



**“KENTUCKY AFIELD”  
TELEVISION’S  
NEW HOST**

OBIE WILLIAMS PHOTO



RICK HILL PHOTO

**Veteran outdoorsman  
Chad Miles takes  
the reins**

By Lee McClellan

**A**S A KID growing up in Bullitt County, Chad Miles often crafted his own bows from kite string and saplings.

“We would cut down saplings, bend them and tie kite string to each end,” he said. “We would wrap electrical tape around the middle for a handle. We would shoot sticks and twigs, but sometimes we would shoot normal, store-bought arrows. We did this all the time when we were kids.”

He’s come a long way since then. Recently Miles was named successor to Tim Farmer as host of “Kentucky Afield” television. His first episode aired April 2.

Miles has eight years with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, previously serving as executive director of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation. “Being with the Foundation al-

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lowed me a close-up look of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and how things work," he said.

"I was shocked at the reach of the department, such as the Information and Education Division, and all the work the department does with non-game species and habitat," he continued. "I thought it was just rules and regulations, size limits and hunting seasons. Until you work with the department intimately, it is hard to understand all we do."

Miles, who grew up near the Salt River and its tributary, Floyd's Fork, began fishing at an early age. "I was extremely lucky that I was within walking distance of a place to fish," he said. "I still have a deep love for river systems. So many species, you never know what you will catch. Everything changes with the seasons on rivers."

Miles spent his days catching largemouth bass, bluegill, spotted bass and freshwater drum – locals referred to this fish as white perch – from the nearby waters. But, the hard fighting smallmouth bass he hooked in Floyd's Fork ignited a fever that hasn't cooled. He is one of the most passionate smallmouth bass anglers you'll meet.

He knows all the nooks and crannies of Dale Hollow Lake and spends as many days on the lake pursuing what Billy Westmoreland called "them old brown fish" as family obligations will allow.

It's not unusual for Miles to bring a smallmouth weighing at least 4 pounds to the boat practically every time he fishes the lake from fall through late spring. "I love Dale Hollow," he said. "I love the challenge of catching wary smallmouth bass in reservoirs."

Nolin River Lake in west-central Kentucky holds a special place in his heart, as well.



KEVIN KELLY PHOTO

"I spent summers at my grandmother's house at Nolin River Lake," he said. "My grandparents bought a house at Nolin just before they built the reservoir. My birthday is July 3 and I spent all of them at the lake. All my birthday presents revolved around fishing."

Rabbit hunting is another pastime Miles enjoyed with his family. He spent many days walking with his dad behind a pack of beagles, carrying his 20-gauge Remington 870 Wingmaster LW Magnum. "We hunted rabbits in central Kentucky, Hart County and at Peabody WMA," he said. "We would even flush a covey of quail every once in a while."

Making bows with saplings and kite string as a youth sparked his current addiction to archery hunting. "I started shooting archery at a young age," he said. "My first bow was a 45-pound pull Darton, the old kind with brackets and cams. I took my first deer with it."

While living in Indianapolis for two years, he and his brother would set up camp and bow hunt near Carrollton. "We did it one weekend in September and as much as we could otherwise," he said.

His enthusiasm for the outdoors will translate well into

**Chad Miles fishes with former Miss Kentucky Ramsey Carpenter for a Kentucky Afield magazine shoot.**

his new hosting role. Miles doesn't plan to change too much of what is already a winning formula. "After studying the show, 'Kentucky Afield' was not about the host," he said. "It was about normal, everyday people enjoying the outdoors. It was not about watching the host hunt and fish."

Miles hopes to keep "Kentucky Afield" relevant to the seasons and time of year. "I want the show to always be something that inspires and shows that hunting and fishing are socially acceptable and not intimidating," he said. "We are going to tell exactly what is going on in the woods and on the water."

He also plans to showcase more women and minorities on the show. "One of the fastest growing segments of hunters and anglers are women," he said. "We need to be open to new people getting on board."

Miles is proud to be a Kentuckian. "It is the most beautiful state, with an enormous amount of water and the eastern mountains along with bountiful resources," he said. "I love Kentucky. Every day on the road for the show, I will get to experience something beautiful about Kentucky."

He is living his dream. ■

# Kentucky AFIELD