Services Director **Darin Moore**, got a close up look at a Golden Crown Kinglet after it stunned itself crashing into a Horse Park plate glass window. Avian biologist **Kate Heyden** released it shortly afterward.

About 240 sportsmen and sportswomen came out for the 1st District Town Hall meeting and offered a number of comments.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Special Agent Bob Snow made some awards at the 1st District luncheon. He presented plaques



to officers **Greg Youree, Sgt. Garry D. Clark, Scott Barrow** and **Sgt. James**

Nason for their assistance in helping the Service with some cases.



Heritage Hunt for Bobwhite is a success

Ask just about any upland bird hunter to identify a property where they could move ten coveys of wild quail on a half day hunt and you might get laughed at. And what if those ten coveys were all “pointed” within a 150 acre area? You’d probably be accused of stretching the truth, right?

This was reality for the two lucky quail hunters selected to participate in the first ever Heritage Hunt for Bobwhite at Shaker Village. Dwayne Steely, of London, Kentucky, and his father experienced the quail hunt of a lifetime on Nov. 16-17 in Mercer County.

Heavy rains and high winds made hunting virtually impossible on day one.

The sun was shining over Mercer County on day two, assuring that both sportsmen shot their limit of quail in just a half day of hunting.

More than \$15,000 was generated through a combined effort of ticket sales and sponsorship by Roundstone Native Seed Company. This money will be utilized solely for continued grassland habitat management at Shaker Village.

Upon completion of 2011 habitat projects, approximately one-third of the 3,000-acre property will contain high quality grassland habitat. This habitat restoration project gives credence to the old expression “if you build it, they will come.”

The quail habitat has been “built” and the wild quail have definitely “come” to Shaker Village. Fall covey surveys for 2010 indicated that 35-40 coveys of wild quail inhabit the property.

The rapid increase in the quail population at Shaker Village, coupled with a successful hunt event puts Shaker Village on the fast track to being Kentucky’s first quail restoration success story.

Special thanks goes out to all partners including Quail Unlimited, Quail Forever, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, KDFWR, Greenline Implement, Todd Johnson (dog handling and guide services), Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, and event sponsor Roundstone Native Seed.

A new hire

Les Campbell joined the agency on Nov. 16 as a Programmer/Analyst in the Information Technology branch of Administrative Services. He will be responsible for maintaining our current computer applications as well as developing new applications.

He transferred from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet where he worked as a Resource Analyst in the Division of Planning.

Les is a Frankfort native and graduated from Kentucky State University with a degree in Information Technology. On the weekends he is a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserves at Wright Patterson Air Force in Dayton Ohio where he serves as a Knowledge Operations Manager.

Les enjoys training for triathlons (swimming, biking and running), backpacking and spending time with his family.

“Stockings,” continued

Meanwhile, the 2009 year-class of stocked fish comprised 36 percent of the number of age-1 largemouth bass collected during spring electrofishing surveys in 2010.

Additionally, fisheries research biologists worked in cooperation with local angling groups to examine the impact of stocked fish towards their creel. Biologists attended a total of four organized angling tournaments to observe largemouth bass caught and weighed in during tournaments.

A subsample of the largemouth bass caught during tournaments were kept and examined for marks. Of a total of 46 largemouth bass examined during tournaments, 22 had oxytetracycline marks (indicating that the fish were stocked).

From these four tournaments, it was determined that stocked largemouth bass comprised 48 percent of the total number

of keeper fish ranging in length from 12-16 inches.

This information provides further support that stocked largemouth bass are indeed having a significant impact on angler catch and creel.

While this research project is still ongoing, preliminary results appear to look quite promising to the fact that supplemental stocking of largemouth bass fingerlings can significantly increase the abundance of largemouth bass in embayments of the Markland Pool.

However, additional research is still needed to truly determine if supplemental bass stockings can achieve similar results in other pools of the Ohio River. The Fisheries Division plans to expand this research project into the Meldahl Pool during 2011.

For more information on this largemouth bass stocking study, please feel free to contact Doug Henley at (502) 564-3400 ext. 4468.

KHRIS moving forward

The Kentucky Human Resource Information System (KHRIS) project continues to move forward with critical milestones being met every week! The KHRIS team is on target with a go-live date in the Spring of 2011 for Phase I.

Currently, data is being converted to the KHRIS system. Testing is underway to ensure that the data entered and the transactions performed transfer to KHRIS smoothly.

Webinars are being held to familiarize those employees involved with the testing process.

Training plans are being developed for each agency and will include instructor-led classes, e-learning courses and other tools for primary, secondary and Employee Self-Service/Manager Self-Service (ESS/MSS) users.

Train-the-trainer courses will begin in late November. Training registration for all

other users will be held in mid-December, and training will begin in mid-January.

Each agency will also receive a readiness checklist or scorecard that they can refer to over the next several months. This scorecard will be a helpful guide through the activities between now and go-live.

The next few months are critical for our agencies and for the KHRIS team. More and more of you will become involved in the process as we move forward. Excitement is building and lots of visible activity is now underway.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact your agency implementation lead (AIL) or your Human Resource Administrator.

We thank you for your enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment to this project, while also offering unwavering support of your co-workers who are in the KHRIS trenches!

My fellow employees,

I am pleased to present the newest edition of the KHRIS Konnection, a newsletter intended to provide the latest information surrounding the Kentucky Human Resource Information System (KHRIS) implementation. Click [here](#) to view the newsletter.

Your agency's project team continues to work with unbelievable dedication toward a Spring project implementation, and is focused on providing an end-product that meets your specific business needs.

Watch for updates from the KHRIS team, visit the website at personnel.ky.gov/khris/, or speak with your agency KHRIS representatives for the latest. You can also email the KHRIS Team directly at PEERS.KHRIShelpdesk@ky.gov.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and thank you for your continued support of this vast project!

Yours in Service,
Nikki Jackson
Secretary, Personnel Cabinet