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Deputy Commissioner Kinman retires after nearly 38 years

After nearly 38 years with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Deputy Commissioner Benjy Kinman retired on February 28.

Kinman acknowledged last month in a farewell email to staff that he had originally planned to retire a year earlier, but was convinced to stay on another year. “Fish and Wildlife has literally been my family and some of my best friends are current and past employees,” he wrote.

After a year as a water quality specialist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Kinman came to KDFWR in 1976 as a young fisheries biologist. He had previously spent a year with the Eastern Kentucky University Police, and three years as a Kentucky State Police dispatcher.

He became a fisheries research biologist the following year, and his work with hybrid striped bass, musky and walleye across the next eight years became the foundation of these Kentucky fisheries successes.

But it is Cedar Creek Lake to which he will forever be inextricably linked. The 800-acre Lincoln County lake formed by the dam carrying U.S. Highway 150 remains the Department’s largest capital project ever. Kinman served as KDFWR’s point man and project leader from the lake’s



1989 concept through its 2003 completion.

The enormous project became a national Sport Fish Restoration Fund model and won the 2003 States Organization for Boating Access Outstanding Project Award. To this day, department staff and others close to the lake’s development still affectionately refer to it as “Lake Kinman.”

“It’s likely the last lake of its kind we will ever be able to build,” said Fisheries Assistant Director Ryan Oster.

In 1985, he was promoted to Fisheries

Program Coordinator, and sixteen years later, in 2001, to Fisheries Division Director. He became the department’s Deputy Commissioner in 2008.

His impact extended beyond Kentucky and throughout the southeast. He served as Chairperson for the Reservoir Committee in the Southern Division of American Fisheries Society. He was also treasurer and local arrangements chair for

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its national reservoir symposium.

Kinman initiated Kentucky's first statewide angler attitude survey, introduced fish genetics work in the department, modernized Kentucky's creel survey program by using computer technology, started many of the division's long-term databases such as fish stocking, fish population data archival and library material, and began Kentucky's Aquatic Education project. He developed the Kentucky Fish booklet and Kentucky's Fish and Boating Access booklet.

He helped design two of the nation's best trophy fisheries by developing trophy fish regulations for striped bass in Lake Cumberland and brown and rainbow trout



in the Cumberland River tailwaters.

“Benjy left a lasting mark in this agency because first and foremost he is an angler,” said Oster. “Everything he did was to improve the fishing experience for anglers. He worked in here all day, and then at the end of the day, he wanted to go

fishing... well, and turkey hunting too.”

Through the years, Kinman wrote numerous articles for Kentucky Afield magazine and pushed for the popular Kentucky Afield Calendar issue. He established Kentucky's Trophy Fish Program and initiated the development of fish attractor maps for several U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes.

But Benjy accepts little or no credit.

“It's been a good ‘gig’ for me,” he wrote. “I am very proud of the many accomplishments during my tenure which are directly related to our very competent and dedicated staff. No one can take sole credit for any accomplishment; it takes a great team to make great accomplishments... How many state workers can say their passion is their profession?”

New Hires

John Zimmer has joined the Wildlife Division as the Game Management Foreman overseeing Big Rivers WMA.

John attended Greenville College, where he obtained a B.S. in Environmental Management. He worked three summers in North Dakota for Delta Waterfowl as a research technician for a predator management research project. Upon graduation from Greenville College, John moved to Benton, Kentucky, to work for Quail Unlimited (QU) as a Habitat Team Leader.

During the four years John was with QU, he implemented thousands of acres of controlled burns, warm-season grass plantings, and other upland management projects in the Livingston County Quail Focus Area. He also worked for KDFWR as a seasonal technician where he assisted private lands biologists with various management practices. He loves to hunt, fish, and spend time with friends on Kentucky Lake.

The Fisheries Division would like to welcome **Stephanie Petriello** to the

THANK YOU – Engineering and Maintenance crews

KUDOS to all of you who got up early and braved the inclement weather to get our parking lots, roads, and sidewalks cleared during all the bad weather this winter. You did an excellent job and made it much easier for staff to get to our work stations. Our area was much cleaner than the main roads. Please know that all of you are greatly appreciated!

Department as the new Environmental Biologist Specialist in the Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program.

Stephanie is originally from Pittsburgh, PA where she grew up loving the outdoors and playing sports for Fox Chapel Area High School. She obtained a B.S. degree from Muhlenberg College where she majored in Biology and Environmental Science. Stephanie went on to earn a M.S. Degree in Environmental Management from Duke University. Her thesis work focused on developing a Geographic Information System model to identify and rank conservation lands. Her educational

background also includes ecosystem science and environmental management.

Stephanie's previous experience includes working for the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. During her time with the Conservancy she created a master conservation plan for seven counties in eastern North Carolina.

She has experience in identifying and assessing conservation lands, discussing conservation needs with landowners, and environmental management. Stephanie's educational background and experience will be a valuable asset to the Department's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

Stephanie currently resides in Lexington, Kentucky. She enjoys hiking, being outdoors, and playing in a soccer league in Lexington. She is especially interested in the conservation of aquatic ecosystems. She is very happy and excited about the opportunity to work for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Her first day on the job was March 3rd. Please welcome Stephanie to her new role with KDFWR.



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

New conservation officers (top left) were recognized for outstanding achievement in the recent Fish and Wildlife academy. Robert Lile earned valedictorian honors, Evan Ethington won Firearms Proficiency and Michael Hudson received the Physical Training/Defensive Tactics award. James Beckett (top right) was presented the Hunter Education Officer of the Year award by Commission Member Jimmy Bevins and Information & Education Director Tim Slone. At right, Derby City Fly Fishers members accepted a Wildlife Steward Award from Area Manager Charlie Logsdon. Logsdon, himself was later recognized by Wildlife Division Director Karen Waldrop and Commission Chairman Stuart Ray. And, below, Rachel Shipley was made a Wildlife Steward for her contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



FILO program completes two new land acquisition projects

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program (FILO) recently completed two new land acquisition projects.

One is located in Rowan and Elliot counties. It is an extension of the existing Ed Mabry-Laurel Gorge WMA. Bordering the existing WMA, the new Greene and Johnson tracts will add an additional 360 acres of accessible public use property.

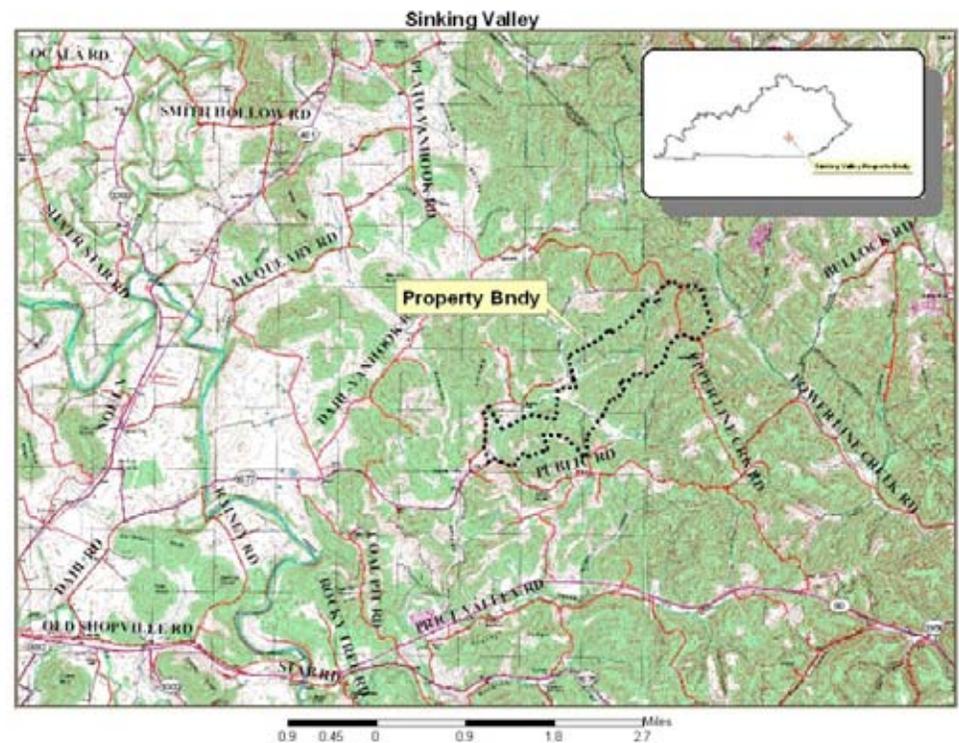
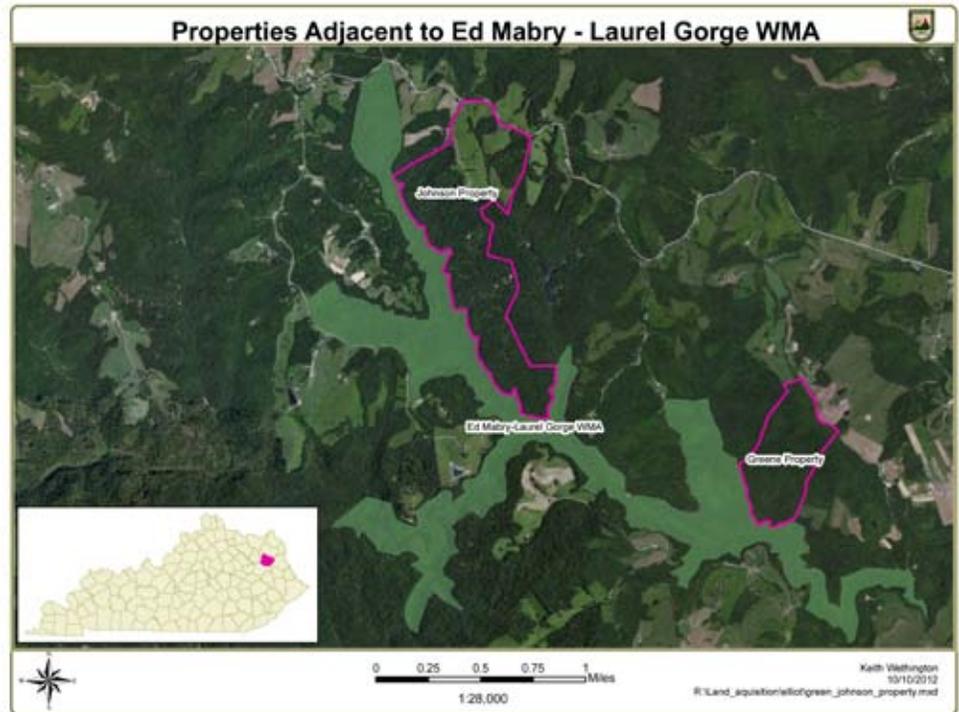
These new properties include several streams, all of which are located in the headwaters to the existing WMA and will further protect the existing preservation project. Accompanying the preservation will be the restoration of approximately 13,000 linear feet of stream channel ranging from the enhancement of the existing channel, as well as a complete rebuilding of other channel areas.

The other property is the Sinking Valley property located in Pulaski County. The Sinking Valley property, purchased from Brook Ping, will add to the Buck Creek WMA area and is located approximately 4 ½ miles northeast along the Pulaski/Rockcastle county line.

Combined with the existing Buck Creek WMA, the two properties create a total of 1,663 acres of public use land. This property is 804 acres and will permanently preserve over 74,000 linear feet of stream channel.

While the majority of these stream channels are ephemeral and only flow during rain events, all of them drain into sink holes and caves located throughout the property.

The unique cave system of this property is part of a natural "piping" system which encompasses approximately 32



square miles of underground rivers. One of the primary outlets to this system is Short Creek. This channel, so named due to its short length, empties into Buck Creek only after passing through large

submerged caves.

Another unique aspect of this system is the number of Globally Imperiled spe-

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Short Creek flowing a short distance out of one cave and into another. *Photos courtesy of FILO program.*

“FILO,” continued

cies of aquatic organisms, some of which are only found in two locations in the world, Mammoth Cave National Park and the Sinking Valley system.

With some of these projects, FILO funds have been used for the non-federal match requirement to secure US Fish & Wildlife Service grants to acquire additional hunting and conservation lands. Leveraging FILO projects in this way enables the Department to offer additional public hunting areas without using hunting or fishing license dollars. To date, the additional federal grant funds have contributed an additional 1,497 acres using FILO as the non-federal contribution

for these areas.

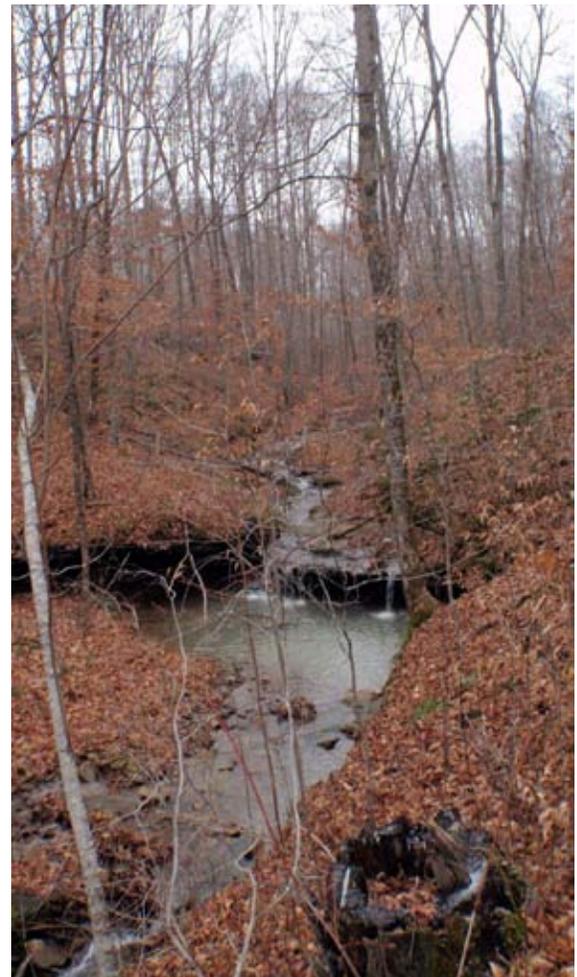
In total, the FILO program has been responsible for acquiring 4,728 acres of land on behalf of the Agency. These acquisition lands will have stream and wetland habitat restored, protected, and managed over the long term with FILO funding. The properties have been or will be soon open to the public for regulated hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-related activities.

Other properties acquired with FILO funds include the popular Veteran’s Memorial WMA in Scott County and acreage recently added to the Clay WMA along Licking River in Nicholas County.

For more information on the Greene and Johnson tract acquisitions, please contact Rob Lewis at (502) 564-5277. For more information on the Sinking Valley acquisition project, contact Andy Mowrey at (502) 564-5262.



Above: Massive sink hole located on the recently acquired FILO project at Sinking Valley. Right: Image of Sinking Valley Stream, Pulaski County.



The northern-most side of Patterson Island #5, looking south (upriver at Kentucky Lake). Notice the cypress trees that were planted by Fisheries Division staff in the late 1990's as a first attempt to help stabilize the islands. *Paul Rister photos*



Efforts to save Kentucky Lake Patterson Islands near end

In 1996, Bill McLemore, former Western District Fishery Biologist, became concerned with how fast a chain of eight main lake islands on Kentucky Lake began to erode away. The northern-most of this series of islands was near the mouth of Blood River. These islands stretched roughly five river miles to the south, near the mouth of Patterson Bay.

These islands seemed important enough to try and save because of their benefit to the lake ecosystem. The islands acted as an effective breakwater, protecting a shallow-water area behind them from wave and boating action generated on the eastern, main lake side.

In this shallow water area, inundated creek channels, natural variations in topography, and submerged tree stumps provided a unique and desirable diversity of habitat for a variety of fish species including popular sport fishes such as

largemouth bass, white and black crappie, bluegill redear sunfish, and catfish (blue, channel, and flathead).

The shallow water area also provided suitable habitat for migratory waterfowl during the winter months. The islands themselves also provide habitat to other terrestrial animals and migratory shore birds.

In 1997, after a year of planning, funding through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), made it possible to begin placing rip rap along the eastern shoreline of what later became known as Patterson Island No. 4.

After 18 years, and approximately

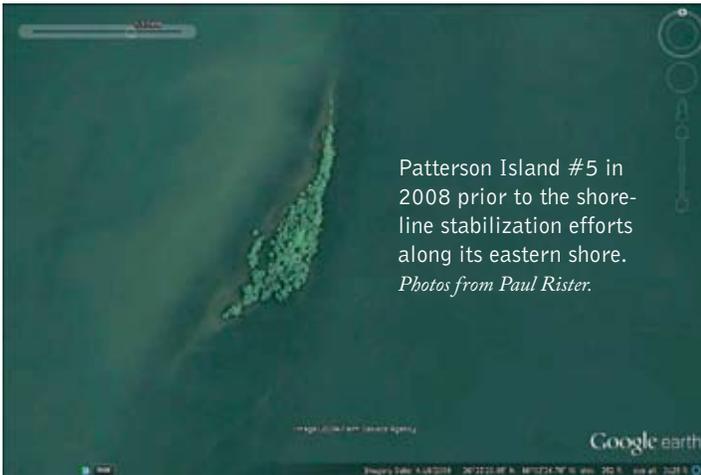


Close-up showing sedimentation behind the rip rap at Patterson Island #5.

17,500 tons of rock, three islands in this chain have been fully protected. Rock has been placed along the eastern (river channel side) shoreline of Islands No. 2, No. 4, and No. 5, protecting approximately 5,842 linear feet of shoreline from further erosion with rip rap.

All rock was placed just off the shoreline and runs parallel to each of the

[See "Islands," page 7](#)



Patterson Island #5 in 2008 prior to the shoreline stabilization efforts along its eastern shore.
Photos from Paul Rister.



This same island is shown in 2013 with the rip rap showing along its eastern banks (notice how much of the island remains today as a result of these bank stabilization efforts).

“Islands,” continued

islands. Some sediment is actually being deposited behind the rock during periods of high water, in essence rebuilding certain areas of the once eroding shoreline.

Over the years, the KDFWR has contributed the bulk of funding towards this project, though funds have also been

received from TVA and the Fish American Foundation. Recently, mitigation monies received from the Kentucky Department of Transportation (DOT) made it possible to fill in a few gaps at Island No. 2 that were leftover from previous years work.

The DOT money also made it possible to armor the entire shoreline of Island No. 5. This money was allocated

to the Patterson Island Project as part of the required mitigation for the ongoing construction of the new Highway 68/80 bridge across Kentucky Lake.

During the 18 years that have passed, the remaining five islands have significantly eroded, or been reduced to the point that it is deemed not worth the cost to save them. So this brings to an end to the effort of McLemore’s vision to save the islands.

Fisheries staff still plan to implement cypress tree plantings on several of these islands in select areas where such plantings have the greatest likelihood for success.

Like many projects funded by the KDFWR, the Fisheries Division acknowledges the efforts of staff with the Western Fisheries District, Environmental Section, Engineering Division, and Former Fisheries Division Director Benjy Kinman for all their assistance with various aspects in completing this work.

For more information on the Patterson Islands project, contact Paul Rister at (270) 753-3886.



**Can't they read?
Sign clearly says "Goose Pond"**

Several hundred mallards on Ballard WMA just didn't get the message. *Tony Black photo*

License price increases: Renewed investments in fish and wildlife conservation

The Department recently put in place changes to its license and permit offerings.

Most price changes impacted non-resident licenses and permits. To help as many Kentuckians as possible enjoy the outdoors, the Department held its prices steady for standard resident fishing, hunting, combination, and sportsman's licenses.

However, after over two years of painstaking research, extensive customer feedback through public meetings and license customer surveys, staff and Commission deliberations, public comment and legislative review, the Department made some fee structure and pricing changes for the 2014-15 license year.

Why now? Because the Department depends on user fees for its funding. Revenues must cover operational costs or programs must be cut. Price increases are formulated to help ensure adequate funding for about five years, but through frugal management, the Department stretched that to seven. Fees were last updated in 2007.

Due to inflation, unexpected increases in fuel and other costs, and decreased participation, the Department had to make across the board cuts in operational expenses in recent years. Without fee increases at this time, the Department faced an immediate \$2 million annual revenue shortfall, which would have required deeper cuts and more substantial impacts to public services.

We trust that 2014 license buyers will see the tremendous value in their fishing and hunting license purchases – not only for the outstanding recreational opportunities we have today but also for the conservation of our fish and wildlife resources for tomorrow.



SELECTED LICENSE & PERMIT CHANGES

Resident	Old Price	New Price
Resident 3-Year Fishing License	--	\$55
Youth Sportsman's License	\$25 (1 deer, 1 turkey permit)	\$30 (2 deer, 2 turkey permits)
Resident & Non-Resident	Old Price	New Price
Migratory Bird & Waterfowl Permit	\$10 & \$15 (separate)	\$15 (combined)
Non-Resident (NR)	Old Price	New Price
NR Hunting License	\$130	\$140
NR Youth Hunting License	\$5	\$10
NR 1-Day Hunting License	\$10	\$15
NR 7-Day Hunting License	\$40 (5-Day)	\$55 (7-Day)
NR Deer Permit	\$60	\$120
NR Youth Deer Permit	\$10	\$15
NR Spring Turkey Permit	\$60	\$75
NR Fall Turkey Permit	\$60	\$75
NR Youth Turkey Permit	\$10	\$15



Above: Classroom portion of the Level One WIT. Right: The training culminated with a field mock decontamination of a watercraft and trailer.
Ryan Oster photos

Fisheries staff receives aquatic nuisance species training

Fisheries Division staff regularly take part in several continuing education classes throughout the course of a season, with the most recent training focused around aquatic nuisance species.

On February 27, 35 members of the Fisheries Division completed the Level One Watercraft Inspection Training (WIT) at Salato Wildlife Education Center.

This Level One WIT Training is directed at state, federal, and local natural resources and boating agency personnel, water users of all types, lawmakers, policy makers, and border/lake inspection personnel, marina operators, and commercial boat transport operators across the U.S.

The program provides for a thorough overview of aquatic nuisance species and the problems they cause, and includes information on outreach and education programs, basic mussel biology, distribution, transport vectors, and mussel impacts. The training also included a field exercise involving the decontamination of several different types of watercraft and their trailers.

While the course focused heavily on zebra and quagga mussel identification, biology, and impacts, the principles easily relate to any number of invasive species. The training provided Fisheries Division

staff with a unique experience about policy and regulation that is being implemented in the western U.S. in an effort to prevent these mussel species, and other invasive species, from successfully taking hold.

More information about Watercraft Inspection Training can be found at <http://www.aquaticnuisance.org/wit>. Funding for this training was provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services and the Pacific

States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The instructor, Bill Zook, is a retired Fisheries Program Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, who has served as a contract consultant for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the past seven years. Bill is credited with establishing Washington's Aquatic Nuisance Species Program in the mid-1990's.

PERILS OF DISCARDED FISHING LINE



When a Taylorsville Lake Wildlife Management Area visitor told WMA foreman Bill Mitchell that "a bird needed rescuing," he responded and found this great blue heron entangled in fishing line with a snagging treble hook knotted to a tree branch. Mitchell said he taped his pocket knife to the end of a broom handle, cut off about two inches of wing feathers caught in the line, and released the "alive and somewhat unhappy" bird.

Bill Mitchell photo



BATS AT CARTER CAVES

Kentucky Afield host Tim Farmer spoke with Carter Caves State Park naturalist Coy Ainsley (right) and KDFWR bat biologist Brooke Hines and technician Larisa Bishop-Boros while shooting a Kentucky Afield Television segment about bats and white-nose syndrome in Laurel Cave. Below is a cluster of bats in the cave. *Nathan Sangster photos.* The photo at bottom right by Larisa Bishop-Boros is of a tri-colored bat with visible mycelial growth of the white-nose syndrome fungus.



Jenkins Scholarship now being processed

Applications for the Donan and “Jo” Jenkins Scholarship Fund are now being processed. Applicants must attend a college or university as a full time student and preference will be given to applicants entering their freshman year of college.

Applicants must be a dependent child of a current, full-time or retired non-law enforcement employee with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Law Enforcement personnel are covered by the scholarship administered by the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association.

Applications for fall semester must be received before May 1. There will be a total of three \$1,000 dollar scholarships awarded.

Jenkins, a retired law enforcement captain for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, saved for years to build his nest egg. Jenkins, now 79, donated \$400,000 toward college scholarships.

Jenkins worked 39 years for the department before his retirement in 1997. He and his wife, Georgia “Jo” Jenkins, never had any children themselves. Since government work isn’t the highest paid job around, Jenkins amassed his fortune by cultivating 12 acres of ginseng on a western Kentucky farm when prices for the plant root were going for \$126 a pound.

He traded ginseng for 37 years before the prices fell.

Jenkins earned enough money selling cultivated ginseng to establish college scholarships for the children of members of the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association, the children of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees and seniors at Crittenden and Union County high schools.

The annual scholarships are perpetually funded and managed by high schools in Crittenden and Union County, members of the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees.

For further information please contact Zac Campbell at zachary.campbell@ky.gov

Ballard County Youth Hunt - PoPo Style

By Sgt. Tony Dunker

The annual statewide youth hunt for the western zone kicked off with a bang at the PoPo Hole February 1, 2014.

This is the farm that Ronnie Giles, John Saylor and I own and have been taking youth hunting for the past 10 years.

Eight youth hunters attended the youth hunt with either a parent or conservation officer as a mentor.

Conservation officers participating included **Lt. Chad Parker, Sgt. Garry Clark, Officer Tim Humble**, and myself. Other adults were Ronnie Giles, Kevin Estes (Ballard Middle School Principal), Rebecca Tatum, Scott Wildharber, Tyler Wildharber, Alex Harper, and Ed Dulworth.

The expert shooters (youth) of the event were Parker Estes (11), Lindsey Tatum (13), Carson Parker (8, Lt. Parker's son), Damyen Goodrich (12), Lake Wildharber (14), Addison Wilharber (15), Evan Dulworth (15), Alex Cooper (13, and retired Capt. Gerald Alexander's grandson). We all had to keep an eye on Alex just because of his family tree!



The day was overcast and around 50 degrees with a 10-20 mph south wind. Since the regular duck season had ended nearly a week earlier, the ducks really started roosting at the hole that was still ice covered other than where the ice eaters had the water open.

We waited at the cabin to just after legal shooting hours because one of the kids was running a little late. We got all the

kids in the blind, plugged up the water motion decoys, and guns loaded. Canon, my yellow lab was excited in his box at the blind next to me.

We didn't have to wait long and the good times began. The kids had killed 18 by about 10:30 and all of them had worked up an appetite.

Sgt. Clark went to the cabin and got the grill going. We all went up in a bit and had lunch – 32 hot dogs, five bags of chips, 36 soft drinks. The afternoon hunt commenced and the ducks were

still cooperating. The kids finished out the day at about 2:30 that afternoon with their 48th duck of the day.

We all had a great time and it is one of my personal favorite hunts of the year. Thanks to all who helped and to the parents who let their kids come and enjoy the day. I would also like to thank Paducah Shooters Supply who provided goodie bags for all the kids.



HUNTING WELLS

Taylorville Lake Wildlife Management Area foreman Bill Mitchell says it's like "huntin' Easter Eggs." The TLWMA crew have turned up and covered five old wells, remnants of dwellings decades ago, in the WMA's Briar Ridge area in the last two weeks. *Bill Mitchell photos*

Trout Fest at Fort Knox Water Park is success

The Anderson Aquatics Center on the Ft. Knox U.S. Army Post and KDFWR recently co-sponsored the fourth annual Trout Fest at the Ft. Knox Water Park on Saturday, March 8.

Busy military families often don't have the time to enjoy the same recreational opportunities that civilian families take for granted. Deployment of one or both parents and frequent moves are among the reasons children living a military lifestyle might not get the opportunity to learn to fish, and the annual Trout Fest helps make that introduction.

A KDFWR program allows organizers of fishing events to purchase fish for supplemental stocking and then be reimbursed 75 percent of the cost by the Aquatic Education Program. Three hundred pounds of 10 to 13-inch rainbow trout were placed in an outdoor swimming pool partially filled by rainwater during the winter months and aerated with a pump.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., youth fished for trout. Registered participants were allowed keep up to three fish, but it was catch-and-release for those not pre-regis-



tered. Volunteers cleaned and bagged the fish with ice, or taught anyone who wished to learn how to clean their catch.

There are some benefits to this unique approach for novice anglers. Young participants can clearly see the fish and their bait, and gain an understanding of how trout behave and how to anticipate the bite. After about two hours the fish too had received an education and stopped feeding, but tinsel jigs proved productive for these hatchery raised trout throughout the event.

Adults could fish with their children in the afternoon and keep any fish they

caught. Trout not caught during the event were seined out of the pool and placed into Otter Creek on Ft. Knox above the new KDFWR Otter Creek Recreational Area.

The pool was drained, cleaned, scoured visually and with a magnetic rake for hooks. While the event was held on a military reservation, it was free and open to the public.

Conditions of participating in this cost share arrangement include:

- The event must be free and open to the public.
- The site where the fish are stocked must be available to the public after

the event, such as a city or county park.

- Organizers are expected to recognize KDFWR as a sponsor/co-sponsor of their event.
- Event organizers must purchase the fish from a vendor licensed to raise, sell and transport fish in the state of Kentucky.
- Event organizers must provide the 25 percent match to the federal Sportfish Restoration Fund money used to provide reimbursement.
- The 75 percent KDFWR reimbursement will not exceed \$1000, regardless of how many fish are purchased.



SCOUTS LEARN ABOUT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Thirty-six Boy Scouts completed requirements for Fish & Wildlife Management merit badge recently at the annual Merit Badge University held at the Bullitt County Schools. Brian Clark (Public Affairs) taught the class, which covered important concepts and issues in modern fisheries and wildlife management. It also included hands-on activities such as examining stomach contents of fishes and doing a habitat improvement project—establishing a bluebird box trail, in this case. Thanks to Jim Barnard (Wildlife), JoAnn Mattox (Engineering), and Jason McDowell (Fisheries) for their help with materials necessary for the class!