



Three new members appointed to Fish and Wildlife Commission

Governor Steve Beshear announced three new appointments to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission last month.

Gov. Beshear appointed **C.F. “Frank” Williams**, of Madisonville, to represent the 2nd Fish and Wildlife District, **Voncel Thacker**, of Hindman, to represent the 7th District, and **Christopher Godby**, of Somerset, to represent the 9th District.

“Frank” Williams is the owner of Ronald Johnson and Associates, PSC, a Madisonville engineering, surveying and construction firm. He currently serves as the City Engineer for Dawson Springs, Earlington, Hanson, Greenville and Cadiz. He also is the Hopkins County Engineer.

Williams’ more than 31 years of professional practice includes a diverse background of managerial and technical experience in civil and mining engineering, land surveying, flood mitigation and health and safety.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1976. His professional certifications include Professional Engineer, Professional Land Surveyor, Certified Floodplain Manager, former Certified Safety Professional, Emergency Medical Technician, and Mine Foreman.

Williams’ professional associations



New members of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, from left, Chris Godby (Ninth District), C.F. “Frank” Williams (Second District), and Voncel Thacker (Seventh District) repeated the oath of office to Franklin Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate at the start of the December Commission meeting at Headquarters.

have included the National Society of Professional Engineers, Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors, Rotary Club of Madisonville, Madisonville-Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce, Western Kentucky Mining Institute and National Mine Rescue Association.

Voncel D. Thacker partners with his father in owning and operating Hindman

Promart Home Center in Hindman. He also is construction supervisor of Elk Glen, LLC, where he oversees all construction and maintenance of The Meadow Subdivision near Hindman.

Thacker, a licensed guide, founded Shady Creek Outfitters, a local elk and turkey guide service in east Kentucky. He

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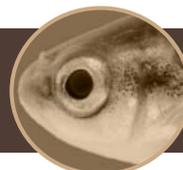
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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This letter came from John P. Russell, President of the West Kentucky Field Trial Club. Mr. Russell writes, "The West Kentucky Field Trial Club concluded its program of open field trials on December 3rd. The trials this year were of very high quality despite very adverse weather conditions thanks largely to the quality of the grounds of the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area.

The work done over the last few years and in this year in particular to improve the quail habitat was much in evidence and greatly appreciated. We were able to observe a significant increase in the number of native quail encountered during the running of the trials! The efforts of

Tim Kreher and his staff to support the bird dog trials and other activities on the WKWMA are greatly appreciated.

The Kentucky Quail Classic this year attracted an entry of 40 all age performers and 18 derbies, a gratifying entry. More importantly, the entry continued a trend that we believe represents an increased interest in participation in trials at Paducah. We believe that this interest is largely because of appreciation of the efforts to provide a high quality venue for bird dog trials.

During the conduct of the trials, we heard many positive comments about the grounds. We regret that no representative of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was available to hear the many positive comments. A special thank you to Ms. **Jodie Swain** for her efforts to help us find a lost horse.

The members of the West Kentucky Field Trial Club continue to work diligently to conduct high quality field trial events at Paducah. We appreciate the support of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide such a valuable resource."

We received these comments from Lee Ratcliff, who is the Secretary for the Bernheim Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation regarding their 2011 Wheelin' Sportsmen Deer Hunt. He said, "The Bernheim Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your donation and support to the 2011, 11th Annual Wheelin' Sportsmen weekend. Once again, this event was one of the best in the country with 46 disabled hunters from 3 different states participating. The weather was great and the hunters harvested 18 deer but none were bigger than the smiles that you helped put on these individuals faces.

This event wraps up our activities for 2011 including a skeet/trap shoot at Jefferson Gun Club and a dove hunt at the Maraman family farm. From the Bernheim chapter and the participants, thank you for helping disabled hunters enjoy the great outdoors.

Commission Committees

Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman **Steve Glenn** has appointed committees to serve for the coming year.

Stuart Ray will chair the Administration, Education and Policy Committee. Serving with him will be **Joe Fryman**, **Voncel Thacker** and **Frank Williams**.

Terry Teitloff will chair the Fisheries Committee, and serving with him will be **Dr. James Rich**, **Joe Fryman** and **Chris Godby**.

Dr. James Angel will chair the Wildlife Committee, and serving with him will be **Terry Teitloff**, **Joe Fryman** and **Stuart Ray**.

2012 Commission meeting dates set

The 2012 meeting dates for the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife commission have been scheduled. The meetings will be at Fish and Wildlife Headquarters in the Commission Room.

The full commission will meet March 2, June 1, August 17 and December 7.

Committees will meet February 3, May 4, July 6, and November 2.

Mark your calendars.

GRINCH-LIKE!



Deputy commissioner Benjy Kinman plays the Grinch this year and steals an Angel Tree bike!! Look at that evil grin!! He's not even sorry!!!

Commissioner Arnold Mitchell, 1971-1978, dies at 88

Department wildlife artist Rick Hill stepped off a downtown tower elevator in 1976 and immediately introduced himself to then Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Arnold Mitchell.

"He was the first person I met," said Hill. "He was standing right there when the elevator doors opened. I was 21 and just wanted to introduce myself and was bringing in some examples of my work. He was real friendly and talkative."

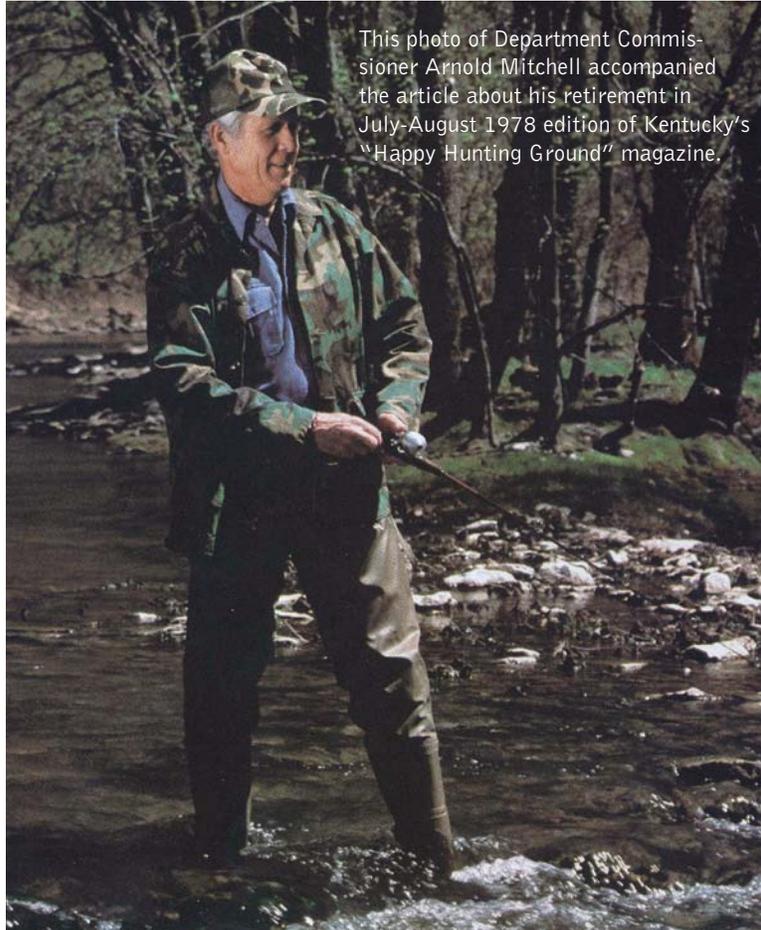
"The first time I met him I called him 'Mr. Mitchell', and 35 years later I was still calling him 'Mr. Mitchell,'" said Deputy Commissioner Benjy Kinman, who joined the department as a fisheries biologist in 1976. "I respected him that much."

Arnold Lee Mitchell, who worked 30 years with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and led it as its commissioner from 1971 to 1978, died Tuesday, December 13 after a brief illness. He was 88.

Mitchell grew up hunting and fishing the Mississippi River bottoms of Carlisle County. He flew 35 missions over Germany during World War II as the bombardier on a B-17 before being shot down over Belgium.

He returned to Kentucky after the war and then attended Purdue University, graduating in 1949 with a degree in forestry and wildlife management. That's when Kentucky Game and Fish Division Commissioner Earl Wallace hired the new wildlife biologist to work on the farm quail project, trapping and banding quail.

He went from there to supervise the



This photo of Department Commissioner Arnold Mitchell accompanied the article about his retirement in July-August 1978 edition of Kentucky's "Happy Hunting Ground" magazine.

Eighth Wildlife District (1953-1955), then to manage Ballard County Wildlife Management Area (1955-1957). Mitchell Lake, on the area, still carries his name. He came to Frankfort and headed the Game Management Division for the next 14 years.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission hired him in 1971 to head the department, replacing Minor E. Clark and becoming only the third man to hold the job since 1945.

In a 1978 *Happy Hunting Ground* story, Mitchell remembered his years on the Ballard area as being among the "best times." He was the area's first manager and oversaw its rise to become Kentucky's most significant waterfowl region.

Later as commissioner his emphasis turned to land acquisition. He led the move to acquire the Yellowbank Wildlife Management Area in Breckinridge County, Clay WMA in Nicholas County and another 5,000 acres in Hopkins County.

The department completed the Minor E. Clark Hatchery at Morehead during his years as commissioner, and also began work on a new office building at the Game Farm just west of Frankfort. That building today is known as the Arnold Mitchell Building and it continues to serve as state Headquarters for the department.

He initiated formal training for conservation officers, purchased and standardized their firearms and began providing uniforms and two-way radios.

Mitchell also was closely involved with building Kentucky's white-tailed deer herd. "When I started work in 1949, we were buying deer from Wisconsin at \$150 each and trying to reestablish them," Mitchell said in the 1978 article. During his tenure, the department began trapping deer from Ballard and moving them to east Kentucky. When he retired, Kentucky's deer herd numbers had grown to more than 120,000 with deer in every county.

Fisheries management took great strides during his years with the department. When he joined the department in 1949, Kentucky had only three major

See "Mitchell," page 12

New hires, promotions and retirements

The Fisheries Division welcomes **Jason Herrala** as its new Fisheries Biologist II in the Eastern Fisheries District.

Jason is finishing up his Master's Degree in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture from Mississippi State University. Jason's thesis work involved working on movement and habitat selection of Pallid Sturgeon in the lower Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.

Jason's fisheries experience is exceptional with knowledge in age and growth analysis of fishes, sampling of streams, lakes and rivers with a multitude of sampling gears, assessment of fish community ecology, enumeration and identification of benthic macroinvertebrates, acoustic telemetry, statistical and GIS analysis, annual report preparation, and oral presentations.

Jason is a member of the American Fisheries Society and was the head of the special projects committee for the Mississippi State Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

On December 1, **Amy Eichorn** joined the Information and Education Division as a Conservation Educator I in the 4th district. She will present conservation education programs to fourth through sixth grade students in Hardin, Breckinridge, Grayson, LaRue, Nelson, Washington, and Marion County schools, and will recruit campers for Camps John Currie and Robert Webb.

Amy recently moved to Kentucky from Falcon Heights, MN. She earned her bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Minnesota, and brings experience as an interpretive guide, naturalist, and lifeguard instructor trainer to our education team.

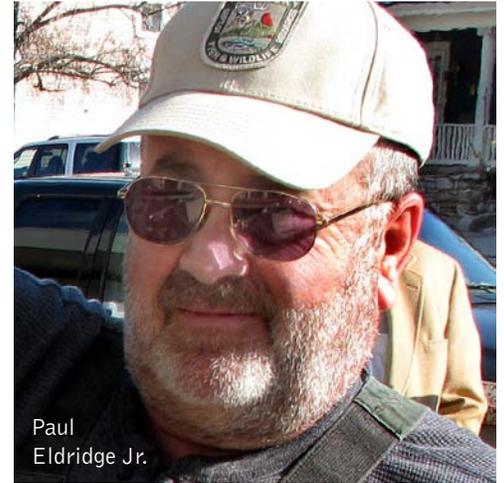
Zach Campbell has recently been hired to coordinate our statewide boating Safety Program. Zach started with the Department of Fish and Wildlife as an interim employee in May 2010 with the Aquatic Education program.

Zach is originally from Reno, Nevada, but attended college at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He was the recipient of a football scholarship and earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Speech communications.

Zach currently resides in Lexington with his wife Natalia and their Jack Russell Terrier Chango. He has a strong interest in outdoor recreation and is an avid fisherman, hiker and swimmer. His personal record for holding his breath is three minutes and he has eaten a 20-pound turkey in under 12 hours.

Paul Eldridge Jr., an employee with the department working out of the Engineering Division for the past 15 years, has announced his retirement effective December 1.

Paul came to work for the agency in July of 1996 as a seasonal employee. Paul became full time in July of 1998, and became instrumental in several projects that helped get the Salato Education Center



Paul Eldridge Jr.

under way with many of its current and past exhibits.

Paul helped construct, maintain and design numerous work stations and associated items throughout the agency that now allow other employees to better perform their own work. Paul's presents, skills, and abilities will be greatly missed. He hopes to continue to volunteer his services to the agency in any capacity that he can. Please give Paul a call and wish him the best in the years to come.

OFFICERS OF THE YEAR



Three conservation officers were recognized at the Commission Awards dinner earlier this month. From left, the Sixth District's Jarad Northern received the Shikar Safari Officer of the Year honor; Jerrod Alley received his Boating Officer of the Year award; and Captain Rick Mehlbauer received the Southeast Officer of the Year award. Each also received an engraved Henry Golden Boy .22 rifle from the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association.

Tree planting, research, and students gather together at Fishtrap Lake WMA

A large gathering of 50 plus people joined forces to plant black walnut trees on a portion of the strip mine at the Fishtrap Lake WMA in Pike County.

Several state and federal agency staff representing the federal Office of Surface Mining, the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative assisted with the joint effort.

Dr. Chris Barton from the University of Kentucky designed an experimental planting to determine how well black walnuts would grow on un-compacted strip mine soil. Twelve planting blocks were marked on the ground and 50 walnuts were planted within each block for a total of 600 trees. Four different planting strategies were applied within the blocks.

Those 4 designs included: 1) planting walnut seeds, 2) planting walnut seeds with tree shelters, 3) planting walnut seedlings, and 4) planting walnut seedlings with tree shelters. Dr. Barton and his stu-



dents plan to measure growth and survival in future years to figure out how best to establish walnuts on strip mines.

The majority of the hard-working tree planters were students from Berea College

and the University of Kentucky. Although the weather was warm and sunny on planting day, heavy rains just prior to the

See "Fishtrap," page 6



Rediscovery of the Flame Chub (*Hemitremia flammea*) in Kentucky

Most biologists consider the vertebrate animals of Kentucky to be well-known, but occasionally surprises do turn up.

On August 19, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife ichthyologists, **Matt Thomas** and **Stephanie Brandt**, collected the Flame Chub for the first time in Kentucky since its initial discovery in the early 1880s. Ten individuals of this small minnow species were captured in Spring Creek, a small spring-fed stream in the upper Red River (lower Cumberland) drainage in Simpson County.

The current range of the Flame Chub lies mostly within Tennessee, with small portions in northern Alabama and Georgia. Most populations are known from springs and cool spring-fed creeks.

The Flame Chub is a small fish, growing to about 3 inches with a life span of 2-3 years. During the spawning period in early spring, males develop brilliant red color on the lower sides of the body, hence the common name.

The Flame Chub records in Kentucky from the mid-1870s to early 1880s were from the Laurel River and Clear Fork drainages, both in the upper Cumberland

Image of the flame chub. *Matt Thomas photo*



River basin. No other collections of this minnow have been reported and it was thought to have long since disappeared from the state. The individuals collected from Spring Creek in August represent an entirely new population and northern extension of the species' current range.

These fish were photographed, euthanized and preserved, and will be archived in the Southern Illinois University Ichthyological Collection. Tissue samples will be sent to researchers at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute for DNA analysis to determine relationships of these specimens to other known populations.

Springs are known for having good

water quality and they support unique plant and animal communities; however, they are also fragile habitats easily degraded by various forms of development and land-use activities. Recent surveys in Tennessee and Alabama have shown declines in Flame Chub populations due to alteration or elimination of spring habitats.

An important next step will be to gain a better understanding of the population in Spring Creek and systematically survey other springs and associated habitats in south-central Kentucky for other potential occurrences. Successful management and protection of this unique minnow and its spring habitat will be dependent on the cooperation of private landowners.

“Fishtrap,” continued

planting event made the drive and walk to the site very slick and muddy for the students. The students planted several hundred more walnuts on the strip mine outside of the research plots.

Heavy machinery was needed to prepare the site before trees could be planted. The contractor was Union Concrete from West Virginia. Their employees used large bulldozers with ripping shanks to break up the rocky, compacted mine soil down to a depth of about 4 feet. The ground was

cross-ripped on an 8-foot by 8-foot grid. Trees were planted at the intersections of these furrows where the roots have a chance to penetrate the ground. Trees can grow surprisingly well in un-compacted mine soils based upon research results from the Starfire Mine in Perry County.

Wildlife should benefit from the ripping and tree planting. Loosening compacted mine soil greatly improves plant diversity on strip mines. Where there used to be just fescue grass and lespedeza, there is now blackberry, goldenrod, ragweed, and aster just to name a few.

Rabbit, quail, and elk could benefit from this improved plant diversity. Planting trees on strip mines could potentially create habitat for golden-winged warblers. These warblers require scattered trees with an herbaceous ground cover for nesting habitat in Kentucky.

Most of the remaining ripped acres on the strip mine will be planted with a combination of trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife. Berry and nut-producing shrubs planted along the forested edge of the mine could be used by ruffed grouse and bears for food and cover.

KDFWR receives marketing awards

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources recently received eight awards from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association (KTIA). The "Traverse Awards for Excellence in Tourism Marketing" recognize outstanding efforts at marketing a tourism product or service in Kentucky.

Michael Gray (pictured, right), a marketer and assistant director in Public Affairs for KDFWR, accepted the awards from Eric Rose, KTIA's Board Chairman, during the organization's annual conference in October at Lexington.

These Traverse Awards recognized work performed by numerous staff working together from KDFWR's Information and Education and Public Affairs divisions. KDFWR garnered three first-place wins in the radio ad, print ad and social media (Facebook) categories.

Three second-place awards recognized a promotional item, radio ad and direct mail piece, while two honorable mentions acknowledged TV and radio ads.



Kentucky travel and tourism businesses and marketing organizations vie for awards in 21 separate categories during the annual competition produced by KTIA. A panel of out-of-state experts judged entries from across the state for this year's awards. Traverse Awards for Excellence in

Tourism Marketing are open to Kentucky Travel Industry Association and Kentucky Hotel & Lodging Association members.

All entries must have been published or distributed within the past year. Each entry is judged for concept, creativity, design and how well it relates to its audience.

"Commission," continued

helped bring nationally acclaimed sponsors to Kentucky and introduced film producers and national outdoor shows to east Kentucky.

He is a longtime participant in multiple conservation organizations, such as National Wild Turkey Federation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the National Rifle Association and assisted handicapped and youth in hunt of a lifetime experiences.

Thacker is a strong believer in farming and coal mining and his affiliations include Friends of Coal, Coal Mining Our Future, Hills and Holler Productions, Bone Rush Hunting Apparel, Level Lock Shooting Systems, Montana Decoys, Fox

Pro Game Calls, National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Rifle Association and Hunters for the Hungry.

Born and raised in Hindman, he graduated Knott County Central High. He is married and the father of two daughters. He is proud to serve with other commission members in helping promote hunting and fishing in Kentucky.

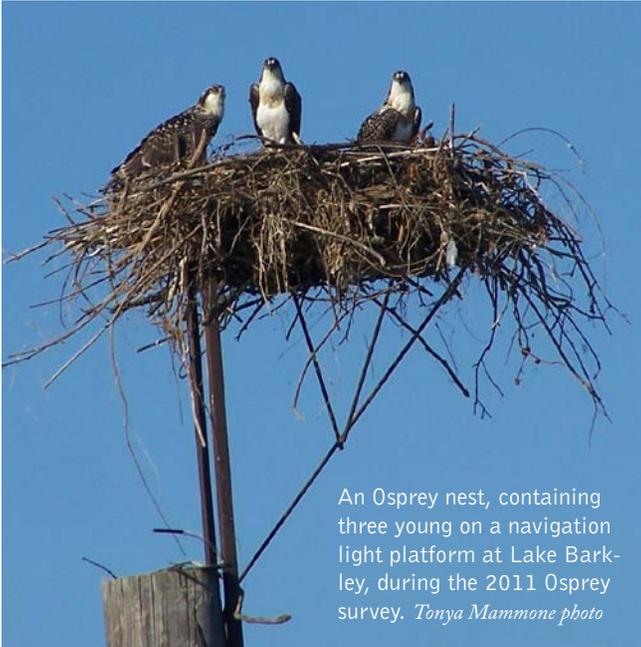
Chis Godby is an entrepreneur with strong business values. He is a real estate developer, and owns an extensive rental company, Godby & Godby Properties. He started the Godby & Godby Steam Team with his cousin, Josh Godby in 2009 that specializes in water restoration, carpet, tile and vent cleaning. In 2011, with two other partners, he started Palmetto Properties

LLC, which offers rental properties.

Godby grew up in a fish and wildlife family with a great passion for the outdoors. He enjoys deer and elk hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, small stream fishing, waterfowl and coyote hunting and bow hunting.

He owns and manages a diverse 800-acre farm, Roper Place, in Eastern Pulaski County where he is recognized for wildlife management and forest stewardship. He has a great love for his community, serves as a soccer and football coach in the Pulaski County School System.

Godby is married to the former Jamie Wesley, and they have three children; Chandler, Boone Clay and Hadlee. They are members of the Science Hill Church of the Nazarene.



An Osprey nest, containing three young on a navigation light platform at Lake Barkley, during the 2011 Osprey survey. *Tonya Mammone photo*

Osprey population on the rise

A hot-spot of nesting activity has developed in recent years along the Green River in Ohio and Muhlenberg counties where eight nests have been found. Nesting activity has also been observed at scattered locations in the central and eastern portion of the state in recent years, near the Ohio River and a few larger reservoirs.

Since the Osprey is listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Kentucky's State Wildlife Action Plan, a statewide survey is conducted for them on a three-year interval.

For the 2011 survey, known nesting locations statewide were checked, where possible, by ground and boat, during the nesting season (late March-July). Over 100 locations were checked for nesting activity statewide. Nests were recorded as "occupied" if there was one or more adult or young osprey observed at the nest. In

hopes of finding new nests, the entire main channel at Lake Barkley and most of the main channel of Kentucky Lake were searched by boat.

During 2011, 87 occupied Osprey nests were documented in Kentucky. The majority (78 percent) of nests were on manmade structures such as navigation lights and transmission towers, but there were also many (19) nests on trees and snags.

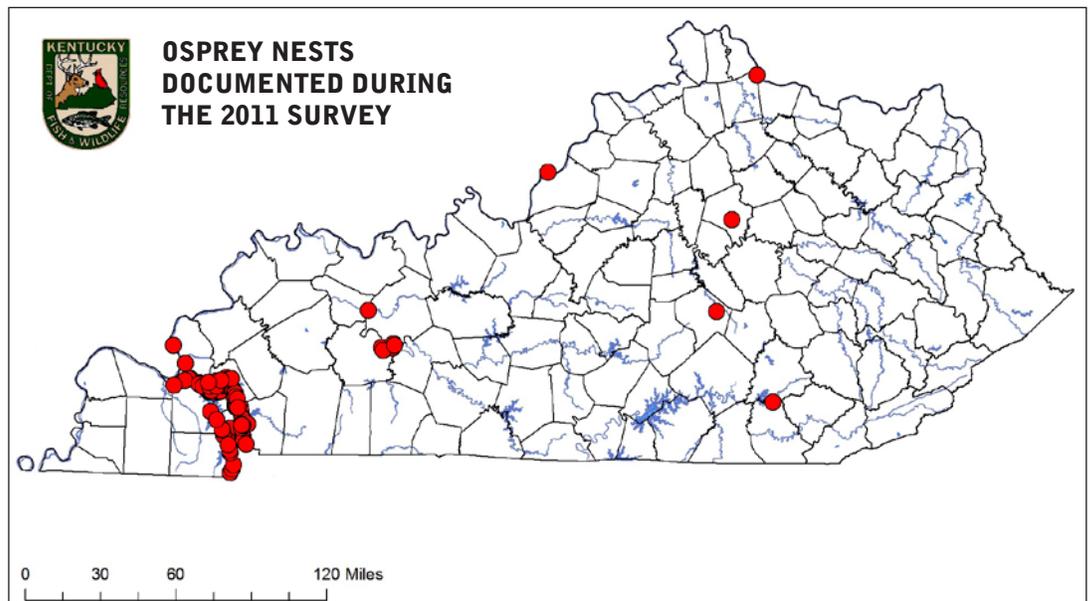
Continued growth of Kentucky's nesting Osprey population is expected. Since the current population occupies most suitable nesting structures in the LBL area, the number of nests built on problematic or unsafe structures, such as communication towers and utility poles, will no doubt increase. Most of these troublesome situations can be improved by providing an alternative nesting structure.

KDFWR will continue to work with private companies to ensure Ospreys are provided safe nesting locations, while minimizing disruption of communications and utility service. More information on Kentucky Osprey can be found at: fw.ky.gov/pdf/2011ospreyupdate.pdf

The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), or "fish-hawk" is a migratory, fish-eating bird of prey, which nests on trees and other structures near water. Ospreys nest throughout North America during the spring and summer, but migrate south to Central and South America for the winter.

In Kentucky, Osprey historically nested along the floodplains of the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers. However, Ospreys, like many other fish-eating birds and raptors, declined significantly in numbers during the 1960s and early 1970s, due to their productivity being hindered by the pesticide DDT. In fact, there were no confirmed Osprey nests in Kentucky between 1949 and 1986.

As a result of hacking (the release of young birds) and the ban on DDT in 1972, Kentucky's nesting population started to reestablish in the western part of the state in the mid-1980's. East of Land Between the Lakes (LBL), nesting Osprey have started to slowly expand into other parts of the state in the last 10 years.





Podcasting – an all-new digital day for Kentucky Afield Radio

While Kentucky Afield Radio has long been available on the web, it's now an option for iPads, iPods and iPhones for fans to listen at their convenience. Through the free iTunes subscription, your device automatically updates as new programs become available.

"I wish we could've done this 10 years ago," said **Charlie Baglan** – the show's producer. "But, 10 years ago, we didn't have **Les Campbell**." This programmer/Apple guru in Admin Services' IT Branch is quite an asset to Fish & Wildlife as more and more programs are web-based and migrating to the Apple platform. And it appears to be a good match. Les says, "Podcasters tried for years to get noticed by iTunes. We did it with five episodes" – referring to seeing it in Apple's "New & Notable" listings. Les says, "You have a great show and I'm glad I can help in get-

ting it to more people."

And who are these *more people*? While all ages listen digitally these days, podcasting is a gateway to younger audiences. In a 2009 survey, 87% of 16 year-olds owned an iPod. We remember the "cool factor" phase when white ear buds were the new fashion rage. Now, it's a technological standard.

Having Apple gadgetry, however, isn't required. Simply by having iTunes on your PC (a free download from apple.com), you can listen to the current show or any of the archived shows just by clicking.

Nelson County man racks up 88 counts of wildlife charges

A Nelson County resident has been charged with multiple wildlife violations in an ongoing investigation by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Kevin Barnette, 43, of Bardstown, is facing 88 counts of illegally taking deer. The majority of the charges (85) are related to possessing illegal antlers. He also is charged with one count of killing over the limit of antlered deer during the current deer season.

The charges also include failure to fill out a harvest log and failure to Telecheck a harvested deer.

This case began when a concerned citizen tipped officers that Barnette had taken an antlered deer, disposed of the carcass and then took a second buck on the following day.



Conservation officers Jeff Jewell, Steve Nelson, Sgt. David Kuhn and Brandon Boone paused next to the illegally taken and possessed deer heads and antlers they seized.

Conservation officers **Steve Nelson, Jeffrey Jewell, Brandon Boone** and **Sgt. David Kuhn** executed a search warrant on the Barnette residence. They seized 85 illegal deer racks and a Ruger M77 300 magnum rifle.

Barnette is scheduled to appear in

Nelson District Court December 27. Conservation officers remind people who may have any information regarding wildlife violations may call 1-800-25-ALERT, or may contact their local conservation officer directly.

Shaker Village quail restoration update

By now, many of you are probably familiar with the on-going bobwhite quail restoration project at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill (SVPH) in Mercer County. Approximately one-third of the property's 3,000 acres is now considered to be excellent quail habitat. Just ask the 50-plus wild coveys that call SVPH home. That's right, 50-plus wild coveys!

The project was launched in February of 2009 and along with intensive habitat management, biologists and SVPH staff also began conducting surveys to gauge the quail response on the property.

The first fall covey count occurred

in October 2009 where a total of 15 wild coveys were heard from 9 standardized listening points. The same points were surveyed the following October and biologists were pleased to report a doubling of the population; more than 30 coveys were heard. The population increase continued into 2011 as 45 coveys were detected.

Factor in additional known covey locations in areas where observers can't hear and you get more than 50 WILD coveys of quail!

Success breeds success and the SVPH quail success story is no different. The explosion of wild quail on the property led

the Village down an interesting path. For decades, hunting was off limits on SVPH property.

That all changed on November 16-17, 2010 when the first-ever Heritage Hunt for Bobwhite took place. The successful hunt generated more than \$15,000 for SVPH, all of which went directly back to the Village for continued habitat management. The 2nd annual Heritage Hunt is scheduled for December 5-6, 2011 and early indications show that even more money has been generated for bobwhite this year.

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



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- 1) Controlled burning, February 2009. *KDFWR photo*
- 2) Field that was sprayed to remove undesirable cool-season vegetation. *Ben Robinson photo*
- 3) Same field as #2, just one year after being planted to quail-friendly vegetation. *Ben Robinson photo*
- 4) Successful hunters from the 1st Annual Heritage Hunt for Bobwhite, November 2010. *Ben Robinson photo*



Fields, three others appointed to BoatUS Advisory Council

voices with fresh perspectives.” The new appointees include:

Captain Mike Fields, of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and President, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). Fields is the Boating Law Administrator with the Kentucky Division of Law Enforcement, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Capt. Fields grew up boating on the many lakes and rivers in Kentucky, and worked almost every major body of water in the state as an officer and sergeant.

John P. Flynn, Public Policy Advisor, Patton Boggs LLP. Mr. Flynn has more than 30 years of maritime, transportation and marine resource experience. Both as an enlisted member and commissioned officer in the US Coast Guard, Flynn spent 12 years on Capitol Hill, including working as a legislative assistant and congressional fellow to US Senator John Breaux on legislation such as the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (Wallop-Breaux) and Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation. Flynn boats with his family on the Potomac River on a 23-foot Cobia.

Cleve Hardaker, President, Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC). Mr. Hardaker, born in Rhodesia, immigrated to Australia then San Diego, California in 1977. He was a Board member of the Pacific Coast Yachting Association was appointed to the RBOC Board of Directors in 2008 and is the organization's president elect for 2012. An avid sailor, he's also crewed a Sydney to Hobart Race, a Chicago to Mackinac, and competed in 17 Newport to Ensenada races. He still sails his Catalina 30 Sojourn, which he purchased new in 1991.

National Commodore Nicholas Kerigan, US Coast Guard Auxiliary. A member of Flotilla 12-03, First District, Southern Region, Cdre. Kerigan joined

the Auxiliary in 1992, and has served all elected positions through National Area Commodore, Atlantic Area (East) as well as several staff positions. A winner of several personal awards and commendations, Kerigan is a retired Morgan Stanley Information Technology Vice President.

For a complete list BoatUS National Advisory Council members, go to www.BoatUS.com/membership/company_info.asp.

About BoatUS:

BoatUS - Boat Owners Association of The United States - is the nation's leading advocate for recreational boaters providing over half a million members with government representation, programs and money-saving services. For membership information visit www.BoatUS.com or call 800-395-2628.

A panel of 14 distinguished national boating leaders that serve as a sounding board for Boat Owners Association of The United States got a close up primer on how the national boat owners group works on local issues when the BoatUS National Advisory Council gathered for their annual meeting in St. Augustine, FL, recently.

The historic city of St. Augustine is one of five Florida jurisdictions moving forward with plans that could regulate anchoring under a state pilot program. BoatUS has worked on the issue and encouraged its members and boaters to speak up at recent hearings.

On the Council's agenda were a range of issues, some of which included: emerging US Coast Guard regulations requiring life jackets, potential interference with GPS signals, boat engine cut-off switches, homeland security issues, ethanol in boat gasoline, early hurricane preparation, boating access challenges and bans on copper-based anti-fouling paint.

The 45-year old Association also appointed four new members to its Council, “Which adds new strength and greater depth on issues important to the nation's recreational boat owners,” said BoatUS President Margaret Podlich. “We are always challenging ourselves to bring in new

“Quail,” continued

Many may ask “what made SVPH so special when KDFWR has been doing this on farms across the state for years?” Well, there are several reasons. First, SVPH started with a modest population of wild birds (6-10 coveys). But most importantly, the scale of the project coupled with the speed of its implementation made the biggest difference.

Project partners made huge advancements in habitat right out of the gate and Mother Nature provided great growing conditions for the plantings and breeding conditions for bobwhite.

This remarkable success story is a great example for other landowners across the Commonwealth. If you are willing to put in a little effort in the form of habitat management at a meaningful scale (100's of acres), bobwhite will respond. We're looking for our next Shaker Village success story. If you're interested, give us a call!



Sixth District youth deer hunt is a big success

The 2011 youth deer hunt hosted in Anderson County Oct. 8-9 was about as good as anyone could ever hope for said **Sgt. Phillip Crane**, one of the hunt's organizers.

Sixth District conservation officers **Jason Wells**, **David Goodlett** and Crane put in a lot of work getting the hunt together and they say it paid off in a big way.

Twenty-seven youth participated in the hunt that took place in Anderson, Mercer, Franklin, and Woodford counties. The group gathered a weekend prior to the hunt for some educational instruction on

shot placement and safety. They went to the firing range with their assigned guide and range officers to sight in their rifles.

They gathered for a lunchtime fish fry with landowners and hunt sponsors on Saturday. Chili and hot dogs were on Sunday's lunch menu.

Youth took 21 deer during the hunt, and the conservation officers said rewards from putting on a hunt like this are beyond words when these kids show up with their first deer.

"When we see the lights in their eyes,

we know that all of the work and time that goes into putting on a hunt of this magnitude is worth every minute," they said.

Conservation officers **Bill Spears**, **Gabe Welch** and **Sergeant Damon Foster** also participated in the youth hunt as guides, and the officers quickly praised the effort of their families, Shannon Crane, Emily Wells, Beth and Lara Welch and Shannon Goodlett.

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"Mitchell," continued

lakes, Herrington, Kentucky and Dale Hollow. With the creation of new lakes came new species such as rainbow trout and rockfish, and the range of others such as walleye and musky expanded greatly.

His words printed at his retirement continue to ring true today. "We have also profited from our mistakes," he said. "We learned, over the years, that we could be very successful at raising grouse, turkeys, pheasants and other game birds and animals in captivity – but that these

pen-reared birds had very poor chances of surviving in the wild. We have also tried experimental introductions of several varieties of exotic game birds to see if they could become established in Kentucky, and found that we are better off sticking to our native game – grouse, quail and wild turkey – and providing better habitat for them."

"Every research study and every management project we've carried out demonstrates that proper habitat is the key to wildlife numbers and almost any decline or increase in the population of a species can be linked directly to habitat," he said.

And upon his retirement, he forecast one of the biggest and most persistent problems for his successors.

"Almost any example of progress you can name – a four-lane highway, a new shopping center or housing development, even a new lake – takes up land that was formerly wildlife habitat," he said. "Just consider that each mile of interstate highway uses between 30 and 40 acres of land and you'll begin to realize how much habitat has been lost through road building alone."

And he was right.