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Annual BOW workshop attracts more than 120

More than 120 women registered for the 20th Anniversary Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop last month at the Lake Cumberland UK 4-H Leadership Center in Jabez.

In addition to 24 volunteer instructors, numerous department personnel either taught classes or assisted in registration and set up.

The I&E Division greatly appreciates the cooperation and help all divisions have provided to allow women opportunities to learn outdoor skills they otherwise would not have.

I&E thanks LE Division's **Matthew Parmley** and **Travis Neal**, **John Williams**



in Fisheries, **Naomi Wilson** and **Gabe Jenkins** in Wildlife, **Donna Covington** in Public Affairs, and **Sharon Sparrow** in the Commissioner's office.

Geoff Roberts, **Megan Bagby**, **Brad**

Burge, **Patrick O'Connell**, **Obie Williams**, **Olivia Harmsen**, **Susan Saufley** and **Tim Slone** of I&E were likewise instrumental to this effort. **Chad Miles** and **Sam Seaton** with the KY Fish & Wildlife Foundation, who co-sponsors the BOW program, also taught courses at the event.

Husband and wife teaching team **Lenny** and **Annie Wilson** demonstrated complete deer processing during the fall workshop. The **Wilson**s also taught basic shotgunning. These two volunteers have worked with the program more than 10 years. The **Wilson**s reside in **Covington**.

Participants also learned how to dress and preserve wild turkey, squirrels and doves and got to sample smoked deer tenderloin during the class.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following email came to the Salato Staff from Pam Hancock and Cindy Putnam, first grade teachers at Saints Peter and Paul School. "Sts. Peter and Paul School First Grade recently visited Salato. We wanted to let you know that we had a great visit. Our presenter, **John Baggerman**, was excellent. His information on reptiles was relevant to our students...aimed right at their level. He was awesome!

Personnel hospitality was great, too. We truly had a wonderful day and hope to visit again. Thanks so much."

The following email was received from Linda Brown, Manager of the Office of Employee Relations with the Personnel Cabinet. "Thank you for hosting our poster contest winners last week. All the students and their families really enjoyed the visit. **Pat Barnard** is always so helpful in helping coordinate the day.

Brent McCarty is absolutely fabulous with the children and sharing his knowledge of the animals and plants. It was truly a memorable experience for a couple of the "city kids."

Your agency's willingness to open the facility on a day it is usually closed is another example of the above and beyond attitude that state government employees exhibit on a daily basis. Thank you again."

The following letter came from Mr. Gary Afterkirk, Williamstown, KY. "My son Chad drew a bull elk tag for the week of October 3-9, and we went to Knott County to hunt. On Saturday night, the 3rd, we were crossing a railroad track at Beaver Creek and the trailer on his truck got stuck on the tracks and was hit by a train.

The reason I am writing is on behalf of **Sergeant Jason Slone**, the Knott County Conservation Officer. Sgt Slone came to the accident scene and assisted us in salvaging what was left from the trailer. He stayed

and worked until 2:30AM. Sgt Slone exemplifies what a conservation officer should be. I am forever thankful to Sgt Slone.

I am also thankful for the work the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources does. We were away from home and had trouble, and Sgt Slone was not required to assist and stay with us until it was cleaned up, I am sure. Sgt Slone is not only an excellent Conservation Officer, he is a wonderful person. He was concerned for me, my daughter, and son. Sgt Slone consoled us and made a bad situation much better. I am proud of him and the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

I am thankful for all of you who protect and improve our wildlife resources and put everything on the line every day. I pray for your safekeeping and thank all officers for the job they do every day. I will never forget that Officer Slone was there for us and went above and beyond the call of duty."

This letter came from Dr. Jason Anderson with the New Hope Church of Christ in Falmouth. "On September 26th, the New Hope Church of Christ held its Hunting and Fishing Expo. Two of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife officers, **Scott Horn** and **Chris Fossitt**, were in attendance to help.

The purpose of this event was to provide hunting and fishing information, safety techniques, and encouraging local citizens to participate in outdoor activities. Officers Horn and Fossitt did an exceptional job that day. They were polite, professional, and informative. They were excellent representatives from your department. Both officers were a tremendous help. Their presence helped to make the day a great success.

Thank you for allowing these men to be present and encouraging hunting and fishing in our area."



HUNTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION DONATION

The Kentucky Hunter Education Association made a \$14,720 donation to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation that will be used for conservation camp improvements. The Hunter Education Association used the proceeds from the sale of a Kentucky bull elk tag to make the donation in addition to another \$4,500 it gave to the nine Hunter Education Districts in direct support of hunter education certification. From left are Cindi Sullivan, Chad Miles, Steve Freibert, Joe Bolton, Jamey Bennett and Jon Woodall.

Retired Commissioner Carl Kays dies in Missouri at 86

Former Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife **Commissioner Carlos E. "Carl" Kays** died Saturday, October 17, at the Good Shepherd Care Center in Versailles, Missouri. He was 86.

He was born in Wayham, Missouri, the son of the late Willie and Eula (Howser) Kays, and grew up on a Missouri farm during the Great Depression at a time when all farm kids fished and hunted for food, and made supplemental income from trapping.

He headed Kentucky's fish and wildlife agency from 1978 until 1985.



He graduated from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri, earning a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Education.

During the Korean War, Kays was commissioned in the Coast Guard Reserve and attended the Coast Guard Academy Technology Intelligence School for three months, and then was stationed in New Orleans.

After completing his service obligation in April, 1954, Kays entered graduate

school at Louisiana State University on the GI Bill, working in the marsh lands, studying Nutria.

Kays came to Kentucky in February, 1957, and began working on the exotic game birds project, to introduce Chukar. Later, he supervised biologists on West Kentucky WMA, Higginson-Henry WMA, and became assistant Commissioner in 1975, doing primarily legislative work.

In a 2010 interview Kays listed restoration of wild turkeys in Kentucky among the department's significant accomplishments during his tenure. The department also began an osprey restoration effort, and purchased nearly 8,000 acres of land for public use. He also helped pass legislation that directed interest earned from the Fish and Game Fund to be returned to the Fund.

New Hire

Fisheries Division welcomes **Jessie Boles** to the Department as the new Engineer-In-Training 1 in the Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

Jessie is originally from Louisville, Kentucky where he grew up loving the outdoors and playing sports for Trinity High School. He obtained a B.S. degree from University of Louisville J.B. Speed College of Engineering where he majored in Civil Engineering.

Jessie has shown a passion for working here at KDFWR, with previous experience as a Co-op student with UL, as part-time seasonal on several occasions, and when there were no job openings he gave the full measure of dedication as a volunteer.

In those roles he gained on the ground experience with ecosystem assessment, vegetation management, construction and program function. Jessie's educational background and experience will

See "Hire," page 4



Peabody Wildlife Management Area Wildlife Biologist Eric Williams recently snapped this shot of a bobwhite quail perched upon a constructed brush pile on the Sinclair Unit of Peabody WMA in Muhlenberg County. Quail program coordinator John Morgan says covey counts on the 21,860 acres in the Ken, Sinclair and Homestead Units are up this year despite heavy winter losses, and that populations have increased by more than 50 percent since 2009. Biologists have captured more than 2,000 area quail as part of the largest research project in the mid-south and placed radio tracking collars on 1,500 of them.

West Kentucky WMA hosts American Chesapeake Club National Field Trial Specialty

The American Chesapeake Club held its annual National Field Trial Specialty at West Kentucky WMA (WK-WMA) October 13-15, 2015.

This American Kennel Club sanctioned event, open for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers only, is held at rotating locations around the United States each fall. This is the first the event has been held in Kentucky.

Approximately 150 handlers participated each day of the event, traveling from more than 25 states and two Canadian provinces to attend. But the "Long Haul" award went to a visitor from Germany.

Retrievers from the ages of four months to 11 years tested in several different age and skill groupings, or "stakes," on both land and water retrieves.

Trial organizers selected WKWMA because of the variety and quality of land and water scenarios that the judges could use to test the retrievers, as well as the abundance of hotels, restaurants, and other amenities available in nearby Paducah.

Field Trial Chairman



Mitch Patterson said, "I get comments from people all over the country saying how beautiful the wildlife here is and how great this place is for these competitions," in reference to the WK-WMA.

The WKWMA has been improved for retriever and pointing dog training and events by the KDFWR with assistance from the Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America, the Bluegrass, Lincoln Trail, and Central Kentucky Retriever Clubs, and the Professional Retriever Trainers' Association.

At least three more national-level sporting dog events are scheduled to be held at the WKWMA within the next three years, in addition to over 20 local and regional events held annually.

The WKWMA is also managed for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation activities.

"Hire," continued

be a valuable asset to the Department's Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program.

Jessie currently resides in Louisville, Kentucky. He enjoys hiking, camping,

hunting and fishing with his family and friends throughout Kentucky. Special among those experiences include bow hunting and bass fishing with his younger brother and an annual smallmouth bass fishing trip to Canada with his family.

Jessie is very happy and excited about the opportunity to work for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. His first day on the job was September 16th. Please welcome Jessie to his new role with KDFWR.

KDWR Fall Golf Scramble Results

The comradery and storytelling was abundant as 30 golfers gathered on September 25 for the annual KDFWR fall golf scramble at Juniper Hills Golf Course in Frankfort.

The administrative team of **David Bruce, Eric McGinnis, Melissa Trent** and **Tim Wiard** carded two eagles on their way to a 10 under par winning mark.

The law enforcement team of **Shane Carrier, Patrick Younts, Larry Estes** and



Josh Robinson finished one shot off the lead at -9 for a solid second place finish. Closest to the pin honors went to

FINAL RESULTS

- 1st:** David Bruce, Eric McGinnis, Melissa Trent, Tim Wiard (-10)
- 2nd:** Shane Carrier, Patrick Younts, Larry Estes, Josh Robinson (-9)
- 3rd:** Tony Prichard, Steve Jackson, Mac Lang (-8)
- 4th:** Tom Van Arsdall, Rob Lewis, Kevin Rexroat, Joseph Zimmerman (-7)
- 5th:** Lee McClellan, Michael Gray, Keith Wethington, Anthony Godbey (-6)
- 6th:** Dane Balsman, Dan Stoelb, Ben Robinson, Jim Barnard (-5)
- 7th:** Rod Middleton, Jay Herrala, Don Bunnell (-4)
- 8th:** Jeff Ross, John Williams, Dave Dreves, Ron Brooks (+2)

Keith Wethington, Tom Van Arsdall, Tony Prichard and **Steve Jackson** on the four Par-3's.

A special thanks to **Don Bunnell** for his artisan cookery. We hope to see everyone next spring!



KECC TITLEISTS

Kentucky Employee Charitable Contributions Cornhole tournament between the Engineering Division and FILO raised \$72, continuing to inch us toward our KECC goal. All participants are appreciated! It was tough competition in the championship game with Lee Kemper and William Clifton falling to Greg Logan and Kevin Rexroat.





Success of the lake sturgeon restoration project continues

Fisheries Division's Transportation Section stocked 3,845 lake sturgeon at Alum Ford on the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River in early September.

They stocked another 3,800 of the 6-8" sturgeon at the end of the month at the Noes Dock area where the last lake sturgeon was caught in Kentucky in 1954.

This will bring the total number of lake sturgeon stocked into the Cumberland River above Lake Cumberland since April 2008 to 22,134.

Lake sturgeon are difficult to raise, however

the new Isolation/Production Building at Peter W. Pfeiffer Hatchery has improved the efficiency of this operation. The new recirculation systems allow much more efficient water filtration so that sturgeon can be raised with one tenth the water usage and the water temperature can be controlled much more easily.

Lake sturgeon require excellent water quality, are reluctant to accept pelleted feeds, and need to be fed a combination of live brine shrimp, frozen bloodworms or krill and a pellet feed 3-4 times a day.

As with all new KDFWR reintro-

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





Time lapse cameras used to assess fishing pressure

The urban fisheries section has a new tool in its arsenal to assess fishing pressure.

In the past decade game cameras have become very popular with outdoor enthusiasts scouting game animals. Now the cameras are being used to count anglers.

Instead of using the motion sensor setting, the cameras are set to time lapse. The cameras take a photo every 15 minutes providing pressure counts.

The urban fisheries crew recently installed 30 cameras at 20 Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) lakes around the state. Some larger lakes received multiple cameras. The pressure counts provide trend

data in angling effort throughout the year and between lakes.

In conjunction with routine fish sampling, past fish exploitation studies and angler attitude surveys, these pressure counts allow us to better refine stocking strategies at the FINs lakes. To accurately collect this information with a creel survey at this many lakes would be too cost prohibitive.

The cameras are mounted to trees or lighting poles 10-20 feet high and secured in a lock box near the lake. The cameras will remain up for 1-year period to deter-

mine angling effort at each lake. At the end of the 1-year period the cameras will be moved to other lakes enrolled in the FINs program.

Not all lakes will allow for 100% coverage with the cameras. In these instances, ground truthing will be used to come up with a correction factor to determine angling pressure.

So next time you are out fishing, smile... you may just be on camera.

“Sturgeon,” continued

duction efforts, the results and benefits of stockings are monitored to determine success. About 15 Fisheries staff gathered at the hatchery in August to mark about 7,500 lake sturgeon by removing two

specific scutes.

Marking the fish allows biologists to determine the stocking year from which they can glean age and growth data. Preliminary sampling this past winter revealed many of the marked lake sturgeon from previous years are surviving and thriving!

Staff used trotlines for sampling, and collected 54 lake sturgeon that ranged from 18.6 to 34.9 in length and were a good weight for their size.

This reintroduction effort is planned to continue until 2028 when the first fish stocked will have reached sexual maturity.

Fisheries staff show and tell at Calloway Conservation District

Ag Day is an annual event for upper elementary students hosted by Calloway County Conservation District on the campus of Murray State University.

Ag Day is presented so that students can see the significance of agriculture in everyday life, and the potential impacts to the environment.

Several agencies and organizations come together to set up displays for this two day event.



Photo by Paul Rister

Western Fishery District personnel staff the Fish and Wildlife station at the event. They introduce students who visit the station to the interactions of the aquatic food web. Students also learn why clean water is important to the management of a fish population.

The highlights of this stop are the live fish which the students get to see and touch. This year's event was attended by almost 400 students from local schools.

MERCER COUNTY YOUTH DEER HUNT NETS GREAT EXPERIENCES



Conservation Officer Jason Wells partnered with the Mercer County Fish and Game Club, the Salt River Longrifle Association and other community supporters to host a Mercer County youth deer hunt earlier this month. The youth took eight deer and all enjoyed their outdoor experience.



2015 NRESci Academy

For the fourth year, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff took lead roles in the University of Kentucky Robinson Center Natural Resource and Environmental Sciences Academy (NRESci) at UK's Robinson Forest.

This is a 3-year program designed to provide opportunity for students to learn about water, forestry and wildlife resources in the Appalachian region.

This year's wildlife class included eight students from Breathitt, Carter, Leslie, Owsley, Perry and Wolfe counties.

Wildlife Division staff members **Derrick Lindsay** and **Becky Littleton** provided instruction on wildlife management, deer aging, antler measurements, and bear biology.

Wildlife Diversity Biologist **John MacGregor** gave a presentation and led a night hike to locate and identify salamanders in the forest.

Stacy White, Bell County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources, taught the students how to set beaver traps and how to process the fur.

Students who are interested in participating in this program can get more information at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/rcars/NRESci%20Academy.php>





Whitehall Park Lake fishing will open again in spring

Whitehall Park in Madison County reopened to the public in early September. However, the lake remains closed to fishing due to low water.

The lake was drawn down last winter to replace a natural gas pipeline running under the upper end of the lake. The lake is scheduled to reopen to fishing on April 1, 2016 after rains refill it.

The lake is located between Lexington and Richmond and is a popular destination for anglers in the area.

The 6-acre lake is enrolled in the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) program and receives 4,800 catfish and 6,250 rainbow trout annually when the lake is at capacity.

The fish stockings are currently on hold while the lake is drawn down, but will resume next spring when the lake refills.

Fisheries staff sampled the lake earlier this month to ensure the bass and bluegill populations were in good condition while the lake was low.

The low water made it easier to strategically place fish attractors around the



lake. The lake was void of any substantial structure, so **Jason McDowell** and **Bobby Widener** built and deployed 30 spider blocks out of expired natural gas piping.

The benefit of the spider blocks is

they provide structure for fish, but are difficult for anglers to get hung up in. With a little rain this fall and winter the lake should be in good shape for fishing come spring.



Kentucky QDMA Military Youth Hunt a huge success

QDMA member-volunteers in Kentucky held the fifth annual Kentucky QDMA Military Youth Hunt October 8-11 during Kentucky's youth firearms deer season.

By the end of the hunt, 55 young hunters had taken 52 deer. For most of the youth, all of whom are from military families, it was their first time hunting.

"This special event is a win for everyone," said Joe Shreves, QDMA member with the Derby City Branch and coordinator of the hunt. "What a great way for our volunteers and sponsors to show their support for the military while introducing future hunters to the great outdoors and passing on our hunting heritage."

All of the youth hunters have parents who are active duty, reservists, veterans, or who lost their lives in military service, including all branches of the military. Five QDMA Branches participated, hosting four separate Deer Camps across Kentucky. The Barren River Branch hosted 10 youth in south central Kentucky. The Owensboro Branch hosted seven youth in western Kentucky. The Northern Kentucky Branch hosted four youth, and the Derby City and Heartland Branches hosted 34 youth, all in north central Kentucky.

The mission of the event is to introduce deserving children to the great outdoors by providing a safe, fun and

rewarding hunting opportunity while passing on our hunting heritage. In addition to enjoying a deer hunt, the children learned firearms safety, hunter ethics, marksmanship skills in both rifle and archery, and enjoyed many other fun activities designed to develop a love for the outdoors among youth. Each child was matched with an experienced hunter who volunteered to serve as a mentor and guide throughout the weekend.

Special thanks goes to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) for providing outstanding support and assistance with seminars on hunting safety, ethics and deer biology. Four KDFWR conservation officers spent numerous hours onsite providing support by tagging and collecting weight and age data from deer and

assisting in tracking and recovering deer in the field.

The majority of the deer taken were donated to the Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry program (KHFH). KHFH is a non-profit organization that encourages hunters to harvest and donate deer each season to provide a healthy source of protein to needy Kentuckians.

Additional thanks goes to event sponsors, including presenting sponsor Allegiant Construction, Cabela's, Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Bass Pro Shops, KDFWR, Kentuckiana Comfort Center, Equipment Depot, ABCO-Bramer Inc., United Mechanical, Bramer Crane Services, Birkhead HVAC, John Bramer, CEMEX, Roundstone Seed, League of Kentucky Sportsmen, and the Kentucky Conservation Officers Association.





12 youth take deer in Anderson County hunt

Twelve of the 18 participating youth successfully took deer during the Anderson County Sportsman's Club 2015 Youth Deer Hunt this past weekend.

The youth took seven does and five bucks. Some were hunting for the first time. Several adult guides also were participating in their first youth event.

The youth not only had the opportunity to experience deer hunting, but they each received proper instruction in safely using firearms, and they completed the hunter safety program.

There were donated supplies and

hunting clothes for each youth to prepare them for their adventure.

The skills, self-discipline, respect and education these youth received will follow them through life.

Thanks to all who sponsored or donated to make this possible.

We thank the volunteers, the guides/mentors (men and women) for giving of your time and dedication and for the people who ensured these youth were where they needed to be on time.

Each deer was processed and given to the youth's family.



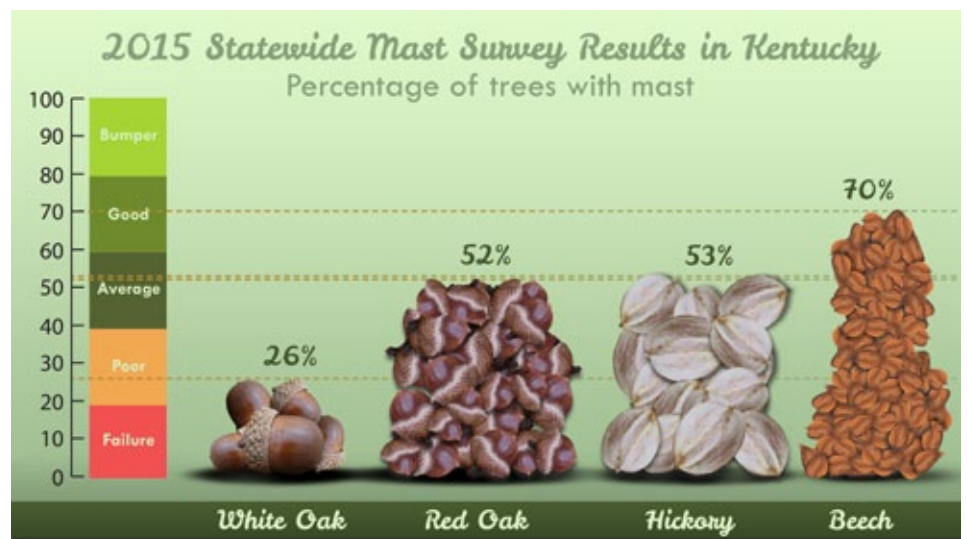
Kentucky's annual mast survey

Wildlife Division recently completed the annual statewide mast survey.

Division staff surveyed more than 30 routes across the state in an attempt to determine the amount of hard mast available for wildlife heading into the fall and winter months.

Observers looked at hundreds of white oak, red oak, hickory and beech trees during the last two weeks of August. Using binoculars, they observed tree crowns and estimated crown coverage for each tree. Then, they pooled their data to form the statewide estimate shown on the chart here.

The 2015 statewide survey indicates



Obie Williams graphic

that white oak acorns will be hard to find this fall. Red oak acorns and hickory nut

production was above average, and beech trees approached a bumper crop of nuts.



2015 Wet Meadow/Flatwoods Workshop exposes managers to rare plant communities

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) and local Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife staff assembled a workshop in early September on the conservation of rare plant communities.

As land managers who work significant wet meadow/flatwoods plant communities, it is important that we are able to recognize rare plant communities that we may intentionally or unintentionally come across during our normal work activities. This pilot workshop allowed local land managers with an interest in the conservation of rare natural plant communities of the Eastern Highland Rim ecological region to network their interests (http://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/ky/ky_front.pdf).

This region includes Kentucky counties Green, Metcalfe, Barren, Allen, Monroe, Taylor, Adair, Cumberland, Casey,



Russell, Clinton, Lincoln, Rockcastle, Pulaski and Wayne.

The workshop consisted of morning classroom presentations on rare plant communities and an afternoon trip to Sundew Meadow in Russell Co., led by Martina Hines with the SNPC.

Sundew Meadow is a small and rare flatwoods/wet meadow complex on private

land that is home to two species of Sundew and other rare plants.

At the site there was discussion of species composition, ecology, disturbance history, and management strategies. Several staff from the Southeast Region, foresters from the Kentucky Division of Forestry South Central Office, Natural Resources Conservation Service, a botanist from Lindsey Wilson College, and local landowners attended

the workshop.

Feedback suggests that the workshop was well received and deemed beneficial. Ideas for future workshops on similarly significant plant communities are in the works. Many thanks go to the Russell County Conservation District for providing refreshments, lunch, and facilities for the classroom portion of the workshop.

Louisville showcases wildlife conservation in the city

By **Terri Brunjes**

Mention Jefferson County, Kentucky and the metropolitan city of Louisville is the first thing people visualize. Nature is the furthest thought from their minds. Many people aren't aware of the largescale project concept of "City of Parks."

City of Parks is a municipal project designed to create a continuous paved pedestrian and biking trail around the city of Louisville while also adding a large amount of park land for recreation.

Current project plans include: converting approximately 4,000 acres of the Floyds Fork floodplain in eastern Jefferson County into park space, expanding the Jefferson Memorial Forest, and adding riverfront land and wharfs along Louisville's Riverwalk and Levee Trails. There are also plans to connect the 100-mile Louisville trail to a planned seven mile trail connecting the Southern Indiana cities of New Albany, Clarksville and Jeffersonville.

Four non-profit organizations in Jefferson County are making a significant impact to this project by focusing on improving wildlife habitat in the community park areas they represent. These organizations are: 21st Century Parks, Inc. (representing a mix of Metro Louisville's Eastern Jefferson County Parks along with Floyds Fork Corridor properties under the control of 21st Century Parks Inc. and The Future Fund Inc.); Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy (representing the heart of the City's Olmsted designed parks); Blackacre Conservancy Inc. (representing part of Kentucky's first purchased Nature Preserve); and Wilderness Louisville, Inc. (representing Jefferson Memorial Forest and Natural Areas managed by the City of

Louisville).

These groups worked with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's District Conservationist, Kurt Mason and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' wildlife biologists **Jason Nally** and **Terri Brunjes** to focus on protecting and enhancing wildlife species in one of the most populated areas of the state.

With all this available land, they recognized that with just a few habitat changes, wildlife habitat could be improved without affecting recreational



opportunities! Through the Environmental Quality Incentive Programs Wildlife Initiative (EQIP Wildlife) and the former Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), these nonprofit organizations have been able to improve 1,166 acres of wildlife habitat.

All four parks allow public access so people in the community and visitors from across the state and nation can watch the progress as practices are implemented. These parks rely on volunteers, staff and individual contractors to implement projects such as invasive species control, native grass and wildflower plantings, wetland creation, prescribed fire, forest stand improvement, and bottomland hardwood tree plantings. Most of the project areas

have signs that identify the treatment that is taking place.

Many species benefit from these wildlife practices and can thrive in park settings. Parks are used by both migratory birds as stopovers between breeding and wintering grounds and resident birds that nest in Kentucky.

Every spring, birders flock to parks to view the colorful warblers as they migrate through, such as this Blackburnian warbler shown in the picture. Eastern box turtles can also be seen in deciduous forests adja-

cent to meadows and streams or ponds. Large continuous blocks of protected habitat like these parks are the key to making differences for wildlife, especially for those species experiencing population declines.

In addition to the habitat work, these large blocks of open spaces offer aesthetic places for recreation such as birding, hiking, picnicking, fishing, biking, and canoeing within the most densely populated area in the state.

Additional opportunities such as summer camps, guided hikes, archery instruction, and even camping are also available.

Besides that, within some of these areas you can also see row crops being planted and harvested, hay being managed and pastures transitioning to better accommodate species that are often overlooked, such as butterflies, bees, bats, owls, rabbits, foxes and frogs.

This combined effort will have far reaching implications in helping to connect people to the land and foster a land ethic that will nurture future generations of conservationists. So the next time you are near Louisville, stop by and visit one of these parks. You might just see something interesting!



OPERATION RIVER SWEEP

Conservation Officer Jason Wells joined a group of local volunteers on September 19 in Operation River Sweep, a cleanup of the Kentucky River and riverbanks in Pool 6 and at Lock 7. They removed lots of trash, including a pair of old water-skis, wheels and tires, large styrofoam chunks and more.

