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## Wildlife officers seek information on tundra swan killings - \$1,000 reward offered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources are requesting assistance with an investigation involving the unlawful killing of two tundra swans found in south Warren County, Kentucky.

Two tundra swans were discovered by a bird watcher on Monday, December 9, 2013, in a ditch beside Old Springfield Road, near the intersection of Oscar Downey Road. Investigators have reason to believe that the swans were killed by a waterfowl hunter on or about December 7th or 8th, likely in a small lake or pond around the Warren, Simpson, and Logan County area.

Anyone with information that directly leads to an arrest or a criminal conviction of the subject or subjects responsible for shooting or transporting the swans may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

Tundra swans are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The maximum criminal penalty for the unlawful taking of migratory birds is six months imprisonment and \$15,000 fine per individual.

Anyone with information concerning the killing of the swans is urged to contact Special Agent Bob Snow at (502)



582-5989, ext. 29, or the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources dispatch at 1-800-25-ALERT (800-252-5378).

An unusually large number of tundra swans have migrated to Kentucky this fall and are currently being seen across the state. Many of the places where swans are

occurring this winter have never had swans before.

Swans in flight appear to be similar to geese and other waterfowl and are likely to be lured to decoy spreads. Waterfowl hunters are reminded that Kentucky, as well as all states included in the Mississippi Flyway, does not have a swan season.

INSIDE:



**3** New leader



**5** Wildlife awards



**8** Record harvests



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

KDFWR Headquarters staff, commission members and field staff gathered on the stairway of the Salato Wildlife Education Center Black Bear exhibit for this group photo and the chance to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Later, at the annual Christmas luncheon, Santa dropped in with candy canes for all.



## WE GET MAIL

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

**W**e recently received 48 hand-written notes from 2nd Grade students at the Hager Elementary School in Ashland. They were all very complimentary of **Sgt. Buddy Grayson**. Sgt. Grayson visited their class and talked with them about our fish and wildlife resources, showed them some pelts, and whatever else he does with students. Thank you, Buddy, for being a great ambassador for KDFWR!

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This article was posted on a Kentucky Hunting forum and shared via email with us from the writer, Scott Cronin with the Muhlenberg County School district.

At 35 years of age, 15 years of teaching, and a sportsman I would have to say this past Friday was one of the best days of my educational career. I have worked closely with local conservation officers and biologist on several projects over the past 15 years so this is saying something about this experience. I have been nationally recognized and presented at conferences across the county about wildlife management and education. So when I tell you that an event was good I have a little bit of experience to base my judgment on.

KDFWR employees have attended conservation events, conventions, helped with wood duck boxes, taught hunter education, and help at several educational events. I would like for you to know though that this past Friday was magical. Two of your employees came to my high school and did an outstanding job. I would like to add this was the Friday before deer gun season during an extremely busy time for these two KDFWR employees. Two local conservation officers took time out of their schedule to come to school and focus

See "Mail," page 11

## KDFWR website debuts new look, features

The Department invites visitors to explore its newly-redesigned website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

The website features new applications that enhance navigation and functionality without sacrificing any of the valuable information users of the site have grown accustomed to having at their fingertips.

"We strived to create a more focused site that would be user-friendly and would allow hunters and anglers to find the information they were looking for quickly," said **Donna Covington**, information technology systems consultant with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "We developed it using a responsive web design so that no matter what platform they were viewing it on, whether it be a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone, it would be easy to read and navigate."

For the first time, visitors to the department's website have the ability to



access their Kentucky Fish and Wildlife transactions, including license and permit history and telecheck information, through the "Find My Information" page. The database goes back to 1996.

Looking to get in touch with a conservation officer, conservation education program leader, fisheries biologist or wildlife biologist in a specific county? That information is just a few clicks away using the "Find My County Contact" feature. Search results are sorted by type and include the name, phone number and email

address for each county contact.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff partnered with contractor Kentucky Interactive to develop the new site, which is best viewed using the latest versions of web browsers like Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Safari. The department's website has logged approximately 18 million web hits this year, Covington said.

As major search engines like Google, Bing and Yahoo index pages from the new website in the coming weeks, the search function will become fully functional. Bookmarks to pages on the previous website no longer will work.

Improvements to the new website will be ongoing, Covington said. Plans include the development of a more substantial online presence for public hunting areas by merging wildlife management information with public hunting information, giving visitors the ability to view that information in one place.

## ACTING COMMISSIONER MATT SAWYERS



Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Deputy Secretary Matt Sawyers met with Department of Fish and Wildlife employees at the Salato Wildlife Education Center after being asked to serve as Acting Commissioner of the Department by the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Cabinet. He told employees that his goal is to administer day-to-day operations in as low-key and professional manner as possible as the Commission searches for the next full-time commissioner to lead the department. He asked employees to "stay actively involved in doing what you can to make the department the best and most professional it can possibly be" and to "lead by example and to treat your colleagues, constituents, and job duties in the same professional manner that you expect to be treated."

## Promotions and new hires

### Phillips promoted to lieutenant, named 5th District Commander

Conservation Officer **Sgt. Charlie Phillips** was promoted to Lieutenant, and District Commander of the Fifth District, on December 1, 2013.

Lt. Phillips joined the KD-FWR Division of Law Enforcement in May of 1999 after serving nine years as a deputy sheriff for the Owen County Sheriff's Office.

Phillips was assigned to Campbell and Boone Counties, and later to Grant County when he was promoted to Sergeant in 2009. He served as a K-9 Officer, until his dog, **Choco**, died earlier this year. Phillips and Choco received the 2002 K-9 Officer of the Year Award.

Phillips also was selected as the 2004 State Officer of the Year. He received an accommodation for dedication and commitment to the protection of wildlife resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and another from the State of Colorado for assisting with one of the largest poaching cases in their history. Charlie's dedication to this Agency is unquestioned, and his positive work ethic will continue to improve the Fifth District.

Join us in congratulating Lt. Phillips on his promotion, and lend him the support he needs to accomplish the agency's mission.

### Lt. Gibson retires

Eighth District **Lieutenant Jim Gibson** retired November 30, 2013.

Gibson began his career in March of



Law Enforcement Division Director Hank Patton, Lt. Charlie Phillips and Deputy Commissioner Benji Kinman.



Lt. Jim Gibson



Kevin Kelly

1989 with the Law Enforcement Division as a dispatcher. He became a conservation officer in 1991 and was assigned to Lawrence County.

He was named the Seventh District Officer of the Year and United Bow Hunters of Kentucky Officer of the Year during his tenure.

In 2002, Jim transferred to Boyd County in the Eighth District, where he served the majority of his career.

His dedication and hard work resulted in being awarded the District Officer of the Year, Boating Officer of the Year, and Shakir Safari Officer of the Year on

numerous occasions.

Jim was an emergency vessels operations instructor and a member of the emergency response team that deployed to New Orleans in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery, the Western Kentucky Ice Storm, and the West Liberty tornado recovery.

Gibson was promoted to Sergeant in 2006, and to Lieutenant in 2010. His service and hard work have been instrumental in developing a strong district, a strong division, and a better agency.

Jim plans to enjoy hunting, fishing, and leisure time with his family. Please join us in wishing Jim the best and thank him for his service.

### Kevin Kelly joins I & E Division

Please join us in welcoming **Kevin Kelly** to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Kevin will write press releases, magazine articles, provide editorial assistance to other divisions upon request and oversee production of the hunting and fishing guides.

Kevin comes to us from the Cincinnati Enquirer, where he primarily covered sports. His beats at one time or the other included coverage of NASCAR, the Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati Bengals.

He enjoys fishing and would especially appreciate the offer of a muskie fishing trip. Kevin and his wife, Brenna, have two young sons.

## Wildlife Division annual recognitions

**From Dr. Karen Waldrop  
Wildlife Division Director**

I know you have been looking forward to the announcement of the 2013 Wildlife Division Employee Recognition Program recipients. First, I would like to say thank you to each of you that nominated someone for an award. It is clear from the nominations received that we have incredibly talented and hard-working staff in our division. Every nominee was deserving of this recognition, and I am honestly impressed by what our staff have and continue to achieve.

Listed below are the 2013 recipients for the various categories of the Employee Recognition Program. These folks will be invited to receive their award at the agency's December Commission Dinner. Please join me in congratulating the following division employees on their achievement!

**Freddie Adkins**  
*Fish & Wildlife Management  
Foreman of the Year*

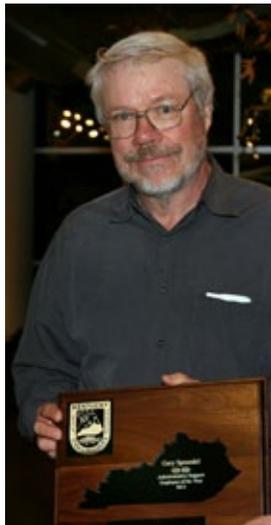
Freddie has consistently and successfully overseen the operation of four WMAs including the 64,000 acre Peabody WMA. The onset of the small game initiative and the resulting need for coordination and cooperation between UT graduate students and technicians with limited staffing has not swayed Freddie in the



least. Freddie has adapted to the changing technicians and research students to get the most out of them and fostered a positive work environment with his work ethic and positive attitude. Freddie continues to work on all other WMA projects and duties at a high level while also being a great asset to other divisional staff on multiple projects both on and off the WMA. Freddie has truly been a leader in the Green River Region for many years.

**Gary Sprandel**  
*Administrative Support Employee of the Year*

Gary goes above and beyond his assigned duties by putting critical thought into improving the projects he participates in. Gary provides excellent support to the wildlife division staff by keeping efficiency in data entry and management a top priority. Gary understands field biology which allows him to be an excellent data manager. Gary is very meticulous in his work and treats fellow employees with the upmost respect. Gary consistently is willing to put in long hours to get projects done when short deadlines are given and endures daily division and agency requests for projects that are "needed yesterday." Gary also spends his spare time documenting species occurrences on our WMAs and is an avid birder. Above all else Gary leads by example, is passionate about fish and wildlife conservation, and motivates those around him to work harder and maintain a positive attitude.



**Mike Strunk**  
*Wildlife Biologist of the Year*

Technical guidance to landowners is the bread and butter of private lands biologists, and Mike has one of the highest volume TG loads in the state.

This is a reflection of his rapport with landowners, who then refer friends and neighbors to him, confident he will share his expertise in his trademark friendly manner. In addition to his one-on-one skills, Mike has a reputation as a team player – annually giving several bear presentations, assisting with various programmatic surveys, providing general wildlife information to the public and pitching in on research projects as requested. Mike maintains a very high level of private lands habitat TG work despite also handling an overwhelming number of nuisance bear complaints each year. Dealing with nuisance wildlife can be a delicate human-relations challenge, and here again, Mike shines, so far this year handling/assisting with 110 complaints in McCreary County alone. Not only does he excel in working with both the public and his peers, Mike is the "total package" as an employee – he completes all paperwork in impeccable fashion, has great attention to detail, and is always willing to assist others. Mike is always excited about the job and about learning new things; his enthusiasm is contagious and is one of the many reasons



See "Wildlife," page 6

## “Wildlife,” continued

fellow staff turn to him for help on many different fronts. After a rare sighting of a golden eagle this past winter on Beaver Creek WMA, Mike's enthusiasm to follow up with some bait stations and cameras ended up documenting several golden eagles in the area. It was unknown that they wintered in this region in significant numbers. These are just a few examples of how Mike continually distinguishes himself as a “go-to” person in our agency. Mike's professionalism, knowledge, positive attitude and work ethic truly make him deserving of this award.

### Thomas Burberry

#### *Wildlife Rookie of the Year*

Thomas has been a permanent full time technician at the Green River WMA for the past 5 months and served on the state HIT team for 3 seasons prior to that. Thomas's work on the Habitat Team was second to none and he consistently stepped up to lead the team in Kevin's absence. He was instrumental



in completing a variety of projects on WMAs across the state including but not limited to: tree planting, edge feathering, alder mulching, forest stand improvement, invasive species removal and hemlock wooly adelgid treatment. Thomas continues to show his leadership in a very short time at Green River WMA. He is always the first on the job site and has the equipment ready and the coffee made before the boss shows up. He takes the initiative to make needed repairs to equipment or complete projects he sees need done with-



Group achievement recognitions went to Center for Mollusk Conservation. Commission chairman Stuart Ray (left) and Wildlife Director Karen Waldrop (third from left) presented awards to David Cravens, Travis Bailey, Monte McGregor, Christopher Owen, Sunni Carr, Fritz Vorisek, Andy McDonald and Adam Shepard. *Lee McClellan photo*

out waiting to be asked to do it. Thomas has shown an uncanny ability to work on any project, whether the project involves manual labor such as cutting trees or treating for hemlock wooly adelgid, or technical skills such as operating a backhoe or tree mulcher. Thomas is off to a great start and we hope to have him with the agency for a very long career!

### Center for Mollusk Conservation Travis Bailey, Sunni Carr, David Cravens, Andrew McDonald, Monte McGregor, Christopher Owen, Adam Shepard, Fritz Vorisek

#### *Wildlife Group Achievement Award*

The Center for Mollusk Conservation (CMC) was founded in 2002 by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Its mission is to restore and recover rare and imperiled freshwater mollusks in Kentucky. Extensive teamwork and dedication defines this unique group of individuals. A corner garage at the Forks of Elkhorn fish transportation hub served as the initial home to the CMC. What began as an assortment of makeshift accommodations and borrowed raceway space has evolved into an internationally recognized facility with cutting edge research and techniques. Today, through the hard work and dedication of staff, the CMC boasts a state of the art greenhouse for mollusk diet development and hous-

ing of animals; a Juvenile Growout Facility and in vitro Laboratory; and an extensive fish husbandry facility.

Our staff have years of experience in many fields related to fish culture, aquaculture, malacology, shellfish and bivalve culture, algae culture, aquatic ecology, limnology, freshwater ecology, conservation biology, fish and shellfish husbandry, endangered species conservation, population ecology, ichthyology, and many other areas. They have worked with over 70 species of freshwater mussels, 75 species of fishes, 12 species of snails, and dozens of algae species. Their primary focus is the conservation, restoration, culture and propagation of freshwater mussels.

This year alone over 20,000 tagable mussels have been released into the Tennessee, Green, Licking, and Cumberland rivers. Re-introductions of federally listed mussels have proven highly successful. This year, two Federally Endangered mussels were released into Kentucky's waterways. The Fanshell was re-introduced into the Tennessee River, and the Pink Mucket was reintroduced into the Licking River. In addition, to date, 1.8 million animals have been produced through in vitro techniques at the facility. This advancement in recent years will allow managers to accelerate restoration efforts and help keep our waterways healthy.

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## “Wildlife,” continued

### Harley Weaver

#### *Wildlife Thinking Outside the Box Award*

Kentucky has one of the largest forest blocks East of the Mississippi River and the Northeast Region is one of the most



heavily forested regions in the state, consequently forest management is a focus for our agency and many others. Forest management requires multiple hurdles be cleared when doing it on WMAs and is also one of the hardest habitat practices to

sell to private landowners. Harley Weaver has tackled both these obstacles in an effort to better manage our forests for wildlife and promote oak regeneration. He is using public land to experiment with and showcase forestry practices, which private landowners can easily implement on their own properties. His hands-on experience and knowledge have allowed him to better advise landowners and ensure more effective use of these techniques. With the help of the Yatesville Lake WMA and regional staff, Harley has utilized hack and squirt herbicide application methods to treat forest where beech and maple were hindering oak regeneration. He also encouraged the Research program to monitor the results. Using this method to establish oak/hickory regeneration and enhance soft mast production is not terribly unconventional, but following up with scientific monitoring and review is. Harley used the WMA as a test plot, which has allowed him to refine this technique. He has created an effective and practical training power point for staff and private land-

owners resulting in many landowners using the technique on their properties. He has shared the training power point with other forest management agencies and organizations in the state to critique and further refine. Harley is also using this technique in conjunction with an American chestnut light gap study he is coordinating in conjunction with the American Chestnut Foundation. The results of this study may contribute to the eventual restoration of the American chestnut in Kentucky and North America. Chestnuts produced in conjunction with the study will be planted on private lands. Harley is one of the best naturalists in the state, deeply cares about his job and conserving natural resources, and is an excellent coworker to other staff with the agency.

### Scott Harp

#### *Wildlife Director's Leadership Award*

Scott shows incredible leadership as the Regional Coordinator for the Green River Region. He has created a great team mentality throughout the region, is always willing to accept any challenge,



fosters inter-divisional relationships, provides incredible support for regional staff, frequently takes on additional tasks, and is an amazing biologist and conservationist. Scott's perspective on any

problem or challenge is that there is always an answer and there is always a way to make things happen. He thinks about the big picture and sets long-term and short-term goals for himself and the region. Scott is an impressive resource manager, and his knowledge of public and private lands management is endless. He is a great resource for the division and provides invaluable support and leadership for the Department.



## Our Angels Tree

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees have been helping needy children from Franklin County for more than 20 years.

Each year, **Denise Boebinger** in Administrative Services Division coordinates with department employees and contacts the Salvation Army office for the number of angels that we are able to sponsor. She learns of children (Angels) who might otherwise not have much under their Christmas Tree.

Department employees shop for their angel, getting needed clothing and toys that each have requested.

This year department employees sponsored 10 angels.

## Kentucky deer, bear hunters setting records

**K**entucky white-tailed deer and black bear hunters are already reporting record harvests for 2013 with additional season balance yet remaining.

With more than a month of deer hunting still outstanding, including five muzzle loading days, free youth firearms weekend and 34 days of archery season, hunters had already surpassed last season record take of 131,395 by nearly 2,000 deer.

Owen County hunters were reporting the biggest harvest at 3,847. Pendleton County followed closely behind at 3,317. In third was Crittenden at 2,848, with Christian at 2,743 and Graves 2,681 rounding out the top five.

Reports of trophy class deer were abundant.

"Many people around the country are calling Kentucky the top state for white-tailed deer hunting," said Wildlife Division Director **Dr. Karen Waldrop**. "But it is also clear that Kentucky's deer herd has reached that point where it offers something for every citizen. Even those who don't hunt enjoy watching deer in our woods and meadows. Others appreciate the high quality venison produced by a healthy herd. And of course many enjoy the pursuit of a world class trophy buck."



Jerry Hicks, of Monticello, took this 375-pound Wayne County male black bear with a crossbow on Nov. 24. His take was the largest of the 20 bears taken during the archery/crossbow and modern firearm bear seasons.

The 2013 black bear hunting season expanded to include 16 counties, and hunters also reported great successes. Archery and crossbow hunters filled the season quota of 10 bears during the nine-day season, Nov. 23 – Dec. 1.

Hunters also filled the 10-bear firearms quota during their three-day season, Dec. 14-16. With new state record harvest numbers in the books already, hunters

drawn for the Bear Quota Hunt with Dogs on Dec. 23-27, will still have one more chance to fill their tags.

"We've come a long way since our first bear season just five years ago," said state Bear Program Coordinator **Steven Dobey**. "A decade ago, we had a small, but growing bear population. But these successes clearly indicate well established bear populations throughout several counties."



## SEASONAL GATHERING

Employees in the eastern part of the state paused for a group photo with retired employees, commission members and others last week at the Hazard office where they gathered for their annual Christmas Season luncheon.

## Salato's Birds of Prey a hit with the kids

The Salato Wildlife Education Center received the following 'Thank You' note in the mail regarding a Bird of Prey Program. Conservation educators **Geoff Roberts** and **Tiffany Ogunsanya** instructed the program. The program ended (as all our Birds of Prey programs end) with Odin the red-tailed hawk flying over the kids.

*Dear Salato Wildlife Center,*

*We recently traveled with our 3rd graders to your facility and found the experience with 'Birds of Prey' to be an outstanding presentation. The information was clear, engaging, and presented in a fun manner. Your employees always do a great job, but this was a real treat for our young minds.*

*Thank you,  
Meadowthorpe Elementary  
Lexington, KY  
11-26-2013*



Geoff Roberts with Odin, a red-tailed hawk, during a Birds of Prey program at Salato.



### LAKE CUMBERLAND STRIPED BASS SAMPLING

Fisheries technician Danny Parks removes a walleye from a gill net during annual striped bass sampling on Lake Cumberland earlier this month. Kentucky Afield Television host Tim Farmer joined Parks and Fisheries Program Coordinator John Williams while shooting a TV segment about the sampling. The netting often catches species other than striped bass, while also helping determine abundance, size and growth of the striped bass fishery.

## Wildlife Division recognizes landowners, businesses making strides for wildlife

**W**ildlife Division recognized some Kentucky landowners and land managers who have worked hard this year for wildlife and conservation at its annual Landowner, Business Partner and Conservation of the Year awards banquet December 5, at the Salato Wildlife Education Center.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission also thanked retired Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Marcheta Sparrow with a Wildlife Steward Award for her close working relationship with the



Left to right: Wildlife Division Director Karen Waldrop, Private Lands Biologist Chris Mason, Fourth District Commissioner Dr. James Angel, John Luke Partin, John Ray Partin, Landowner of the Year Terry Partin and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Stuart N. Ray. *Lee McClellan photo*

### LANDOWNER, BUSINESS PARTNER, AND CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR WINNERS

#### Landowner of the Year:

Purchase Region – Dr. Harry Carloss  
Nominated by: Philip Sharp

Green River Region – Mark Sellars  
Nominated by: Thomas Young

Bluegrass Region – Douglas Cobb  
Nominated by: Joe Lacefield

Northeast Region – Bob Applegate  
Nominated by: Wes Mattox

Southeast Region – Terry Partin  
Nominated by: Chris Mason

Statewide Winner: Terry Partin

#### Business Partner of the Year:

Green River Region – Owensboro Parks and Recreation, Ben Hawes Park  
Nominated by: Jared Handley

Bluegrass Region – Life Adventure Center  
Nominated by: Joe Lacefield

Statewide Winner: Life Adventure Center

#### NRCS Conservationist of the Year:

Nick Christian, District Conservationist in Todd County

Commission and the Department during her five years at the helm of the Cabinet.

#### Landowner of the Year

Terry Partin, who manages more than 650 Adair County acres, received the Statewide Landowner of the Year award. His efforts of transforming the property from cattle and tobacco operations to quality wildlife habitat were recognized by Southeast Region wildlife biologist Chris Mason. Partin planted 46 acres of hardwood trees and 504 acres of NSWG and wild flowers to create a large contiguous tract of grassland habitat.

Dr. Harry Carloss was nominated by Purchase Region biologist Philip Sharp. Dr. Carloss took advantage of several programs, including WHIP, CRP, KPWW and VPA to improve his 400-acre Livingstone County property.

Mark Sellars demonstrated how quality can be as important as quantity on his 30-acre Henderson County property by converting 15 acres of row crops to

NSWG through the WHIP program. He reestablished fence rows and created a two-acre wetland.

Douglas Cobb converted 55 of his 270 Washington County acres from fescue to native grasses and wildflowers. He established a 6,000-foot riparian buffer by planting 32,000 trees and shrubs along the Chaplin River. He also leaves 10 percent of his crops standing for wildlife. He conducts dove, quail, turkey and deer hunts, including youth hunts on the property.

Bob Applegate, of Fleming County, converted former pasture land to wildlife habitat that includes more than 10 acres of native grasses and 30 acres of hardwood tree and native shrub plantings and field borders.

#### Business Conservation Partner of the Year

The statewide Kentucky Business Conservation Partner of the Year award

**See “Landowners,” page 11**

**“Landowners,” continued**

went to Life Adventure Center of Woodford County. On its 600 acres, the Center converted 30 acres of fescue to NWSG, created 10 acres of old field regeneration, conducted more than 50 acres of bush honeysuckle removal and five acres of clover food plots.

The Center hosts environmental education events, workshops and classes ranging from teambuilding to hunter education, wounded warrior deer and dove hunts.

Owensboro Parks & Recreation, Ben Hawes Park received award recognition also. The 553-acre park that provides golf, basketball, volleyball, biking/hiking, walking trails and a natural area, planted 40 acres to various stands of NWSG and wildflower mixes. They planted five acres of food plots throughout the area to aid wildlife viewing.

**Conservationist of the Year**

Wildlife Division recognized Nick Christian of Todd County as its 2013 Conservationist of the Year. Christian has fostered excellent working relationships with Division of Forestry foresters as well as biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky State Nature Preserves, Wildlife Services and KDFWR. In the past three years he helped landowners install 344 acres of permanently protected wetlands, 557 acres of wildlife friendly cover crops, 1,687 feet of grass waterways fence and nearly 6,000 acres of CRP – rare and declining habitat, tree planting and upland birds field borders.



Left to right: Wildlife Division Director Karen Waldrop, Private Lands Biologist Joe Lacefield, Jeff Greenwell of Life Adventure Center (business of the year), Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission Chairman Stuart N. Ray, Sixth District Commissioner Stephen Glenn and Bryan Marlowe of Life Adventure Center. *Lee McClellan photos*



Nick Christian pauses shortly after being named the 2013 Conservationist of the Year. Making the presentation (from left) are Dr. Karen Waldrop, Dr. Reed Cripps, Tyler Reagan, Dean Hughes and Commission Chairman Stuart Ray.

**“Mail,” continued**

on the future of our commonwealth, the safety of youth, and promote legal hunting and conservation.

**Sgt. Scott McIntosh and Officer Bryan Hill** took their time to talk to my students about hunter education, telecheck, field care of game, tree stand safety,

careers with KDFWR, and do a Q&A session with over 150 students. Why do I take the time to share this with you?

As a sportsman and citizen of this state so much negative has been the vibe lately with KDFWR in the news. Open a paper and read about negative not positive issues going on with KDFWR. I care about the agency and the resources it man-

ages and wanted to shed some positive light in a time that seems all so negative. More importantly I see how much the KDFWR employees I work with year round care about promoting KDFWR in a positive image. This also is making a positive first impression with our local youth.

**See “Mail,” page 12**

### “Mail,” continued

Why is this important? After 15 years of teaching I have watched a lot of young students go through the court process. Youth I teach and have taught having a lifestyle of being an illegal citizen breaking and not following game laws, rules, and regulations. My job does not pay me to educate the ones who know it pays me to educate the ones who do not. As a teacher I focus on needs and lifestyles for my students. Nothing better than keeping kids safe and legal in the field and doing an event like Deer Day this past Friday prior to Kentucky firearm season opener.

While many value education with test and papers I value education with experiences and their needs being met. That's why I took the time to share this with you how thankful I am to be able to put on programs like Deer Day with the help of KDFWR employees. From officers helping out with the Explore Bowhunting Program to high school fishing team, etc. thank you! I would not be able to give my students the experiences and opportunities I have for the past several years without KDFWR employees help.

I hope that the department knows that I have seen the positive change over the past five years that has come about

in my local community. I myself have witnessed over the past five years working with KDFWR employees while teaching agriculture at Muhlenberg County High School a positive result. I can honestly tell you that I have had students make not only the right career choice through their contacts with KDWR employees but have also made the step into becoming a sportsmen. It amazes me how Officer McIntosh and Hill always get the job done and always have time to do just a little bit more than just what the job calls for. On behalf of me and my students we want to thank these two officers and the department for their help with the 2013 deer day.



**Front row:** Jeff Ross, Amy Akers, Tanya Wilson and Daniel Vichitbandha. **Standing:** David McChesney, Karen Waldrop, Chris Garland, Laura Palmer, Chad Soard, Dan Figert, Willie Cook and Steven Dobey.

## UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST

Several employees on the second floor of the AMB demonstrated their true Christmas spirit with an eye-popping display of colorful cotton, velvet, tinsel and even mink in their Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. After a vote, Laura Palmer was declared the winner with Chad Soard finishing second (at right).

