



# September 2014

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## 2014 is good year for endangered least terns



Wildlife technician Constance Powell bands a bird.  
*John Brunjes photos*



The Migratory Bird Program continued its work to protect Endangered interior least terns in 2014.

After a complete nesting failure last summer, 2014 was one of the most successful summers in the last 10 years.

On two natural sandbars in the Mississippi River, more than 70 percent of the nests

monitored by KDFWR successfully hatched at least one chick. Human disturbance was never a problem this summer. On one day in early August there were more than 1,000 least terns in the air over one of the nesting colonies while the KDFWR biologists checked on the island and there were at least 2,000 terns on the island. This represents 10

percent of the world's population.

In addition to nest monitoring and posting islands, KDFWR started a long term banding program where adult terns are trapped on the nests. This will hopefully lead to the eventual use of GeoTags which will allow biologists to track where least terns go over the course of a year.

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## WE GET MAIL

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

The following email came through our webpage email account. Gerald Roadcap from Simpsonville, KY wrote: "I want to personally thank the department for sending **the honor guard** to my brother's recent funeral. These gentlemen performed their duties in a highly professional and impressive manner honoring the death of a fellow conservation officer. I must apologize for not taking down the names, but I do remember the one team member's first name is Damon (Foster), and he is the C.O. in Lincoln County. Please extend the family's appreciation to them."

The following note came to us from Mr. David Lucas. He wrote, "Recently I had a few questions about Cumberland and Barkley Lakes. First, Cumberland – all of the questions I asked were answered by **Lee Kemper** and **John Williams**. About Barkley – David Landis, at the Barkley Visitor Center was very informative. **Paul Rister** from the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife answered all of my questions.

I want to thank the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the Corps of Engineers for having four of the nicest, friendliest, and most knowledgeable people on your staff. They were helpful, courteous, and friendly!

Keep hiring this kind of young men. Thank you."

We received an email from Mr. Wes Prebeck. He wrote, "I am approaching the end of term, and wished to thank each of you for the opportunity to volunteer with you and your agency. I've learned a lot – and what stands at the top of the list is what I've learned about your various jobs; you all truly have one of (if not the) best positions in the workforce as wildlife biologists.

I look forward to the day when I can apply and perhaps gain employment with KDFWR – only 5.5 more years for this

career, and then I can move on to something a lot more enjoyable.

Until then, I will be more than happy to continue volunteering for any projects that KDFWR may need assistance with, even if all I am doing is helping to carry equipment. As an avid hunter, I greatly respect the work your agency does to maintain – and improve – the quality of Kentucky's wildlife.

Again, thank you for the opportunity that all of you have given me this past term. I've enjoyed what I've done, and hope to be able to continue on helping in

the future.

Lastly – from one government employee to another – we never really hear "Thank you" from the public enough. Consider this a hearty "Thanks!" from not only me, but my wife and four kids. The jobs you all do, day to day, allow me to escape from reality and regain a bit of needed sanity from this crazy job at which I work. Not only that, but your work allows me to put food on the table for my family – and most importantly – to build a bond with my kids and raise them as stewards of our natural resources, as well.



## SALATO INTERIM AND VOLUNTEER STAFF SPENDS DAY IN THE DOVE FIELD

For the second straight year, Salato's Education staff worked with Jamie Cook (Recruitment and Retention Branch) to take our interim staff and volunteers dove hunting. We doubled the number of hunters that attended last year. We also doubled our number of new hunters.

We believe it is important to make sure our staff experience hunting and fishing so they can then effectively relay their experiences to the public. It really is a lot of fun to introduce new hunters to the sport and then watch them talk about it with our visitors.

## Rusty Hamilton retires from the Wildlife Division

**W**ildlife Management Foreman **Rusty Hamilton** retired from the Wildlife Division on August 31 after an outstanding 27-year career with the Department.

He began his career as a seasonal wildlife aide in 1988 and progressed through his career to become a Wildlife Management Foreman (WMF) in 2007, responsible primarily for the management of the Paintsville Lake and Dewey Lake WMAs.

Rusty contributed to countless important management programs in his career that had great benefit to wildlife and the people that enjoy wildlife.

He is particularly proud of the role he played in the restoration of many species. Rusty was on one of the first crews to head to Utah in 1998 to capture elk, starting the Department's elk reintroduction effort.

Likewise, many of the deer, turkey, and otters that now occur in the Johnson, Floyd, Morgan and Martin Co. areas are descendants of animals that were captured, transported, or released into the region by Rusty.

In his role as wildlife management foreman, Rusty and his two interim technicians managed more than 20,000 acres, including more than 600 acres of wildlife openings on Paintsville and Dewey Lake WMAs combined.



He also was an important contributor to a growing forest habitat management program on these areas. Rusty regularly operated or assisted with four deer quota hunts, including one for handicapped hunters on Jenny Wiley State Park.

He played a key role in the implementation of a new quota hunt on Dewey this year. He also helped with elk and bear hunt check stations.

He worked closely and had good and productive relationships with the Army Corps of Engineers, State Parks, and the

Dewey Lake Fish and Game Club. He cooperated with Paintsville Utilities to develop two moist soils wetland impoundments on Paintsville WMA in recent years.

Rusty plans to soon move to Florida with his wife, Lisa, and step-daughter, Jocelyn Sizemore, where he hopes to catch up on the fishing he has been putting off for so many years due to his work schedule.

His friends and close work associates wish him the best in a retirement well-earned. We miss his on the job friendliness, helpfulness, and easy going manner.

## Conservation Officer Jeff Jewell retires

**C**onservation Officer **Jeff Jewell** retired Sept. 1.

Jewell is a graduate of Daviess County High School. He joined the U.S. Army and completed boot camp and military police school at Ft. McClellan in Alabama before beginning his tour of duty in Bremerhaven, Germany.

He then attended training in Wolfen, Germany to be a



senior Military Police customs inspector.

After the military, Jeff embarked on a diversified law enforcement career. In 1994 Jeff became a patrolman with the Cave City Police Department. He later served as a senior patrolman and honor guard commander with the Glasgow Police Department from 1995-2000.

In 2000 he became an officer with

Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement where he was awarded the Meritorious Achievement Medal by Governor Patton for apprehending a bank robber that was wanted in seven states after robbing 17 banks.

Jeff then transferred to the Department of Parks as a Park Ranger from 2004-2007 before beginning his career as a Conservation Officer with Fish and Wildlife in 2007. He served in the Fourth District assigned to Edmonson County. Jeff also served as one of the division's hunting incident reconstructionists.

## Edwards, Gregory, Sharp and Williams are National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative 'Fire Bird Conservation' Award winners

Four Wildlife Division employees were recognized nationally for their contributions to bobwhite restoration with National Fire Bird Conservation Awards during ceremonies at the annual meeting of the nation's bobwhite experts in West Des Moines, Iowa on July 31 in the award's first year.

**Tom Edwards** of the Bluegrass Army Depot Focal Area, **Nathan Gregory** of the Clay WMA Focal Area, **Philip**

**Sharp** of Livingston County Focal Area and **Eric Williams** of the Peabody WMA Focal Area were recognized. They are team leaders of the department's "Road to Recovery: The Blueprint for Restoring the Northern Bobwhite in Kentucky" initiative.

"As a group, they have put Kentucky's bobwhite restoration effort on the national map," said Kentucky's quail coordinator, John Morgan. "Bobwhite restoration is about teamwork. Each of these individuals recognized the power of teamwork to get big jobs done. These bobwhite restoration leaders took on huge additional workloads and embraced the risk that comes with bringing back bobwhite."

Award recipients are chosen by the respective NBCI-member state's quail



Left to right: Tom Edwards, Nathan Gregory, Philip Sharp and Eric Williams.

coordinator for their contributions to that state's efforts toward habitat-based restoration of wild bobwhite populations. The awards are presented by the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI).

"We wanted to provide an avenue for states to recognize and thank those making meaningful contributions to their science-based restoration agendas, and perhaps help encourage others to join their efforts in the future," said NBCI Director Don McKenzie. "We need as many individuals, agencies and organizations as possible actively contributing to this unified 25-state strategy."

The award's name symbolizes the historic reliance of bobwhites on fire in much of its range to maintain the landscape in an "early successional" stage, that is, in the

native grasses, wildflowers and "weeds" providing bobwhites with suitable habitat. Both wildfires and fires intentionally set by landowners to clear farm fields and woodlots historically resulted in abundant habitat for bobwhites, as well as other wildlife. The term "fire bird" in relation to bobwhites was first coined by naturalist Herbert Stoddard, who researched bobwhites and worked to restore bobwhite habitat in the early 20th century.

Today, "prescribed" fire under controlled conditions by trained professionals has become an increasingly important tool for helping create and manage habitat for bobwhites, as well as a suite of songbirds and other wildlife that require early successional habitat to survive.

## Fourth District Commission nomination selection set for Oct. 28

A meeting to nominate candidates for the Fourth District representative on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission will be held at 7:30 p.m. (Central time) Tuesday, Oct. 28, at the Green County High School Gym, 302 Brummal Ave., Greensburg.

The Fourth Wildlife District includes Adair, Barren, Cumberland, Edmonson,

Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Taylor and Washington counties.

Residents of the Fourth Wildlife District who, for the past two consecutive years, have either: purchased a Kentucky hunting or fishing license; or hunted or fished in Kentucky, but were not required to purchase a license,

may participate in the nomination process. The names of up to five nominees chosen at the meeting will be submitted to Gov. Steve Beshear, who will appoint one of the nominees to complete an unexpired term subject to state Senate confirmation.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. (Central time).

## Gailor, Wells, Williams appointed to Fish and Wildlife Commission

**A**Louisville veterinarian and a former regional supervisor for the Kentucky Division of Water are the newest members of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Governor Steve Beshear issued an executive order appointing **Russell J. Gailor DVM** to represent the Third Fish and Wildlife District. Gailor has owned Gailor Animal Hospital in Louisville since 1994.

The Governor also appointed **Robert Lappin “Bob” Wells**, of Morehead, to represent the Eighth Fish and Wildlife District. Wells currently serves as floodplain-solid waste coordinator and environmental consultant to Rowan County Fiscal Court.

Beshear also reappointed **C.F. “Frank” Williams** of Madisonville to a second term representing the Second Fish and Wildlife District. All three terms will expire August 13, 2018.

Gailor is a 1992 graduate of Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in animal science from Western Kentucky University. His professional affiliations include the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Greater Louisville Veterinary Medical Association and the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, where he serves on the executive board.

He also is a member of Ducks Unlimited, Jonathan Creek Rod and Gun Club, the National Wild Turkey Federation and Safari Club International. He enjoys duck hunting with his four Labrador Retrievers, turkey hunting, quail and small game hunting, fishing, sports and family. Gailor and his wife, Teresa, live with their two daughters on the family’s horse farm near the Jefferson/Bullitt county line.

Wells calls himself an “extremely avid hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman for 50 years,” and a “true believer in protection of the environment, habitat and natural resources.”

Wells, a graduate of Morehead State University, earned his bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in environmental science.

He served as an environmental inspector with the Morehead Regional Office of the Kentucky Division of Water from 1982 until 2001. After being promoted to the department’s environmental control supervisor, he served in that position until his retirement in 2004.

Wells has been a bow hunter for 40 years and a boat owner and operator for 38 years. He enjoys hunting waterfowl, deer, turkey, elk, doves and squirrels, fishing and shooting sporting clays. He is a mem-

ber of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, National Rifle Association and League of Kentucky Sportsman. He and his wife, June, reside in Morehead. They have a son, Kyle, who lives in Colorado.

Williams, who returns for a second commission term, is a mining engineer with Ronald Johnson and Associates in Madisonville. He earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky.



## Campers catch 188 fish at Camp Wallace Fishing Adventure

**T**he 2014 Camp Earl Wallace fishing adventure was held in May this year for participants drawn from the list of eligible Outdoorsman/ Outdoorswoman campers.

Campers and their parents were treated to an overnight on Friday at Camp Earl Wallace where they reviewed fishing skills, made cane poles, had an archery contest vs. their chaperone, and caught some fish

including striped bass and smallmouth that evening.

On Saturday, a fishing contest was held at 9th District Commission Member Christopher Godby’s pond near Somerset. Campers caught a total of 188 fish (bluegill, bass and catfish) with the largest being a largemouth bass caught by Regan Whitlow (pictured here with her father).



## KDFWR officers win 2nd annual Kentucky LE shooting crown

**K**entucky Fish and Wildlife law enforcement officers took top honors for the second straight year in the 2nd Annual Southern Kentucky Law Enforcement Competition Shoot at the AIM Academy Sept. 13 in Cave City.

**Officer Chris Stewart** won the competition and **Officer Steve Nelson** placed second in the speed shoot.

By winning last year's inaugural Competition Shoot, KDFWR also won the privilege of hosting this year's event that attracted law enforcement officers from

across Southern Kentucky.

The competition was started in 2013 by Scottsville Police Department and was aimed at bringing a variety of agencies together to display their pistol shooting skills and enjoy the camaraderie shared among the Law Enforcement brotherhood.

The yearly competition winner receives a large "revolving" trophy with their name and agency engraved on it, along with a commitment to host the event the following year.



## Woodland Middle School Technology and Ecology program is success

**B**ig thanks to all those who helped make the Technology & Ecology program at Woodland Middle School in Kenton County happen.



*Andrew Whittle photo*

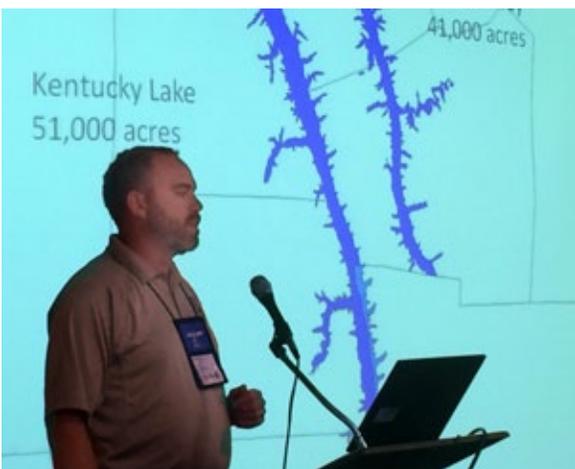
Sixth and seventh grade students learned about genetics, FLIR drones, camera traps and telemetry and how those technologies are used by wildlife professionals for conservation studies around the globe.

The students built their own telemetry collars and put them on stuffed animals, then were able to use a real radio collar and "track" it around their school campus.



## AGLOW – ASSOCIATION OF GREAT LAKES OUTDOOR WRITERS

Approximately 70 members of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers gathered for their annual week-long meeting at Kentucky Dam Village Earlier this month. Fisheries biologist Neal Jackson, Public Affairs Director Brian Blank and Kentucky Afield Host Tim Farmer spoke or gave presentations to the group. Farmer was a banquet keynote speaker and also treated the group to a brief archery demonstration.





## 2014 Ronnie Rich Memorial Wounded Warriors Dove Hunt

A partnership between the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Riverbend Whitetails and Wild Wing Lodge helped dreams become realities at the 2014 Ronnie Rich Memorial Wounded Warriors Dove Hunt August 31 - September 2.

The hunt is the brainchild of the late conservation officer **Ronnie Rich** and Higginson-Henry WMA Game Management Foreman **Curt Divine**. Five Fort Campbell soldiers stayed at the Wild Wing Lodge during the 2-day dove hunt.

The first evening the soldiers had a great home cooked meal and plans were made for the next two days. They practiced on clay pigeons the next morning.

Then they went to the field. Some were new to hunting. All spent the day shooting doves. Later, they toured Big Rivers WMA/SF and its overlook at sunset.

As shooting time arrived on the final morning the soldiers were scattered about



at a private field. To say that they were getting the swing of dove hunting would have been an understatement. In no time at all, the entire group killed their limit as a result of ample shot opportunities and numerous doves. As the group was cleaning their doves one was overheard saying,

“This has been an amazing two days!”

From the time the soldiers arrived until they left, they incurred no expenses and received a full set of camouflage, stools and dove decoys to keep. All of this was made possible by generous donations from The Tradewater Foundation, RiverView Coal, Helena, RedHat Auction & Realty, CountryMark, Ervin Cable Co. and Greenwell Farms. The outpouring of support for this event was larger than imagined and the result was an event that surpassed the expectations of the hosts.

This event was an excellent way to honor the memory of one of our own, honor our service

men and women, provide a much needed change of pace for the soldiers, showcase the Wildlife Management Areas and work jointly with outfitters in our general area.

When we left this event there was no doubt in any one's mind that this event had made a difference!