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Joe West is new Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division Director

A 34-year law enforcement veteran is the agency's new colonel and director of Law Enforcement.

Commissioner Gregory K. Johnson appointed retired Kentucky State Police Lt. Colonel Harry Joseph (Joe) West to head the 130-member division.

West, 61, comes to Fish and Wildlife from the Department of Parks where most recently he has led the Rangers Division for the past 20 months as its director. He retired from the Kentucky State Police in 2008 after nearly 30 years of service.

"I've spent my entire professional life in law enforcement, and now I am looking forward to these new challenges and opportunities in conservation," said West. "Honed law enforcement skills are essential for every working officer, but being in tune with the community, sportsmen and sportswomen, conservation clubs and boaters is just as essential to our Fish and Wildlife success."

West holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement and a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Eastern Kentucky University. He also is a 1989 graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Though his parents and older siblings are originally from Middlesboro, KY, West grew up in Lima, Ohio when the fami-



Col. Joe West, his wife, Debbie, at his side, takes his oath of office as the agency's new Colonel and Director of Law Enforcement. Franklin District Judge Kathy Mangeot administered the oath.

ly moved to follow work opportunities. He grew up hunting pheasants, rabbits and squirrels and fishing the Auglaize River. He came back to Kentucky after high school as a walk-on football player at ECU.

West returned to Ohio briefly after graduating ECU and served two years with the Oxford Police Department. He joined the Kentucky State Police in 1978 as a trooper in Floyd County. He subsequently served in Franklin, Shelby and Spencer Counties, and worked the Exec-

utive Security-Governor's Detail for 18 months.

He was promoted to sergeant and served as a supervisor at Post 9 in Pikeville and Post 12 in Frankfort. He was promoted to Lieutenant and Assistant Post and Section Commander at Post 2 in Madisonville in 1993. In 1997, he became Captain and Commander of the Internal Affairs Section. He was promoted again in 1999 to Major

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following email came through our Info Center email from Mr. Kenny Bird. "A friend of mine got drawn for the hunt at Ballard the 27th and 28th of December that I got to go on.

I just wanted to praise the staff you have there. Everyone did a great job explaining things and helping us out. They made sure we found our blind by marking it on the map and giving us directions. They even drove by when we were unloading making sure everything was ok.

The blinds were in great shape and well-marked! The slough and field we hunted looked great with plenty of food for ducks!

We killed a few birds and I even got my first banded one!

Thanks for a Great Experience!

The following note came from Nathan White with the Bluegrass Army Depot. They had been planning a Wounded Warrior Waterfowl Hunt the second weekend in January and he had these comments. "I should mention that this hunt would not have been at all possible without the hard

"West," continued

and then to Lt. Colonel in 2004.

"We are especially fortunate to get someone of Joe's experience and dedication to head our law enforcement division," said Johnson. "His experience with the Kentucky State Police and State Parks, and his dedication to public service, will help him and benefit us greatly in his new position here at Fish and Wildlife."

West resides in Frankfort with his wife, Debbie. They have two adult sons. Christopher lives in Frankfort with his wife, Jillian, and their sons, Wyatt and Colin. Nicholas is an Air Force lieutenant currently deployed in Afghanistan.

work and dedication of **Tom Edwards**, the KDFWR biologist here at BGAD. He was out there breaking up ice for several days so that we could make room for waterfowl. He is a credit to your already outstanding organization."

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from John Russell, President of the West Kentucky Field Trial Club. He wrote, "The West Kentucky Field Trial Club concluded its program of open field trials on December 4th. This year marked the 51st running of the Quail Championship Invitational and the 54th edition of

the Kentucky Quail Classic at Paducah. Field trials have been conducted on the grounds since 1953 and were the first impetus for the formation of what ultimately became the West Kentucky WMA.

The trials this year were of very high quality thanks largely to the quality of the grounds of the West Kentucky WMA. The work done over the last few years and in this year in particular to improve habitat was much in evidence and greatly appreciated. The efforts of **Tim Kreher and his staff** to support the bird dog trials and other activities on the WKWMA are greatly appreciated."

Barry Stotts appointed 4th District Commission Member

Gov. Steve Beshear has appointed Barry W. Stotts of Columbia as a member of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission representing the 4th Fish and Wildlife District.

Stotts, 47, is Supervisor/Foreman at Stotts Construction of Columbia. He replaces Dr. James R. Angel, and shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term ending Aug. 13, 2017.

Stotts, a lifetime hunter and fisherman, was one of four names forwarded to the governor after a special candidate nomination meeting at Green County High School in late October.

"I'm just overwhelmed to have been



nominated and then appointed," said Stotts. "I've hunted and fished my whole life. We run our own company business and for years when deer season comes, everything just shuts down. And I enjoy fishing for stripers.

"I'm on the utility board here, I know it takes some time to understand how things work, but I'm really looking forward to the commission and getting busy, trying to get our youth

more involved and active, and promoting our fish and wildlife."

Barry lives in Adair County with his wife, Tammy. They have three children – Ashton and Cody Stotts and Justin Walker.

Officer Greg Hill retires

Conservation Officer Greg Hill retired from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Division in December of 2014. He worked in Lincoln County.

Officer Hill started his career as a dispatcher in Lincoln County. He then went on to work for Stanford Police Department for more than nine years where he left at the rank of Captain. He was then hired to be the Conservation Officer in his home county.

Hill worked more than 10 years for Fish and Wildlife within the 6th District

and received several district awards. While in the Fish and Wildlife Academy he received the 110% award.

He received the district Boating Officer of the Year Award in 2008, 2009 and 2010. He was awarded the district Shikar Safari Award in 2011 and Waterfowl Officer of Year Award in 2013. Officer Hill served as a Field Training Officer for new recruits and was an Honor Guard team member.

He served two terms as the 6th district KCOA representative. Hill will be enjoying his retirement with his wife Cathy and daughter Lily and son Trevor.



New hires

Please welcome **John Hast** to the agency as an Elk Biologist with the Deer and Elk Program.

John grew up in western Kentucky and attended Centre College where he earned a B.S. in biology in 2006. After working as a technician for KDFWR from 2006 to 2008, he completed a M.S. at the University of Kentucky on Kentucky black bears in 2010 and is nearing the completion of a Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky studying Kentucky's elk herd.

In his spare time, John is an avid duck hunter and fisherman, and also enjoys deer management and hunting on his family farm in Ohio County.

John has been a familiar face to the agency over the years and we are pleased to have him on board and confident he will do a great job.

Congratulations to **Brenna Brooking** for her recent promotion to Internal Policy Analyst IV. Brenna came to Fish and Wildlife July 16, 2008 from the Department of Revenue. She has been serving as our temporary budget person for several months now. Brenna will continue to work with directors and staff on their budgets and spending needs.

NWTF selects Bell as its Kentucky Officer of the Year



convention in Nashville, TN during February.

Officer Bell was recognized for his support of youth turkey hunts, his communication and relations with the public, work with the National Archery in the Schools Program, teaching hunter education, cooperation with other law enforcement

agencies, and his overall support of the NWTF and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Commissioner Gregory Johnson, Sergeant David Kuhn and Officer Jeff Whittinghill were in attendance for the presentation. Officer Tracy Bell was joined by his wife, Amy when receiving the award. Congratulations Officer Bell.

The Kentucky State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has recognized **Conservation Officer Tracy Bell** as its Kentucky NWTF Officer of the Year.

As Kentucky NWTF Officer of the Year, Bell is nominated for the NWTF National Officer of the Year award, which will be presented at the NWTF national



GREENWING ADVENTURE PUTS YOUTH ON WATERFOWL

Seventeen youth turned out for this season's annual Greenwing waterfowl hunt at Camp Currie. They were quite successful, taking at least 23 ducks. Youth hunters Cody Copas, of Austin, and Henry Helmers of Louisville even combined to take a speckle belly goose. Three other young ladies took limits of mallards.



Recognizing Job Corps volunteers for Cave Run Lake habitat efforts

When Brad Adkins, an avid bass fisherman, heard about a large scale habitat project on his home lake, he knew the perfect group to assist – the Job Corps Fire Training Crew.

This crew of young men and women from across the country found their way to Menifee County and the Job Corps to learn skills needed to become firefighters. Adkins saw this project as an excellent opportunity to grow their team building skills while assisting with Cave Run Lake fisheries.

With massive quantities of material to move several miles to the lake, hundreds of structures to build, and miles of shoreline to improve, the Cave Run Lake Fish Habitat Project was only possible through the support the Department and its partners received from groups like Adkins's.

In addition to the Fire Crew from the Job Corps, several local Department of Juvenile Justice Group Homes also donated some of their time to assist with this project. Working at Cave Run Lake exposed some of these young men and women to the beauty of the East Kentucky outdoors for the first time. They also learned about all the hard work



required to manage the high quality fisheries which anglers across Kentucky enjoy!

Tom Timmermann and **Chad Nickell** from the Northeastern Fishery District attended an awards banquet recently at the United States Forest Service Job Corps office and recognized one of the many groups that assisted with the Cave Run Lake Fish Habitat Project.

We are grateful for all the assistance we received on this project. A special thanks to all the Departmental folks that assisted, the

partnerships with the Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Friends of Cave Run Lake and Muskies Inc. Chapter 52, and the dozens of volunteers.

Your assistance with habitat projects such as these will help maintain and improve our fisheries in the years to come. We look forward to continuing to work with all these groups, but especially the hard working young men and women from the Job Corps and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

PLANNED OVERTIME

Please keep in mind that planned overtime opportunities for KDFWR employees are those specific overtime requirements, as part of the agency's general presence, to support trade shows and public/partner events such as State Fair, NASP tournaments, Boat and RV shows, and other outdoor-related exhibitor functions.

Employees wanting to work such events must access the sign-up form by visiting Personnel/KHRIS on KDFWR's intranet (fw.ky.gov/fwnet if outside HQ) to read the instructions and complete the form.



COMMISSIONER KEYNOTES NWTF STATE CHAPTER MEETING

Commissioner Gregory Johnson was the Keynote Speaker for the Kentucky State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting recently held in Elizabethtown. Mutual appreciation was extended by the Commissioner and by the NWTF executives for the teamwork in which all are involved. With the Commissioner at left are Joe Carpenter, Vice President of the Kentucky State Chapter NWTF and Scott Davies, President.



Joe Lacefield photos

Third annual KU/LAC Wounded Warriors Deer hunt is a huge success

Twenty hunters took 52 deer in the third annual Kentucky Utilities/Life Adventure Center Wounded Warrior Deer Hunt November 14-15 in Woodford County.

The hunters were selected to hunt various properties in Woodford County totaling over 3,000 acres. Biologists estimate the properties to be holding in excess of 100 deer per square mile.

A Friday police escort and parade through Versailles welcomed the hunters to Life Adventure Center (LAC) where they had lunch. Then they traveled to Anderson County Sportsmen's Club to zero rifles and get some hunter safety instruction. **Lt. Richard Adkins** commanded the range, his assistance was greatly appreciated.

They hunted Saturday and Sunday morning and took 52 deer. Many took their first buck! **Dave Frederick's** help at the check in weigh station at Kentucky Utilities (KU) Tyrone plant was a blessing as well.

More than 90 volunteers helped with food, meat processing and assisting

hunters in the field. The event was a huge success that could not have happened without our partners LAC and KU.

One hunter wrote in his accounting of the weekend that he rarely left his home in the past year after being medically retired after 13 years of active duty service. "When my wife and I were made aware of the opportunity for a deer hunting trip with other veterans at the Life Adventure Center we applied right away," he wrote.

"Over the last couple of years depression has played a big role in not only my life but my family's, and after finding out I had been selected for the hunting trip I realized I had something to look forward to other than more medical appointments, and I was more excited than I had been in a long time," he continued. "Since the hunt I have made a very serious effort to try and hunt more often.

"The 2014 wounded warrior hunt



sparked a fire inside that I haven't had in a long time and now I am doing my very best to keep that fire going. I cannot thank the LAC staff enough for the opportunity and I truly hope to see everyone in a future hunt!"

BGAD wounded warrior waterfowl hunt is a winner

Seven Wounded Warrior soldiers from Ft. Knox and Ft. Campbell took 28 ducks and a Canada goose during a two-day weekend event Jan. 9-10 at the Bluegrass Army Depot.

Part of the first day was spent in wing shooting practice on the trap range on the Miller Welch Central KY WMA sponsored by the Central KY Gun Club. The remaining part of that day was spent scouting the BGAD lakes and ponds.

The Madison County chapter of Ducks Unlimited provided an evening meal, and afterwards the soldiers were each given duck and goose calls by Zink. They also received a brief course on waterfowl calling and afterwards each soldier was asked to demonstrate their newly acquired skill. Surprisingly, none of the soldiers were asked by their Ducks Unlimited mentor hunters to bring their calls

to the hunt the next morning.

The temperature the morning of the hunt was 5 degrees, and nearly all of the lakes and ponds were frozen except for one location where an ice eater was placed.

Hundreds (some hunters said thousands) of ducks and geese were roosting on the ice when the DU members started punching holes in the ice. At daylight ducks began dropping into the hunt blind locations.

Two soldiers had their limit of ducks in short order and all hunters got the op-

portunity to kill ducks.

The hunt ended at noon. All seven hunters had a successful hunt, taking one Canada goose and 28 ducks, including nine different species of ducks.

Many thanks to all the sponsors and hunting mentors involved in this effort. The soldiers each said how much they appreciated all the activities of the weekend.



Locked antlers rescue

Wildlife biologist **Brian Gray** received a report from the Corps of Engineers about two bucks with locked antlers below the dike at Green River Lake.

He, **Chris Mason**, and **Tom Burberry** responded with necessary equipment to handle the situation.

The bucks had apparently been locked together a while and had been in a nearby mud hole.

By the time they arrived at the scene, Corps Rangers had managed to assist the deer to get onto dry land. One deer was al-



ready dead.

They sedated the living deer, removed the antlers, and stayed until the deer walked off. They collected a CWD sample from the dead deer.

There were members of the public watching from the dike, so after sedating the deer, they informed them about what they would be doing and that one deer was already dead. At least one individual stayed and watched until the buck walked away.



SALATO PREPPING FOR SPRING

Safety glasses, goggles and dust masks are in order these days even for some exhibits as Salato Wildlife Education Center staff ready to reopen for the 2015 season on March 3. With dusters, vacuums and cleaning solvents are Geoff Roberts, Rachel Paterson, Brent McCarty, Mindy Rose, Susan Harkins, Tiffany Ogansanya, and Geoff Webb.

Below, Tiffany and Brent dust the ventilation duct work and flying mounts.

