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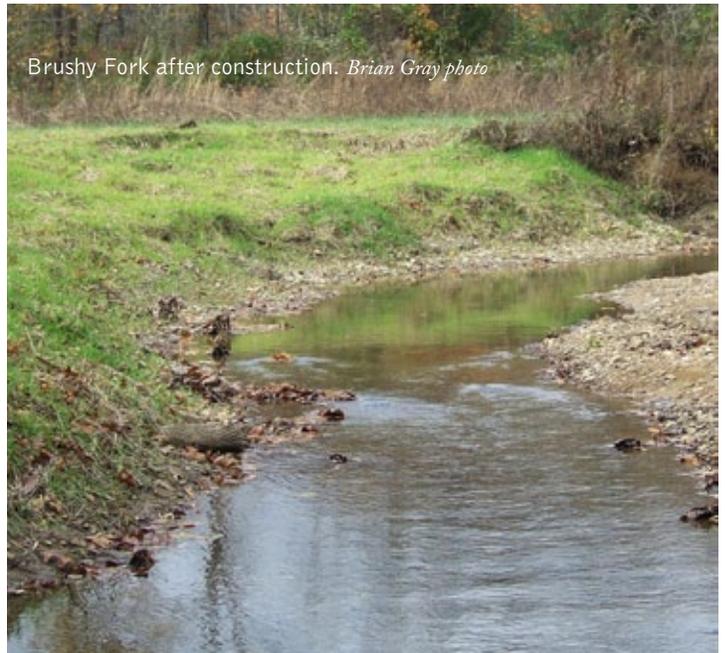
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Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions restore Green River Lake WMA stream



Brushy Fork before construction. *Joseph Zimmerman photo*



Brushy Fork after construction. *Brian Gray photo*

The Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions recently partnered on stream restoration efforts at Green River Lake WMA in Taylor County.

The goal of the habitat effort was to complete bank stabilization practices on Brushy Fork in the northern portion of the WMA. Public Lands Biologist **Brian Gray** identified the project areas for restoration. The Environmental Section assisted

with permitting, design, and construction oversight of the project.

Portions of Brushy Fork had developed torturous meander bends that were excessively eroding and advancing through the adjacent fields. The bank stabilization involved constructing a bankfull bench with woody debris additions for habitat and stability.

They utilized timber stand improvement practices on the adjacent forest to

collect woody material for construction. The project took two days to complete.

Special thanks goes to the heavy equipment operators **Kevin Rexroat** and **Tom Burberry**. Thanks also to **Clint Abney, Jesse Boles, Jason McDowell** and **Dan Stoelb** for their assistance.

For more information, contact Joseph Zimmerman in the Environmental Section at (502) 564-3400 extension 4473.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We received the following excerpt from Mr. Floyd M. Ewton III's letter. He wrote, "I just wanted to let you know what an excellent time my son and I had this last weekend at the Greenwing camp. Everyone there was very welcoming and helpful.

This was especially good news to me since I was not familiar with hunting or the three different camps. All I knew was what my son, Jack, had told me about Camp Wallace. And Jack slipped into the flow of things like he had been to Camp Currie a hundred times. The highly educated and knowledgeable staff was impressive. Their insight and guidance to the hunters was invaluable.

I don't know how many of the staff were required to be there and how many were volunteers because they all genuinely wanted to be there. I know it was a lot of work and they should know it was greatly appreciated."

This note came from Michele Walker. "Thank you for offering a superb program for Kentucky's young people. My children had a fabulous time this past summer at Camp Wallace. As a parent, I was thrilled that they were able to enjoy a fun packed week. They learned so many practical skills.

My daughter, Abigail, took part in the Greenwing program. She had a fantastic experience "duck hunting" and made memories that will last a lifetime. Please know that your program is touching many lives."

The following letter came from Travis Williams through Gerry Buynak. "Words cannot describe how great of an experience I have had these last few months at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery.

I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity and taking time out of your

day to speak to me and give me advice when visiting headquarters. Never have I experienced such a unified group of people in a work setting as **Steve Marple's crew** in Frankfort. It was an honor to be a part of it and the Department of Fish and Wildlife as a whole. Everything that I encountered at the hatchery reminded me of the same old fashioned values that I was raised on and there was never a bad day.

I think that some people underestimate how important of a job Steve has and how stressful it can be. He has been really patient with my inexperience and I have high re-

spect for him. Thanks again for everything."

This note came from the Widderheim family. "Our family cannot say thank you enough for the fishing adventure and Camp Wallace. The benefits from both have helped Adam become a better pre-teen and outdoorsman. Again, thank you. What great memories!"

This note is from Isaac Shepard who participated in the Greenwing Adventure. "The camp experience was awesome. Thank you for having me. Me and my Dad had a great time. Thank you so much."



BALLARD COUNTY GREENWING HUNT

Youth took one duck during a Greenwing Adventure waterfowl hunt at The Po-Po Hole in Ballard County on January 4, 2014. Lucas Hulsizer of Cadiz and Jessica Hicks of Hardin hunted with conservation officers Kyle Webb and Tony Dunker, and Labrador, Cannon.

Sgt. Garry D. Clark photo

Last Water Patrol original, Capt. Tim Catron, retires after nearly 25 years

The last serving member of the former Kentucky Water Patrol that joined the Department of Fish and Wildlife 20 years ago has retired.

Wayne County resident **Tim Catron**, who retired Dec. 31, started his career with the Kentucky Water Patrol and finished it as a law enforcement captain for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

The Kentucky Water Patrol merged with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Division of Law Enforcement in December 1993.

The merger had the immediate effect of increasing Kentucky's boating safety enforcement presence on waterways three-fold and the number of conservation officers in hunting and fishing venues by a third.

The more visible boating enforcement presence produced a positive and lasting safety impact on Kentucky waterways. Even as state boat registrations over that time have doubled, annual boating fatalities have fallen considerably.

"Certainly that's something I'm proud to have been a part of," said Catron. "Being out there...being seen. We worked hard to make our lakes safe, and we made a difference."

Catron was one of approximately 40 Kentucky Water Patrol officers who helped introduce Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conservation officers to boating safety enforcement during warmer recreational boating months. The former Water Patrol officers transitioned to hunting and fishing enforcement during cooler months.

Catron served his entire career primarily in the Lake Cumberland area, one of the largest man-made impoundments east of the Mississippi River. He joined the Kentucky Water Patrol in April 1989 and then moved to Kentucky Fish and



Wildlife after the 1993 merger. He was promoted to sergeant in July 2000 and then became the Ninth District Captain in April 2005.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

presented Catron's district with the Great Lakes and Ohio Division 2012 Water Safety Award for outstanding efforts towards promoting water safety on Lake Cumberland. Corps officials also cited the critical role that Catron and the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife officers played in Lake Cumberland's zero water fatalities that year.

Catron has spent nearly 25 years helping to make Kentucky's waterways safe for boaters and enforcing the state's hunting and fishing laws.

"I've worked with so many good people in this department," he said. "The decision to retire is really difficult. I don't know for sure if this is the best job in the world, but I do know that it would take a really good one to beat it."

Relaxing does not appear to be in Catron's immediate future. He says he plans to enter the political fray with a run for Wayne County Sheriff.



Seven conservation officer recruits graduate DOCJT Basic Police Academy

Seven Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation officer recruits were among 23 law enforcement officers from nine agencies across the state graduating December 13, from basic training at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training.

Conservation officer recruits **Jacob Speck, James Mulholland, Michael Hudson, Evan Ethington, Jared Ervin, Cristian Casper** and **Rob-**

bie Lile were among the 23 graduating officers of Class 449 who completed 18 weeks of training, consisting of nearly 770 hours of recruit-level-officer academy instruction.

Conservation officer recruit Jared Ervin earned class Valedictorian honors. Fellow Fish and Wildlife officers James Mulholland received Class Leader recognition, Michael Hudson was Class Adjutant, and Evan Ethington was Squad Leader. All seven Fish and Wildlife recruits earned the Fit for Duty Award, recognizing their excellence in fitness performance throughout the academy.

Major training areas included homeland security, law offenses and procedures, vehicle operations, firearms, investigations, first aid/CPR, patrol procedures, orientation for new law enforcement families and mechanics of arrest, restraint and control.

The seven conservation officer



recruits must now complete the Department's 12-week academy. There are about four weeks remaining. Then they will undergo 16 weeks with field training officers.

Upon completion, Speck and Ervin will be assigned to the Fourth District, Mulholland to the Eighth, Hudson to the Fifth, Ethington to the First, Casper to the Third and Lile to the Sixth.

Basic training is mandatory for Kentucky law enforcement officers who are required to comply with the state's Peace Officer Professional Standards Act of 1998. The Department of Criminal Justice Training provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriffs' deputies, university police, airport police and others. The agency also provides in-service and leadership training for Kentucky law enforcement officers and public safety dispatch training.

The Department of Criminal Justice

Conservation Officer recruits Robbie Lile, James Mulholland, Jared Ervin, Evan Ethington, Cristian Casper, Jacob Speck and Michael Hudson. *Richard Adkins photo*

Training is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus. The agency is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and was the first in the nation to be accredited under CALEA's public safety training program designation. In 2006, the academy also became the first law enforcement training academy in the nation to be named as a CALEA flagship agency.

In November, DOCJT earned accreditation through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training – making it the only law enforcement training academy in the nation to be dually accredited by two independent accrediting organizations.

Fisheries staff improves fish habitat to start off the New Year

It's an annual right-of-passage for the staff in the Fisheries Division.

Following the Christmas holiday season, Fisheries staff help coordinate and gather the remains of Christmas trees, and prepare a strategy for distributing these trees into local lakes and reservoirs with the goal to help to increase fish habitat, including spawning areas and nursery grounds for juvenile fishes.

Pictured here is but one small pile of trees at the Western Fisheries District office in Murray that were donated by several local area businesses. Staff from the Western Fisheries District estimates that they have roughly 400 trees in total.



About 300 of these trees will be used to create various forms of fish habitat/fish attractors at both Kentucky and Barkley lakes. The remaining trees will be distributed at several smaller ponds located at West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area.

A large scale fish habitat improvement project is currently being planned

Donated Christmas trees make ideal fish habitat in larger reservoirs that are often lacking such habitat. *Paul Rister photo*

for the near future at A.J. Jolly Lake in Campbell County, just south of the city of Alexandria. Look for more information on this project in the February issue of the Commissioner's Newsletter.

New hires / promotions

Charlie Plush has been hired to oversee the Sloughs, Higginson-Henry, and Big Rivers WMAs in the Green River Region. Charlie earned an M.S. degree from North Carolina State University in Wildlife and Conservation Biology, a B.S. degree from the University of Georgia in Wildlife Management, and is a Certified Associate Wildlife Biologist.

Charlie has a diverse work experience background in whitetail research, waterfowl nesting research, stints at Tall Timbers Research Station and the Brush Creek Sporting Club, and has served two years as our agency's WRP Biologist in the Farm Bill Program. He took over management of the areas on January 1.

Madeline Ruhl joined the Information and Education Division on December 15. Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Maddie earned her Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management at Eastern Kentucky University and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration.

Her previous employment includes work as a biological technician for Clarks River NWR, an internship with the National Park Service Petersburg National Battlefield, and six years of experience with the Louisville Zoo. Most recently Maddie worked as the natural resource manager at the Horn Field Campus of Western Illinois University where she

created, marketed and implemented environmental education programs, planned special events, and coordinated volunteer staff.

As our new Conservation Educator in the 4th District, Maddie will present conservation education programs and recruit campers from Grayson, Breckinridge, LaRue, Nelson, Washington, Marion, and Hardin counties. During the summer, Maddie will teach outdoor skills to campers at Camps John Currie and Robert Webb.

Tristan Curry joined the Wildlife Division on December 20, 2013 as a

See "Hires," page 6

KDFWR recognizes LG&E-KU Falcon Web Camera Project

In 2013, the Department of Fish and Wildlife recognized the LG&E-KU Falcon Web Camera Project at Mill Creek Station for exceptional support of Kentucky's peregrine falcon program.

The generous cooperation and contribution that was made by Louisville Gas and Electric-Kentucky utilities (LG&E-KU) and associated partners for the falcon webcam project is much appreciated.

Many people were involved with this project, including Mill Creek Station personnel, LG&E-KU Corporate personnel, and Advanced Global Communications personnel. This project was funded by LG&E-KU.

This was the first live peregrine falcon webcam to be installed in Kentucky, and it attracted thousands of followers in its first year. The webcam is accessible at www.lge-ku.com/falcon/.

Clips highlighting key moments in the nesting cycle have been uploaded for viewing on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/KentuckyFalcons/videos.

"Hires," continued

GFTL Wildlife Biologist I located in Harlan County. Tristan is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management.

He previously worked for the KDFWR Bear Program as a nine-month interim Fish and Wildlife Tech 1 each year from 2006-2013.

Tristan's experience addressing human-bear conflicts over the last eight years will provide a valuable resource to the Department and cooperating agencies. Please join us in welcoming Tristan to the Department in a full-time capacity.

Paul Wilkes became the new Fisheries Research Biologist December 16,



Recognizing LG&E-KU for its falcon webcam project were KDFWR biologists Kate Heyden and Sunni Carr. At left is LG&E-KU Chief Information Officer Eric Slavinsky. At right are LG&E-KU Vice President of Power Production Ralph Bowling and General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer Jerry Reynolds.

2013, focusing predominantly on aquatic nuisance species and Asian carp issues throughout the Commonwealth.

His job duties will focus heavily on research and management issues pertaining to aquatic invasive species, specifically Asian carp. He will help to coordinate and implement projects aimed to reduce abundance of Asian carp and other invasive species, as well as document the impacts that invasive species have on Kentucky's important native species.

Previously, Paul worked as a Fish and Wildlife Technician III in the Lake Investigations Research Branch from February 2012 until his promotion. Prior to this, Paul served in a nine-month seasonal position monitoring and coordinat-

ing the development of private landowner boat docks and structures on adjacent department owned or control lakes and buffers.

Paul is originally from Bedford, Kentucky and received his B.S. degree in 2007 from the University of the Cumberlands. He received his M.S. degree in 2011 from Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. His M.S. thesis focused on documenting the thermal tolerances of lake sturgeon.

Paul currently resides in Frankfort with his wife and young son (Parker). We are certain that Paul will do an outstanding job in his new position and we look forward to the results of his upcoming research projects.



Seventh District officers deliver water to stricken areas

Seventh District conservation officers took it upon themselves to help alleviate some area water problems last weekend, January 11.

Lt. James Vaughn, and officers Eric

Thomas, Joe Tomblin and Robbie Spears loaded their trucks with four full pallets of bottled water and delivered them to the communities of Garrett and Lackey in Floyd County.

The area was without water for over a week due to a water system failure. The officers delivered two truckloads to a nursing home and poised the others for public distribution.





Campers and their guides showing off after a long morning in the blinds.

Currie Outdoorsman campers enjoy exciting Greenwing hunt

Camp John Currie once again hosted one of the longest running youth waterfowl hunts in Kentucky.

The 27th annual event was held Jan. 3-4 for 13 youth who had earned their Outdoorsman Patch at conservation camp in 2013. They traveled from across the Commonwealth to brave the cold in hopes of taking their first waterfowl.

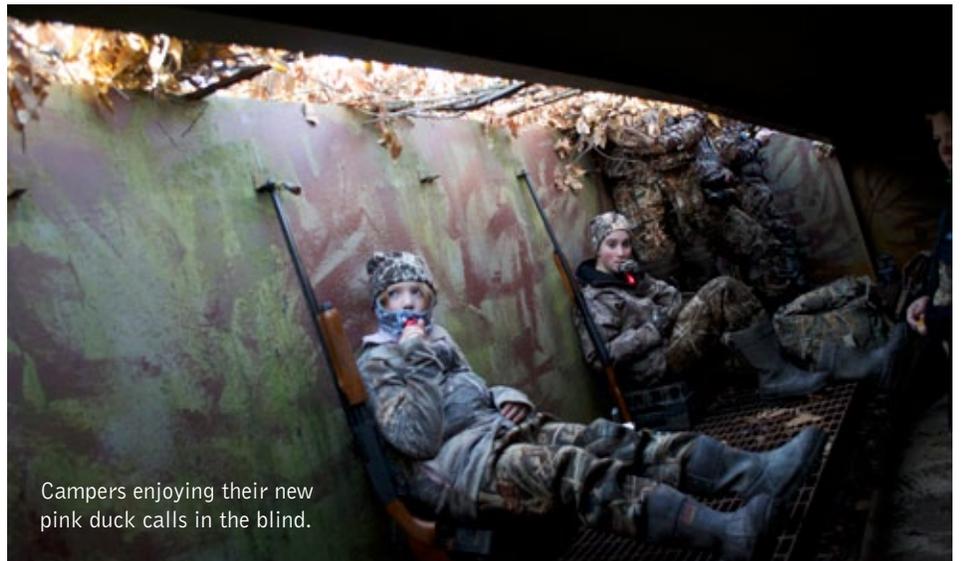
In total, three ducks – one gadwall hen and 2 pintail drakes – were taken during the Saturday morning hunt. Some of the state's best waterfowlers guided and provided blinds and hunts on private lands.

The campers had a tremendous time despite the frigid weather and the 3:30 a.m. rise! The Ducks Unlimited Kentucky Greenwing Program donated ammo for the hunt, duck calls for each of the campers, and lots of great raffle prizes for the evening awards ceremony.

The event also featured calling lessons, calling contest, and a how-to lesson on wild game cooking.

Staff from several divisions assisted with the event including **Michael Hutcheison, Greg Buchert** and **Thomas Young** from the Wildlife Division; **Thomas Blackwell, Tony Dunker, Gary Clark,** and **Scott McIntosh** from Law Enforcement; and **Lori Shoup** with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Also, big thanks to all the members of the Camp Currie and I&E staff who made the event a success!



Campers enjoying their new pink duck calls in the blind.



Campers learning the secrets of wild game cooking.