



Gov. Bevin presents Clay Brummal with Governor's Ambassador Award for Courage



Governor Matt Bevin has presented the 2016 Governor's Ambassador Award for Courage to Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Educator **Clay Brummal**.

Bevin presented Brummal with the award in an October 6 ceremony at the Frankfort Convention Center.

The governor's award came in recognition of Brummal's life-saving heroic actions of June 10 as he was returning home via the Natcher Parkway in Ohio County after a week at Camp Currie. He witnessed a single-vehicle crash, hurried to the mangled pickup and then pulled

its unconscious and badly injured driver out and to safety just seconds before the vehicle erupted into flames.

A bus load of elementary and middle school students on their way home from spending the week at Camp Currie also witnessed the wreck and their counselor's heroic rescue actions.

Brummal's actions that day earned him a nomination for the Courage Award along with six other employees throughout state government.

Six other Department employees were nominated for Governor's Ambassador Award categories. **Amy Akers** was

nominated for customer service. **Rachel Bertucci** and **Captain Charles Phillips** were nominated in the Leadership category, and **Dane Balsman** and **Officer Rich Waite** were nominated for professional achievement. **Tom Timmermann** and **Joseph Zimmerman** were nominated in the team award category for the Cave Run Lake Habitat Project.

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This note came to Commissioner Johnson from Karen Woodrich with the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service. She wrote, “Just wanted to let you know what a great help that **John Goodin** and **Jonah Price** have been (they are two of our top notch Farm Bill Biologists under our agreements). In addition, **Danny Hughes** helped coordinate and gather the needed help. They answered a call to help with some significant CRP workload in central KY. They were life-savers!

Thanks so much for your Partnership in this conservation endeavor.”

The following comments were received via email, Facebook posts and letters from participants who attended the recent Field To Fork – Learn To Hunt Deer for Food course for adults offered by the Department in Meade County:

Dear **Brian [Clark]**, **Jason [Nally]** and **every Fish & Wildlife employee in the Field To Fork course** – I want to say thank you again for making this introduction so informative, interesting, and enjoyable. I appreciate you all putting this together, and look forward to tagging a deer someday soon.

--Colby N., Louisville

I have to say this was an experience I'll never forget. I had a blast all weekend and learned more than I thought possible. It has given me the knowledge and courage to go out and do this by myself. I have already recommended it to several friends. Hoping you have a turkey hunting class in March; if so I'll be there.

--Alvin W., Louisville

This was definitely a memorable weekend that was full of great information, great food and fun!

--Brandon F., Louisville

I had a lot of fun this weekend. Thanks for all your hard work. I would be interested in learning to hunt turkey.

--William G., Lexington

I just wanted to say thank you for your hard work, patience and attention to detail. The Field to Fork school was incredibly successful – so well organized and with such first-rate presenters. Congrats on a job well done!

--Tim W., Beattyville

Thank you so much for putting on this event. I had a great time and learned a ton for sure. One thing that would be helpful to me and maybe others would be a bit more time with the mentors, just walking around and scouting; I know it is tough to squeeze in everything you would like, so maybe it would work as a separate class... I have spent a lot of time in the woods as a climber and hiking, but I don't know how to read tracks or ID food sources all that well. Thanks again, you all did a great job with this!

--Wes A., Lexington

Commissioner Johnson received the following letter from Michael L. Piccirilli, Chief – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He wrote:

We would like to thank you and your staff for the assistance extended to Mr. Alex Coley during his recent site visit to view the successful field work conducted under Kentucky's Wildlife Restoration (WQR) grant program. The purpose of the visit was to acquire a better understanding of some of the projects funded by the WR program in Kentucky. The trip included visits to multiple Wildlife Management Areas to inspect newly-acquired properties and to observe recent habitat management activities.

The findings from the trip are included in the attached trip report. In all cases, grant activities were being accomplished in a very effective and efficient manner. These findings will be placed in the project files in Atlanta. Please convey our particular thanks to Messrs. **Ben Robinson** and **David McChesney** for their exemplary efforts in organizing such a useful and timely trip, and for their assistance and hospitality during the monitoring visit. It appears that the successful administration of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' (KDFWR) WR program owes a great deal to their efforts. These projects will serve to benefit hunters and recreationists, and wildlife interests in Kentucky.

In addition please pass along our thanks to KDFWR staff Messrs. **Jacob Stewart**, **Nathan Gregory**, **Brian Wagoner**, **Josh Lillpop** and **Scott Buser** for providing excellent tours and excellent explanations of current habitat management and future plans for the recently-acquired properties. Their understanding and knowledge of the various projects was very helpful. We now have a much better understanding of the activities being undertaken on these areas, the challenges and roles of your staff in the process, and the importance of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program to their activities.

Numerous notes were received by staff from Sharon Vance, JAKES DAY Committee Member with the NWTF Double Eagle Chapter. She wrote, “Thank you so much for helping to make our 2016 JAKES DAY a complete success! Without your help and support, we would not have been able to put together and have this free, fun and educational day for the kids and their families!

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New Hires / Promotions

Jamison Standard is a new employee with Kentucky Afield Television as Associate Video Producer I.

He was born and raised in Todd County, Kentucky. At an early age in life Jamison realized he had a passion for the outdoors. He would go hunting and fishing with his father Jimmy every chance he could and once old enough began to go on his own.

When he graduated high school, Jamison went to Murray State University and studied Journalism and Mass Communications with an emphasis on video production. He graduated with a degree in Electronic Media and an Advertising minor.

Standard spent summers between college classes working at Camp Currie as a counselor, where he taught hunting and fishing safety standards to groups of students.

After college, he worked at Mossy Oak Productions, which is located in West Point, MS. He traveled the country filming hunts and learned the art of storytelling.

Kentucky Afield brings him back home to Kentucky, where he started his job on September 6.

Nathan Brooks was recently promoted to Manager of the Broadcast Branch in I & E Division, and co-executive producer of Kentucky Afield Television. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2004 and earned a degree in Broadcast Journalism.

Nathan has been married to his wife Pam for a little over a year and they make their home in Lexington.

He has been employed in the field of television production for 14 years, traveling with the Tennessee Titans for two years producing the team's coach's show. He previously also produced weekly documentaries at Auburn, Miami, Arkansas



Noah Nelson recently harvested this Kentucky elk during his first elk hunt.

State, Marquette and Notre Dame doing stories on the behind the scenes of football and other athletic teams.

Hailing from Owensboro originally, Brooks watched Kentucky Afield and Tim Farmer since he was a youngster. He competes in national archery tournaments, enjoys bowhunting, fishing, camping, hiking and mountain biking in his spare time. And, big surprise, he is an avid UK basketball fan.

He began with the agency and Kentucky Afield in February 2014 and says in his new role, he intends to maintain the integrity and production value of Kentucky Afield TV while showcasing the greatest attributes of the KDFWR and Kentucky's hunting and fishing heritage. Congrats to Nathan on his promotion.

Please welcome **Ashley Harper** to KDSS. She transferred to KDSS as an Internal Policy Analyst I effective September 1, 2016.

She previously worked as an Administrative Assistant for the Engineering Division. She will be taking care of our disability licenses, refunds and Cr's.

She is looking forward to the duties and responsibilities that this new position brings and also all the changes coming to KDSS. Stop by and say Hi!

Noah Nelson has been promoted to Fisheries Research Biologist at Peter W. Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery.

Noah received his Bachelor's De-

gree from the University of Kentucky in 2010. He then attended Kentucky State University to work on his Master's Degree in aquaculture.

Noah first started working with KDFWR as a seasonal Fish & Wildlife Technician I at the hatchery in March 2014 after completing aquaculture coursework. He was then hired on full time at the hatchery as a Fisheries Biologist II in October 2014.

We are confident that Noah will do an excellent job and the hatchery will benefit from his expertise and calm demeanor.

Noah is originally from Louisville. He enjoys fishing, hunting and shed hunting. Noah and wife, Jennie, have a Labrador retriever named Red.

The Information and Education Division has recently hired **Becky Bloomfield** as a Conservation Educator in the Hunter Recruitment Program. Becky is from Falmouth, Kentucky where she grew up hunting deer and fishing on the Licking River.

Becky graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management and a University Certificate in Geographical Information Systems. Her background with the department includes working three summers as a Conservation Camp Counselor at Camp Earl Wallace teaching casting/fishing, swimming, archery, gun safety, nature, outdoor survival and boating. She also served as a Volunteer Intern for KDFWR Hunter Education in 2014.

Becky spent a summer working for the Student Conservation Association and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a Moose Project Technician Intern where she monitored collared cows and their calves.

In addition to her seasonal work

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experience, Becky has volunteered with KDFWR assisting with hunter education classes, Green Wing, Hunter's Legacy mentor deer hunts, youth dove hunts, and Venture Camp.

Her current trainings and certifications include: NASP Basic Archery Instructor, Explore Bowhunting Instructor, Bowhunter Educator, American Heart Association First Aid and CPR/AED, KDFWR Boater Education, Safe Capture International Chemical Immobilization of Animals, and Type II Wildland Fire-fighter.

We're excited to have Becky on board helping to recruit, retain, and reactivate new hunters!

We are glad to announce that **Nathan Ward** was recently hired as the new fisheries technician in the Western Fisheries District. Nathan is transferring from the Critical Species Investigations branch where he worked primarily on Asian carp issues.

He is a 2016 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, with a bachelor's degree in natural resource management. In addition to his seasonal work with our agency, he previously interned with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge system.

In his free time, Nathan is an avid bass fishermen and bow hunter. Nathan is very excited about working with sport fish in this area of the state.

Jason Curry has been appointed as a Fish and Wildlife Technician II with the Critical Species Investigations section. Jason had previously been working with the crew as a seasonal technician conducting monitoring and removal of Asian carp on the Ohio River.

Jason is originally from Pike County and earned his Bachelor's Degree in wildlife management from Eastern Kentucky University. Jason hobbies include drawing, playing guitar, fishing and herps.

The Administrative Services Divi-



SEVERS FINALLY GETS HIS BULL

Yellowbank Wildlife Management Area veteran technician Larry Severs made good on his bull elk tag this season. Larry, a loyal participant in the Kentucky Elk Lottery drawing since its beginning 16 years ago, was a lucky winner this year. He took this excellent bull near Hazard.

sion is happy to announce the addition of **Tina Gaines** to the Accounting Branch. Tina will take on the responsibility of the Department Procard Administrator.

Tina comes to us from the Public Protection Cabinet where she renewed licenses for HVAC. She has studied at Sullivan University to be a paralegal.

Tina resides in Frankfort with her husband and son. In her free time she enjoys making crafts, cooking and fishing with her family.

Corrin "Corri" Bascom is joining the Environmental Education Branch (Salato) as a part of the Animal Care Team.

Corri has a BS in Animal Studies from ECU. She has a great deal of experience in small and large animal husbandry. Her past experience includes caring for and training dogs, horses, and other livestock. She has logged more than 100 hours as a volunteer at Salato.

Corri loves the outdoors and is an avid hiker, kayaker, camper. She is also getting married next year.

Stop by Salato and say hi to Corri.

Courtney Goodman is the new Conservation Educator I in the Hunter Education Program working in western Kentucky.

Originally from Georgetown, Kentucky, she graduated from Scott County High School in 2010 and attended Murray State University where she received a bachelor's degree in agriculture science. While at Murray State she worked summers as a counselor and supervisor at Camp Currie, was treasurer for the Murray State Wildlife and Fisheries Society, and served as presi-

dent of the local Ducks Unlimited chapter.

After graduating college, Courtney moved to her husband's farm west of Hickman in Fulton County. She lives on the Mississippi River as far west as you can go without leaving Kentucky.

As a small child her father introduced Courtney and her brother to the outdoors, hunting squirrels and bowhunting deer at a local WMA. These hunting experiences instilled in Courtney a passion for the outdoors and ethical hunting as well as the desire to help shed good light on these

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traditions for others.

With her new position as Hunter Training officer, Courtney is looking forward to sharing and gaining knowledge from the sportsman and sportswomen of Kentucky and our passionate hunter education volunteers.

Lisa Frye is our new coordinator for the Archery in the Schools Program. Married with four daughters, she recently retired after teaching for 27 years in Franklin and Fayette counties.

When Lisa learned about Kentucky NASP in 2002 she became fascinated with introducing children to the outdoors and shooting sports. Because she strives to make a positive impact on children’s lives, Lisa implemented the program in her school in 2003.

A short time later she became a Regional Archery Coordinator and spent the next 12 years helping introduce other Kentucky schools to NASP.

Lisa is excited about working in her new position. “Knowing that I will be helping Kentucky’s children and their families by giving them the opportunity to learn about Kentucky’s wildlife and the love of outdoor sports, is a dream come true. It is a great honor to continue to work with so many phenomenal individuals that have made NASP a success.”

Congratulations go out to **Michael Scott** in his new position as Engineer for the Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology Division. Michael has worked for the agency since 2015 and received his Engineering License last Spring.

Michael graduated from the University of Kentucky, and he and his wife reside in the Frankfort area. Michael’s expertise and his passion for the mission of our agency make him a valued member of the Engineering and agency team.



KEMPER TAKES PERRY COUNTY 6X6

Department Engineer Lee Kemper sits astride the fine 6x6 he took in Perry County this month. His son Richard Kelsey accompanied him on his “hunt of a lifetime.” Hunters have reported taking nearly 200 elk already in the 2016 hunting year.

Zach Beyer was hired October 1 as a Tech II on Kleber Wildlife Management Area. Originally from Bethel, Ohio, he is currently living in Lexington.

He received his B.S. in Wildlife Management at Eastern Kentucky University on December 2013. While at ECU, he served as the 2012-13 TWS student chapter president.

Zach worked for the department as an interim technician on Clay and Fleming from March 2014 until accepting a full time position at Kleber WMA. While at Clay and Fleming, he was involved with forest stand improvement, open land management, and prescribed burning. He is excited to get out in the field at Kleber and Kentucky River WMAs and continue working in these habitat settings.

On his off time, Zach has a passion for hunting and fishing as well as backpacking and camping.

Madeleine Pratt was recently hired

as a Farm Bill Biologist for Christian county. She was raised in the wilds of Graves County and with her hard-earned wildlife degree from Murray State University, she (and her mama) is proud to call herself a full-time Wildlife Biologist for KDFWR.

Previously, she worked three seasonal terms for Private Lands Biologist **Philip Sharp**, working in the Livingston County Quail Focus Area. In that capacity, she gained valuable experience in herbicide usage, heavy machine operation, reminding her previous boss where he put his brain and habitat assessments.

Madeleine enjoys reading, gardening and hiking with her Great

Pyrenees in her spare time.

The northeast region is happy to have **James (Jimmy) Woods** as the new public lands biologist in the northeast.

Jimmy hit the ground running on October 3rd and has been learning a lot. Jimmy was born in Florida but has spent most of his life in the Woodford County area. He received a bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University in 2014.

He worked as an interim technician for multiple terms at the Clay Wildlife Management Area. Jimmy was the forest management technician and worked on many aspects of forest management. He has learned a great deal of knowledge which will translate into his new role.

Jimmy currently lives in Morehead with his wife Samantha and son Dalton. If you find yourself in Grayson or Carter County feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.



TROPHY MUSKY IN THE BOAT

Fisheries Division Assistant Director Mike Hardin is keeping mum about certain specifics – such as where he caught it... what kind of lure...etc. – but clearly he recently landed this trophy Kentucky musky.

Baglan, Kentucky Afield Radio honored by Kentucky Librarians

Kentucky Afield Radio host **Charlie Baglan** received the Jesse Stuart Media Award given by the Kentucky Association of School Librarians.

The award honors creative media that advances the richness of our state.

This was the first time in its history the honor was given to a radio program dating back to 1974.

It was nominated by the Kentucky Department of Education in recognition of how the in-depth show can aid students learning about the wild world around them.

One of the winning topics focused on how younger children are introduced to nature through storybooks and fantasy. Who can forget the great debate between Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck on rabbit season versus duck season?

While Donald Duck, Mother Goose and many others remain classics, many elementary authors today endeavor to



blend factual information with otherwise fictional characters so youngsters come away with a clearer understanding of wild-

2016 Fall Golf Scramble

Twenty-seven golfers gathered on September 30 for the annual KDFWR fall golf scramble at Juniper Hills Golf Course in Frankfort. The weather was near perfect, but the scores not so much.

Unfortunately, no golfers were selected for this year's Ryder Cup.

The law enforcement team of **Shane Carrier, Larry Estes, Damon Foster** and **Josh Robinson** finished with a winning score of -5.

The team of **Ben Robinson, Dan Stoelb, Jim Barnard** and **Dane Balsman** finished in a close 2nd at -4.

Closest to the pin honors went to **Keith Wethington, Jessie Boles, Tony Prichard** and Dane Balsman on the four Par-3's.

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

SCORES WRAPUP

- 1st:** Shane Carrier, Larry Estes, Damon Foster, Josh Robinson (-5)
- 2nd:** Ben Robinson, Dan Stoelb, Jim Barnard, Dane Balsman (-4)
- 3rd:** Tony Prichard, Steve Jackson, Mac Lang, David Casey (-2)
- 4th:** Tom Van Arsdall, Rob Lewis, Kevin Rexroat, Jessie Boles (-1)
- 5th:** Jay Herrala, Joseph Zimmerman, Ed Mahurin, Matthew Mahurin (E)
- 6th:** Keith Wethington, Tim Wiard, Josh Lillpop, Bill Shipley (+1)
- 7th:** Jeff Ross, John Williams, Don Bunnell (+2)

life and habitats.

The award is named for famed Greenup County author and educator Jesse Stuart who used the education theme in his poetry, novels and short stories.

The award was given at the Galt House in Louisville September 22.

Clay WMA Field Day

KDFWR staff partnered with UK Extension Services and Kentucky Division of Forestry to conduct a public field day on the Clay Wildlife Management Area September 17.

Approximately 25 people attended for a great afternoon of information and fun. Staff covered a variety of topics for open land management techniques and forest management options for private landowners.

The public was taken to four stations via tractor and wagon to view varying habitat practices. They observed the varying habitat types and discussed implementation, equipment and considerations.

The first station demonstrated techniques and benefits of fallow field management and how to incorporate food plots into that strategy.

The second stop demonstrated techniques for edge feathering and how this practice paired with fallow field management can assist a multitude of species, increase wildlife and provide needed corridors for wildlife to move between seasonal habitat needs.

Stop number three looked at a cedar stand harvested in 2011. Reverting fields and young forested areas in the outer bluegrass contain a cedar component; staff discussed invasive species concerns and oak regeneration with this harvest. They also demonstrated how existing soft mast trees benefit from increased light by increasing



fruit production.

The last stop took place in a mixed hardwood timber stand harvested in 2014. Staff discussed the advantages of timber harvest and disadvantages of timber harvest as it related to invasive species and composition in relation to fast growing species such as maple and yellow poplar.

After all the field trip stops were completed everyone enjoyed some lunch, a discussion about programs for private landowners from Farm Bill Biologist **Randall Alcorn** and a few rounds of trap shooting thanks to I&E staff.

Bill Bedini, a landowner adjacent to Clay WMA, gave a short presentation on his experience working through NRCS programs, a big thanks for his presentation.

Acknowledgements need to be given to **Wes Mattox, Jacob Stewart, Brian Wagoner, Clay Stamm, Scott Freidhof, Zak Danks, Kevin Galloway, Law Enforcement, Commission Member Rich Storm, I&E staff and Clay WMA staff** for all of their efforts to make this successful.



“Mail,” continued

This year, we had 239 adults who attended with 378 kids who enjoyed participating in all of the wonderful activities provided by 98 fantastic Volunteers and Exhibitors.

We greatly appreciate each and every one of you who gave of your time, shared your talents and knowledge.”

Ms. Vance sent individual notes thanking the following staff for their assistance with this event: **Brandon Jacobs, Eric Smith, Dave Frederick, Derek Beard, Captain Richard Skaggs, Officer Matthew Hartley, Sgt. Phillip Crane, and Lt. Damon Foster.**

Wildlife Division staff received the following note from KSP Trooper Ken Bradley. He wrote, “We had a situation out at the Fish and Wildlife Reserve in Madison County (Miller Welch Central KY WMA) where a suicidal man was supposed to be.

“I asked **Bill Shearer** to help me because this man was supposed to be near goose pond, and I have no clue where that is. Bill took us straight to the man’s car and then on to an abandoned home where he thought the man may be hiding. Sure enough, we found the guy and got him out of there. We would have never found him had it not been for Bill.”

Robert Prowell, who is part of the Mossy Oak Pro Staff, wrote the following note through our web email system. “I was in attendance this past weekend to the Field to Fork event and just wanted to let you know how impressed I was with all of the Fish and Wildlife staff that were on hand. Without naming names for fear of leaving someone unfairly out, we here in Kentucky are truly blessed to have such talented and caring staff working for our Fish and Wildlife Department. The Field to Fork event is such a great program! Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife sets the standard! Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of it.”



Dane Balsman photos

Sampling at A.J. Jolly Lake reveals big saugeye, catfish

Fisheries staff **Jason McDowell** and **Bobby Widener** display several saugeye recently sampled from A.J. Jolly Lake

in Campbell County. Saugeye were first stocked in 2013 and are already exceeding 22 inches and 4 pounds. The lake

also holds some bruiser catfish. Widener displays a flathead and McDowell holds a large blue catfish recently sampled.





Lake Cumberland BOW event draws 93 from multiple states

The annual fall Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop in Jabez on Lake Cumberland provided opportunity for 93 women from multiple states to learn outdoor skills.

Participants and instructors used the occasion also to say thank you, good-bye and good luck to 11-year volunteer BOW coordinator **Beth Spivey-Minch**, who led the event for the last time before stepping away.

Instructors and participants alike pitched in to buy and present Spivey-

Minch a .380 Smith & Wesson handgun and personalized carrying case to acknowledge her work to build the program's success.

The agency presented her with a letter of thanks for her long-term service from **Commissioner Johnson** and a certificate of appreciation. Spivey-Minch led the Kentucky BOW Program for more than half of its 21 years. More than 4,000 women have attended workshops since the program began.

The program will now be resumed

by the agency and coordinated by **Olivia Harmsen** in the I & E Division's Recruitment and Retention Branch. The next event tentatively is scheduled for this coming April.

Department personnel who taught and assisted at the workshop include **Megan Bagby, Chad Miles, Easton Copley, Sam Seaton, Brent McCarty, Geoff Roberts, John Williams, Rachel Crume & Sharon Sparrow** (KFW Foundation).

A short segment on the event is expected to air on Kentucky Afield.

COWAN ELEMENTARY YOUTH GET INTO THE OUTDOORS AT KINGDOM COME STATE PARK

The kindergarten and first grade classes from Cowan Elementary joined wildlife biologist Tristan Curry, Bear Technician Aaron Smith and Conservation Officer Shane Amburgey earlier this month for a bear and outdoors day at Kingdom Come State Park.





High school students help with Lake Sturgeon stocking

Since 2008, Fisheries Division staff has involved students from Whitley County High School in the annual stocking of Lake Sturgeon at the Mouth of Laurel boat ramp.

On August 29, students in an Environmental Science class were eager to learn about the Department's Lake Sturgeon restoration program and assist biologists with releasing the fish in the Cumberland River.

This year the Pfeiffer Hatchery

produced approximately 7,500 Lake Sturgeon, which were stocked at the Mouth of Laurel River and in the Big South Fork at Alum Ford. This brings the total number of fish stocked in the Cumberland River above Lake Cumberland to nearly 30,000 since April 2008.

Increasing angler capture reports along with the Division's trotline sampling efforts indicate that many of these fish are surviving and growing.



OUTDOOR SAFETY AT LETCHER COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Seventh District Sgt. Homer Pigman talks with a group of first and second grade students at the Letcher County Extension Office about outdoor safety. All first and second grade classes from the county attended the event which included 543 students. Also present was conservation officer Shane Amburgey, Biologist Tristan Curry, and Tech Aaron Smith.



Wilderness Trail Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Event

The Wilderness Trail Chapter of Ducks Unlimited teamed with the Danville-Boyle County Parks and Recreation Department and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources last month to conduct a Greenwing event and give youth hands on experience with building Goose Nesting platforms, Wood Duck boxes and Duck nesting tubes.

The Danville-Boyle County Parks and Recreation Department contacted the local Ducks Unlimited Chapter for assistance to construct and place platforms for the local ducks and geese to have a safe place to nest and raise their young at the Millennium Park off of US 150 in Danville. All of the materials for the nesting tubes and platforms were purchased by the Parks Commission.

Jay Cloud, teacher for the Advance Manufacturing Class for the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville, was approached as a class project to cut out and assemble the wood duck boxes. The class assembled five boxes and used a CNC machine to do the engraving of the logos for the Class, Stratton Lumber Company and the Wilderness Trail Chapter on the front of the boxes.

Approximately 25 youth and parents attended the event to help construct



and place the nesting boxes and tubes at the lake. Youth were divided into three groups to start the fabrication of

the nesting boxes, tubes and platforms. Once each group had assembled one they would rotate to another project so each group had a chance to build all three types.

Once all of the tubes and platforms were constructed they went to the lake to watch and participate in a class of retriever 101. The wood duck boxes were

to be used at various locations throughout

See "Greenwing," page 12

SHOOTING ARROWS AT FLYING TARGETS

Public Affairs and Marketing Division teamed with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation in supporting the Blue Grass Council Boy Scouts camporee with an aerial archery challenge this month in Knott County. The annual event is sponsored by the Kentucky Coal Association and Kentucky River Properties and attracted more than 600 boy scouts and leaders who spent a weekend camping and shooting rifles, pistols, shotguns, and archery equipment.



“Greenwing,” continued

the area at a later date.

Tim Bach of the Central Kentucky Retriever Club was in attendance with his two labs. He gave an overview of how the retrievers work in the field and how they are known as a conservation tool. Each child was given the chance to “work” the

dogs with Tim standing in the background to help guide the dog to the intended mark.

After the retriever demonstration was complete, the adults had the job of placing the tubes and nesting platforms. Three goose nesting platforms and three hen tubes were set at various locations on the lake. The Nesting Tubes were placed in

approximately 48” of water and the Goose Nesting platforms were anchored towards the middle part of the lake.

The event appear to be enjoyed by all in attendance and served as an educational tool furthering the cause for conservation and how all can be a part. Several of the cub scouts in attendance achieve their merit badges for assembling the floats.

CKHRA and West Kentucky WMA host HRC International Grand

The “Super Bowl” of the hunting retriever world drew 366 retrievers recently when the Central Kentucky Hunting Retriever Association (CKHRA) hosted the Hunting Retriever Club’s International Grand Hunt Test at West Kentucky WMA on September 19-23. This semi-annual event travels to various sites around the United States, and this was the first time for it to be held in Kentucky.

CKHRA, a member club of the UKC’s Hunting Retriever Club, began an almost two-year process in 2014 when members first sought to hold the prestigious event in Kentucky.

West Kentucky WMA (WKWMA) was selected because of the assortment of land and water testing sites available on the WMA. Preparations intensified during the spring and summer of 2016, with CKHRA members arranging hotel rooms, equipment donations, banquet facilities, meals, portable restrooms, and many other things necessary to insure a quality event.

Scott Cronin arranged for 27 students from the Wildlife Resources and Forestry class of the Muhlenberg County High School’s Agriculture Education Program to work as “bird technicians” to make the event run smoothly in the field.

WKWMA staff worked throughout the summer to dewater shallow wetlands, prompting new vegetative growth, then re-flooded them



to create realistic waterfowl hunting scenarios for the event. Fields were groomed in early September to provide realistic dry land waterfowl and upland bird hunting scenarios as well.

Dogs and handlers from at least 28 states and the province of Ontario traveled to the Paducah area for the International Grand. Each dog was required to pass two land and two water tests before finishing the event with an upland hunting test on

day five. Of the 366 dogs entered, 131 passed all five tests, and twenty-four of those earned the title “Grand Hunting Retriever Champion.”

All parties involved considered the event a success. The Paducah area and WKWMA provided the grounds, hotels and eateries, and infrastructure needed for the event with flying colors. Handlers received a great taste of western Kentucky hospitality throughout the event.

Despite never hosting an event of this size, CKHRA members ran like a well-oiled machine (although a tired one by Friday night). The volunteer “bird techs” from Muhlenberg County HS did an excellent job, and learned more about sporting dogs, and the outdoors in general.

International Grand Committee member Mike Botts said “we are ready to come back as soon as CKHRA is ready for us again.”

