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## General Assembly honors Kentucky Afield TV crew

**K**entucky Afield television host **Tim Farmer** and video producer **Nathan Sangster** left the show's studio on a Friday morning to film an upcoming segment about sauger and muskellunge fishing on the Kentucky River in downtown Frankfort.

It was business as usual less than 24 hours after Kentucky legislators adopted resolutions honoring the longest continuously-running outdoor TV show in the United States and a winner of seven regional Emmy awards. Audiences have enjoyed the show for 61 years.

Joining Farmer and Sangster at the state capitol were Information and Education Division Director **Tim Slone**, "Kentucky Afield" Executive Producer **Scott Moore**, Video Producer **Nathan Brooks** and "Kentucky Afield" Producer and Radio Host **Charlie Baglan**. Commission Chairman **Stuart Ray** and Division Assistant Director **Norm Minch** were there as well.

"People in this Commonwealth can tune in to each episode to see outstanding chronicles of some of the greatest accomplishments in wildlife and fisheries restoration," read the state Senate and House resolutions. "Kentucky Afield' also teaches viewers about their Kentucky heritage, and rightfully celebrates the history of this Commonwealth and its people in unique, entertaining ways."



The television show was born from the "Kentucky Afield" radio show and was first broadcast on WAVE television in Louisville in 1953. The program has appeared statewide on Kentucky Educational Television weekly since 1985.

Farmer is one of six hosts in the show's storied history. Preceding him were Ron Rhody, Hope Carleton, Jeremy Drier, Tim Michaels and Dave Shuffet.

"In my mind, the secret to 'Kentucky Afield' is Tim Farmer," Moore said. "I see what Tim can do, what he does and the way people react to him as a sportsman.

Tim portrays the love of what he's doing, and that's very important to Kentuckians."

He continued: "It's one thing just to be out there doing it because it's a job, but when they see this guy believes it, he understands it and he loves it, that's the key. We're very fortunate to have Tim as our host."

Farmer has become the face of "Kentucky Afield" and an inspiration to sportsmen and sportswomen during his 19 years as the show's host.

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## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

The following letter came to **John Coffey** at Camp Earl Wallace. Mrs. Dawn Brumfield wrote, "Dear Mr. Coffey, it was great seeing you yesterday at Clark Moores Middle School. The kids are always happy when you come. I really wanted to send you a message on what an impact you have made on my own son, Brad Brumfield.

Brad is currently a freshman at Madison Southern High School. He attended Camp Earl Wallace during the summer after 5th and 6th grade. He was truly devastated when he learned he was too old to attend again. He still talks about how he wishes there was a senior high camp that he could participate with.

He came home last week and told me he saw you at his school and spoke with you. He told me that you said when he is 18, he can work at Camp Earl Wallace in the summer. I can't begin to tell you how excited he was to hear this. He keeps talking about it and telling the rest of our family. He is starting lifeguarding classes next Monday and said he will need this skill in order to work at the camp.

The summer that he attended Camp Earl Wallace for the first time was the same time he joined our local 4H chapter and has participated in shooting sports ever since. He is currently serving as a Youth Shooting Sport Ambassador with the local 4H chapter.

Brad is an avid duck, deer, coyote, and rabbit hunter. He has recently joined the bass fishing team at Madison Southern. His future career plans are that he wants to be a firefighter like so many men in our family and one of the reasons is the days off from the fire station will give him time to hunt. His love for the outdoors dictates everything he does.

Camp Earl Wallace was instrumental in the years when he was developing independence and it fostered his love for all

things nature. As a mom, it thrills me that he was surrounded by men of character and I know when he is 18, he will spend summers working with those same men and may have a chance to be a role model for young boys just as others were for him.

Please feel free to share this note with any others who have worked tirelessly (I am sure), to make Camp Earl Wallace such an amazing part of young kids lives. The work you are doing matters and I pray that it continues well into the future."

Mr. Danny McSorley with Starboard Marine, LLC, in Harrodsburg sent this email complimenting **Brenda Hill**. "Brenda rocks for Kentucky. This lady is one of the nicest people. She showed great patience with me, and answered all my questions no matter how insignificant they were. She needs a very large pat on the back for the job she does for the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Thanks Brenda!!!" Way to go, Brenda!

Letter from Mr. John Davis of Louisville: He wrote, "I would like to express my appreciation for the help department staff recently gave me.

I have owned a farm near Union Star in Breckinridge County for over twenty years. For the past ten years it has been in the native grass conservation program. I recently met with representatives from Fish and Wildlife and they set up a plan to burn off 25 acres of native grass so it could be put into a program that would be more beneficial to local wildlife.

On March 20, a team including **Scott Harp, Jared Handley, Kevin Raymond, John Goodin**, and from Yellowbank WMA, **Ryan Taylor** and **Larry Severs** met me at my farm. The burn was quickly and efficiently completed, and the help received was deeply appreciated.

I have worked with several of these

people in the past on other projects and found them to be an asset to the Fish and Wildlife Department.

I just wanted to express my appreciation to the Department and the help they have given me over the years."

The following note came from Joan House, Preservationist with the Perryville Battlefield. She wrote, "I would like to thank the great folks at Fish and Wildlife for helping complete our Barn Owl project.

**Kate Heyden** worked very hard to coordinate this effort and involve the folks at East KY Power. She was great!

**Jim Barnard** worked hard the day we set the owl boxes! He was a real pleasure to work with."



## CRAPPIE ARE BITING

Fishing reports across Kentucky indicate crappie biting in the shallows. Former commission member and current Commission Member Emeritus Dr. Jim Rich spent an afternoon on Taylorsville Lake this week and landed this beauty.



## Wildlife biologist Steve Bonney retires after more than 27 years

**S**teve Bonney, Regional Coordinator for the Wildlife Division's Northeast Region, retired after a 27-plus-year career with the agency effective April 1.

Steve began his career with the Department as a seasonal wildlife aid in 1984. He came on board full time in 1987 as a district biologist and then became the regional coordinator in 1998.

Steve was a great asset to the agency and the employees and sportsmen and women of the Northeast region and the state. As well as being an excellent biologist and supervisor Steve always went above the call of duty for the resource and the agency.

Steve's knowledge of black bear was invaluable in the early years of black bear education in the state and his experience proved invaluable as the bear populations grew to those we enjoy today.

He is an excellent herpetologist and readily shared that expertise with others through numerous herpetology weekends.

Steve was heavily involved in environmental education and shared that passion with school groups, partner agencies, as well as through agency events through-

out his career. Steve has initiated the bulk of the agency's forest management efforts and his vision will be a catalyst to carry the agency's future efforts.

Steve was involved in countless projects with the department over the course of his career, and his knowledge and ex-

pertise will be sorely missed. He is a great biologist, great leader, and most of all a great friend.

Steve will be enjoying his retirement with his wife and daughter and plans to spend all his free time enjoying the hobbies that work got in the way of.



## Charles Booker named KDFWR Administrative Services Director

**N**ew Administrative Services Division Director **Charles Booker** comes to the Department after years of experience in federal, state, and local government.

Charles' passion for serving the needs of Kentucky families led him to attend the University of Louisville for undergraduate studies and law school.

While in school, Charles remained involved in his community, inspiring him to focus his career toward government relations, management, and community development.

Charles has worked in customer service and legal affairs. He managed operations, policy, and personnel as a

legislative aide for the Louisville Metro Council, and supervised staff in city, state, and county-wide elections. He most recently served as the legislative analyst for the Kentucky state legislature's Government Contract Review Committee.

Charles is a published writer, public speaker, effective manager, and policy strategist. His passions are geared around strengthening Kentucky's economy and ensuring our youth have every tool and resource they need to



succeed and flourish.

Outside of working on behalf of the Commonwealth, Charles is the loving husband to his wife, Tanesha, and the proud father to his beautiful daughter, Kaylin.

Charles and his family live in Louisville's

Shawnee neighborhood, where they love to hike in the park, play sports, and enjoy the river.

## Kitchen graduates DOCJT Academy of Police Supervision

**C**onservation Officer Sergeant **Glenn Kitchen** was among law enforcement officers from 18 agencies across the Commonwealth recognized at a graduation ceremony Friday, April 4, for completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

Kitchen, an Eighth District officer assigned to Carter County, joined the Department in October 1997. He was promoted to Sergeant last July.

APS, also called the sergeant's academy, is a three-week, 120-hour training program targeted for newly promoted sergeants or officers who are on their agency's promotion list to become sergeants.

While in APS, students participate in classes focusing on the role of a supervisor, as well as leadership, resolving conflict, managing diversity, monitoring officer performance, professional image, legal issues for supervisors, ethics, interpersonal communication, effective written communication, making decisions, solving prob-



lems, managing critical incidents, public speaking, emotional survival, budgeting, media relations and others.

The graduating class is the 54th to

complete APS since the program began in 2003.

Elizabethtown Police Maj. Troy Dye served as guest speaker.

Louisville Metro Police Sgt. Trey McKnight served as class speaker.

APS is a stepping stone to DOCJT's Kentucky Leadership Institute, which consists of a series of three progressive leadership courses aimed at developing and shaping future and current leaders in law enforcement agencies across the commonwealth.

The Department of Criminal Justice 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 accredited public safety-training program in the nation. In 2006, the academy also became the first law enforcement-training academy in the nation to be designated as a CALEA flagship agency.

## Ducks Unlimited selects Ryan Taylor as Jim Moynahan Award recipient

**R**yan Taylor, manager of Yellowbank WMA, was recently named the recipient of Kentucky Ducks Unlimited's Jim Moynahan Memorial Conservation Service Award.

The Jim Moynahan award is presented to that biologist who has significantly contributed efforts to the state's waterfowl management efforts that exemplify the mission of Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

The award was named after Jim Moynahan, who was the second wildlife biologist



Left to right are Neil Riggs, Barry Welty, Ryan Taylor, Mark Flashpohler, Rocky Pritchert and Karen Waldrop.

employed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and managed Ballard WMA. Jim was recognized for developing Ballard into one of the premier

Canada goose wintering areas in the Mississippi Flyway. He was a lifelong con-

**See "Taylor," page 6**



### "TV," continued

A motorcycle accident in 1984 left him without the use of his right arm, but he refused to let it stop his outdoors pursuits. Farmer learned to shoot a bow with his teeth, tie fishing knots with his mouth, and shoot a shotgun cross-shouldered.

"We are here for a reason: we love the outdoors," Farmer said. "It's our job to show people what they can do with our

resource. That's our job. Everybody who works for 'Kentucky Afield' takes that seriously. These guys are dedicated."

"Kentucky Afield" airs at 8:30 p.m. Saturdays and 4:30 p.m. Sundays on KET. Segments are viewable online at [youtube.com/kyafield](http://youtube.com/kyafield). The show's YouTube channel has generated more than 20 million views since 2007 while its Facebook page has registered more than 8,500 likes.

"It's great that we can win awards

and be recognized," Moore said. "But at the end of the day, if you don't have people that watch what you produce and enjoy the things you talk about, what do you really have? We're in our 61st year. That means Kentuckians have embraced the idea of the enjoyment of hunting and fishing. None of this exists without the support of our sportsmen and sportswomen. They have to believe in what we do to support what we do."



## Spencer, Coffey recognized for 2014 Kentucky Employee Suggestion System Awards

The 2014 KESS award recipients were recognized March 11 at the Governor's Mansion. Fifty-one employees' ideas were approved for implementation, and combined, are expected to save the Commonwealth more than \$335,000 in the first year alone.

**Robert (Bo) Spencer** and **John Coffey**, both of the Information and Education Division, were among those awarded and recognized.

Spencer, of the Department's Information Center, suggested reducing the cost of mailing booklets by not placing them into envelopes but instead to simply mail them without the envelopes like most other catalogs that are delivered. His suggestion improved their office methods,



John Coffey, left, and Bo Spencer.

improved efficiency and created a first-year savings of \$4,600. He was awarded \$460.

John Coffey, Camp Director at Camp Wallace, submitted two suggestions. His

first idea was to change the way the summer camp bus transportation was contracted. He suggested the Commonwealth enter into agreements with local school districts instead of the more costly bus companies. John's suggestion will have a first-year savings of \$17,905.57. He was awarded \$1,791.

Coffey's second suggestion provided information to the parents of KDFWR camp

participants via email and the website. This helped in promoting camp activities as well as tourist opportunities. John's award for this suggestion was \$100.

### “Taylor,” continued

ervationist dedicated to the resource and sportsmen of Kentucky.

The Jim Moynahan Award was presented to Ryan at the 2014 Kentucky Ducks Unlimited State Convention in Lexington March 28-30.

Ryan was recognized by KY DU for his contributions to the Commonwealth's waterfowl resources as manager of Yellowbank WMA. Over the past few years as Yellowbank's manager, Ryan has established 63 acres of new wetland habitat, enhanced another 104 acres of existing wetland habitat and installed a water production well capable of flooding 13 wetland units which provide more than 70 acres of actively managed flooded habitat.

These wetlands provided more than

50,000 duck use days during the 2013-14 wintering period. Other waterfowl management efforts on the area include installing 65 wood duck boxes, constructing a 30' x 50' swim-in trap to conduct post season black duck banding as part of the Black Duck Joint Venture monitoring effort, and participating in weekly winter waterfowl surveys.

In addition to his waterfowl management efforts, Ryan has actively worked to increase the public's knowledge of KDFWR waterfowl and wetland management efforts. He coordinated with DU to host an event that provided an opportunity for 65 individuals to assist staff with waterfowl capture and banding. He annually coordinates and administers weekend youth hunts and provides waterfowl/wetland management presentations to local

DU chapters, area schools, and even the local Quail Forever chapter. He also served for three years as the Breckinridge County DU Chapter Chairman.

Ryan is the perfect example of what the Moynahan Award is designed to recognize: “a distinct and notable focus on waterfowl and wetland habitat improvement/creation, waterfowl management and education.”

What stands out is that all these contributions to DU's mission have been accomplished in his short five-year tenure at Yellowbank WMA.

Ryan has a strong personal interest in waterfowl management, and has parlayed this interest into the development of a new habitat resource for waterfowl and waterfowl hunting opportunity for sportsmen in an area where it has been historically low.



## Griffith Woods WMA blue ash and oak savannahs offer rare glimpse into our past

**G**riffith Woods Wildlife Management Area was acquired in 2012 by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and has had a lot going on ever since.

The 746-acre WMA is adjacent to US 62 between Georgetown and Cynthiana. The property, like many other WMAs, has its own set of obstacles to tackle, but offers a rare glimpse into what this portion of the Bluegrass Region may have looked like at the time of early European settlement.

Dominated mostly by open land habitat the property presents one of the few remaining blue ash/oak savannahs left in the state, which is part of the reason The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and University of Kentucky (UK) worked to acquire the land several years ago.

Thanks to the previous efforts of these stewards, transplanted river cane is continuing to grow and form thickets. Native warm season grasses and forbs are found throughout. A nursery of native trees such as dogwood and blue ash is on site. Trees are ready and available for transplanting. Valuable GIS data has been collected and maps much of the vegetation and mature trees throughout the property.

Since taking over in May of 2012 Bluegrass staff along with partners from TNC have been working hard to help conserve and protect the ecological uniqueness of the property while allowing public hunting access for the first time in

the history of the property.

One of the greatest problems facing managers is how to encourage regeneration of the savannah dominant tree species so that as old trees die off new ones can fill the void.

In summer of 2013 we used a skid steer and forestry attachment to help remove the bush honeysuckle that dominated the bases of the large blue ash and chinquapin oaks found throughout the 60 acre savannah. We later followed up with Garlon treatments to help control the invasive shrub.

This practice helped control and stop

**See "Griffith," page 8**



## Eastern Kentucky Power helps KDFWR, State Parks install barn owl nest boxes

**B**arn owls are a rare species in Kentucky, but are known to reside at Perryville Battlefield State Park.

In order to provide them safe and permanent nesting locations and in hopes to increase the population of this rare bird, three nest boxes were installed on retired power poles at the park on April 4.

Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) generously provided a crew, truck and poles for the project and KDFWR and State Park staff helped to install the nest boxes in areas with good habitat and little human activity.

Despite rainy weather, the box installations went well. We hope they soon will be home to more barn owl pairs.

A special thanks to Josh Young, Gary



Dugger, Shawn Mudd, Seth Rose, and Chad Creech of EKPC and Joan House of State Parks.

For more information on barn owls,

please visit [fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Barn-Owls-in-Kentucky.aspx](http://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Barn-Owls-in-Kentucky.aspx)



### “Griffith,” continued

seed production of the mature honeysuckle found throughout the savannah as well as reduce fuel loads around the bases of the 200+ year old trees, and reduced competition for seedlings.

In April of 2014 KDFWR along with The Nature Conservancy implemented a controlled burn in the savannah to help prepare the area for treatment of the fescue dominated herbaceous layer in hopes of encouraging native grasses and forbs found in the seed bank.

Fire has been a useful tool in helping manage the property as over 200 acres

have been burned since KDFWR acquired the property.

An onsite nursery provided an ample supply of large blue ash and rough leaf dogwoods for transplanting throughout the property. A volunteer day organized in part by TNC provided close to twenty volunteers to help transplant the trees into the cane fields and areas where invasive plants had been removed.

At this point over 1,000 trees ranging from 6'-12' have been planted throughout the property. The size and availability of these seedlings has allowed managers to remove honeysuckle and replace it with a native shrub that is mature enough to

hopefully fill the gap.

There is still much work to be done and plenty to be learned. The University of Kentucky is continuing research on the property looking at hardwood seedling development and factors affecting regeneration and formation of a savannah.

Department staff will continue to partner with The Nature Conservancy to help install management techniques that help promote and encourage the native and historic ecological systems that once dominated the inner bluegrass while providing opportunity for the public to hunt and appreciate the unique features found on Griffith Woods.

## Engineering renovates Wildcat Boat Ramp, Kentucky Lake

**E**ngineering Division has completed the renovations to the Department-controlled Wildcat Boat Ramp located in Blood River of Kentucky Lake.

Wildcat Boat Ramp is arguably the most utilized boat ramp in the Calloway County section of Kentucky Lake. It is the closest public boat ramp for anglers and boaters who live in the city of Murray and the many smaller communities of Calloway County.

The ramp provides anglers prime access to fish Blood River, a 3,000+ acre embayment of Kentucky Lake that is known for outstanding crappie, redear sunfish and large-mouth bass fishing.

Engineering Division has made several renovations to this ramp over the years. This most recent renovation included a complete replacement of the existing paved boat launching ramp.

The new two-lane launching ramp extends out far enough into the lake to



accommodate anglers who desire to use the ramp even when Kentucky Lake is lowered to winter pool (354 ft above sea level).

The ramp was completed during the winter season and reopened with plenty of time to meet the spring crappie season

demand. No user fees are charged at this access site and funding for this renovation was provided in part by funds from the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

For more information about this site, please contact Paul Rister at (270)753-3886.



## KDFWR and Derby City NWTF teach new turkey hunters

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources staff recently partnered with the Derby City Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for a course designed to introduce adults to turkey hunting.

Participants attended a one day workshop at the Fern Creek Sportsman's Club where they were provided instructions on hunting strategies and tactics, turkey calling, choosing the proper weapon and shotgun safety.

This was the first time that this type of course was offered for turkey hunting and will hopefully be the start of an ongo-

ing program that will be offered across the state.

Marlena Bolin of La Grange commented on the KDFWR Facebook page about the workshop. "The course was amazing," she said. "I would risk saying that there were over a hundred years of hunting experience in that room. It was an honor and a privilege to be present to the wisdom of these sportsmen!"

A big THANK YOU goes out to the Derby City Chapter of the NWTF, Gary Roman with Gary Roman's Firearm Service Center and the Fern Creek Sportsman's Club for making this event happen.

## Six plead guilty in Elliott County deer poaching

**G**uilty pleas by two Elliott County men and four juveniles over the past few months mean they will pay more than \$4,500 in fines, restitution and court costs, perform 600 hours of community service and lose a total of 17 years in hunting privileges after a reckless evening of joy riding and shooting deer last November.

The two men, Dominic Thompson, 18, and Zachary Martin, 18, both from Sandy Hook, each pleaded guilty to spotlighting and illegally killing a deer after midnight last Nov. 2 on Highway 486 in the Isonville area of Elliott County. Martin also pleaded guilty to illegally discharging a firearm from a public roadway and to criminal mischief.

They were each fined \$500 for illegally killing a deer, \$150 for spotlighting and paid \$145 in court costs. Martin was fined another \$250 for illegally discharging a firearm from a roadway and received a 30-day jail sentence, conditionally suspended for two years. Thompson lost hunting privileges for three years, and Martin for two. District Judge H. Rupert Wilhoit III also ordered them to perform 100 hours community service each.

The four juveniles paid fines for illegally killing deer, spotlighting, criminal mischief, discharging a firearm from the



Kennard



Grayson

roadway, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated. One of them pleaded guilty to illegally taking a deer with a firearm during bow season. All lost hunting privileges for three years.

Captain Richard Skaggs said nine deer were poached in that area during that week.

It all began Nov. 2 when conservation officer **Lowell Kennard** received a call to assist Elliott County Sheriff's Deputy Matt Smith who was responding to a spotlighting with shots fired complaint that implicated a small green car and a Ford truck. On the way, he passed a doe lying in the highway.

Kennard met the deputy, who meanwhile had stopped another vehicle. He returned to the dead doe, and discovered baling twine around its neck. He saw that it had been dragged behind a vehicle, and then followed the drag marks as far as he could. He pulled over and waited in the fire department parking lot.

A small green car with five occupants passed by. Kennard saw that they clearly noticed him. The driver turned off his headlights at a nearby intersection instead of turn signals and then rolled on through the stop sign. Kennard followed and saw them passing a buck deer's head from person to person. He made the traffic stop.

He arrested the juvenile driver for DUI. The others admitted to drinking moonshine, and shooting the deer from the roadway.

**Sgt. Buddy Grayson** joined Kennard the following day and they turned up the Ford truck as well, with another doe and the body of the buck deer in it.

The six cases endured several court delays due to weather and other maneuvers through the next few months, but were finally resolved recently via the pleas.



### PERRY, MENIFEE FISH AND GAME RECOGNIZED

Menifee County Fish & Game outgoing president Harold Perry was recognized for more than 50 years with the club. Conservation Officer Carlas Tufano helped with the presentations. Perry was recognized for conserving and enhancing our natural resources and teaching others to respect and connect with the outdoors. KDFWR offers its respect and most sincere gratitude as well, Mr. Perry, for a job well done.