



## Millions view Kentucky’s jumping carp video



and brought international attention to Kentucky’s fight against this invasive species. It also brought to light the need for funding the national Asian Carp Management and Control Plan created by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent their spread into other waterways.

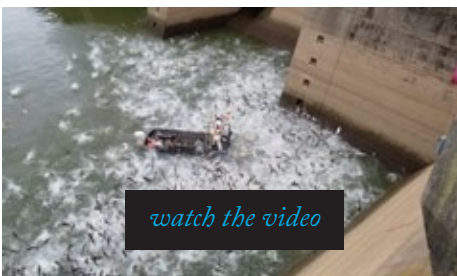
Construction on the carp deterrent system is well underway and could become operational by fall.

The experimental system – the Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) – casts a barrier of bubbles, sound and light to deflect the noise-sensitive

Viewers around the world got a glimpse of Kentucky’s Asian carp problem as a video of an electrofishing boat working below Barkley Dam went viral. More than 31 million people watched a crew from

the department’s Critical Species Investigations Branch surrounded by hundreds of jumping fish once they turned on the boat’s electric probes. FOX News, CNN, BBC World News and several Asian media outlets picked up the video, which is viewable on Kentucky Afield’s YouTube channel (KYAfield).

Asian carp from entering an area. Workers are installing the system at the downstream approach of Barkley Lock to test its effectiveness at deterring Asian carp from moving upstream through the lock chamber and into Lake Barkley.



The fisheries crew provided the demonstration to highlight the need for an experimental Asian carp deterrent system being installed below the lock chamber adjacent to the Barkley Dam. The video highlighted the Asian carp epidemic

Multiple agencies and partners are working with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife on the project, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Click [here](#) to see construction photos of the project underway.

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## Couch earns Emmy for work on “Kentucky Naturally”



Left: Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves Executive Director Zeb Weese (left) and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife At-Risk Species Biologist Zach Couch. Above: Audubon Wetlands – KHLCF purchase with ADA access.

**K**entucky Fish and Wildlife At-Risk Species Biologist Zach Couch and Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves Executive Editor Zeb Weese were awarded an Emmy recently for their work on the Western Kentucky University-PBS

production “Kentucky Naturally.”

The 30-minute special features a series of lands purchased

with funds from the sale of Nature’s Finest license plates, through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF). Areas highlighted include state parks, wildlife management areas (Ballard, Sloughs, Big Rivers and Yellowbank) and

state nature preserves.

Production took three years between scheduling, filming and coordination. In the special, Couch presents the importance of what these public lands mean to people and to the Commonwealth’s fish and wildlife resources. Elements include highlights of research, recreation, preservation and habitat management accomplishments.

To view the program online click [here](#).



## Department welcomes new veterinarian

**W**elcome Dr. Christine “Chrissy” Casey to the agency as the department’s veterinarian. Casey is originally from Vermont where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology. She moved to Georgia in 2009 and completed a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Georgia. Her M.S. coursework and research focused on wildlife diseases and provided her with a strong background in microbiology and diagnostic

research. After earning her Master’s, Casey stayed in Georgia to attend vet school. While in vet school, she decided to enroll in a dual-degree program and get a Master in Public Health (MPH) in addition to her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Her MPH emphasis was in Infectious Disease Epidemiology. Chrissy is very interested in the “One Health” initiative and its application to the investigation and management of diseases at the wildlife, human, domestic animal interface.



## Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at the Kentucky State Fair

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' booth at the 2019 Kentucky State Fair was a popular destination again this year. The fair ran from Aug. 15-25.

Kentucky Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Don Parkinson and Deputy Secretary Regina Stivers stopped by, as did Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Rich Storm visited the booth and met with numerous sportsmen and sportswomen. The Deener Show broadcast live from the booth on Aug. 16.

Visitors to the agency's booth were able to take a selfie with a bear at the department's BearWise exhibit, see some critters, meet "Kentucky Afield" Television Host Chad Miles and check out the department's colorful new prescribed burn

truck and equipment. Visitors also were able to buy fishing or hunting licenses; ask a conservation officer or department employee questions about fish, wildlife or boating; learn about and join the *Kentucky Wild* program. In all 87 new members signed up for the program.



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The indoor air-rifle range saw 135 people successfully complete the free range portion of the hunter education course in time for the fall hunting seasons.

Kevin Bond, 5th District member on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, volunteered at the department's mobile air-rifle range. Special thanks to all the Commission members who came to interact with constituents and help with the booth.



## Department project to encourage natural catfish spawning shows promise

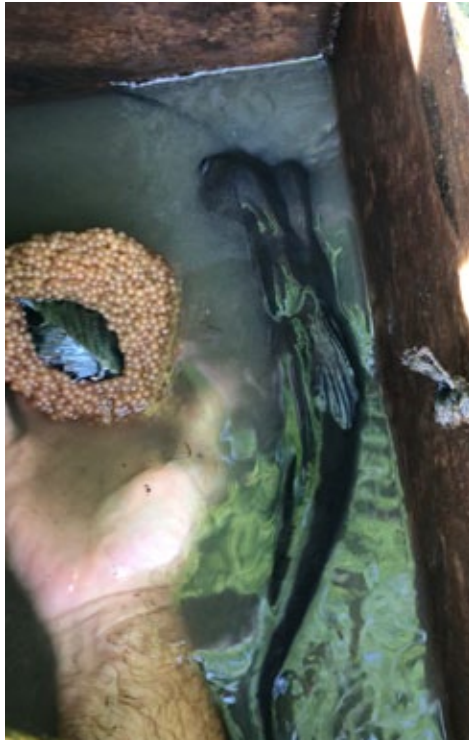
**A**fter seeing good results in one lake this year, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources plans to expand a trial project that tracks the use of special man-made catfish spawning boxes placed in lakes and the impact natural spawning activity may have on catfish populations.

Northeastern Fisheries District staff initiated the trial this year at 39.4-acre Clear Creek Lake in Bath County by deploying one catfish-spawning box for every three acres of water.

Almost two dozen individual nests with eggs were found in the boxes over the course of the spawning period, meaning the boxes were used more than once.

The trial could be expanded to as many as six smaller lakes across the state next year. At each of those lakes, hatchery stocking would be suspended so biologists can track reproduction over multiple years.

“Most of the lakes under consid-



eration have limited angler pressure for catfish, so holdover fish should provide a continued fishery while we see if we can get a natural spawn,” said Jeff Ross, assistant Fisheries Division director. “If we do, those fish should provide fishing opportunities the next year.”

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife technicians Austin Wittrock (left) and Chad Nickell check one of the spawning boxes. Each box has a hinged lid so the boxes can be lifted out of the water and inspected to determine if adult fish, eggs or fry were in the boxes. In this box, staff found an adult male guarding eggs. In every instance, the fish returned to the boxes.

## WE GET MAIL

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

**T**he following was sent by email to Kentucky Conservation Officer Scott McIntosh on Aug. 5.

Officer McIntosh, you may not be the person I need to contact, but I wanted to reach out to thank a couple of officers who rescued our family yesterday just outside of Morehead. One officer's name was Clark and the other's name escapes my memory

(Mulholland). We were on our way to Louisville from Maryland in a rented van when a tire blew up. We were looking for the spare (never found) and had unloaded all our vacation baggage, and were standing on the side of (Interstate) 64 near exit 133 when the officers spotted us and stopped to help. They also failed to find the spare but loaded all five of us including

three kids, my daughter and me into their vehicles and took us to a nearby Subway to wait for the tow truck, which arrived a couple of hours later. We are all home safely now.

Their kindness was heaven sent, and if they are colleagues of yours, we would appreciate your passing on our thanks.

– Mary Forsee

## Quail plan reaches 10-year milestone

**K**entucky's 10-year Quail Plan concludes this year. Now biologists with the Small Game Program are using the information learned from Kentucky's efforts, along with other states in the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, to determine the next steps to reverse the decline in bobwhite moving forward. States within the initiative are tasked with developing landscape scale restoration efforts to help stop the precipitous decline in bobwhites within their historic range.

Analyses from Kentucky's plan have yielded strong correlations with the amount of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and bobwhite increases on Focal Areas, illuminating the need for more habitat across larger areas for the long-term benefit of bobwhite.

Kentucky has three National Quail Focus Areas at Peabody Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Wendell H. Ford Training Center and in Livingston County. These Focus Areas collect and contribute data along with the other states in the bobwhite initiative. This information is compiled and analyzed to help biologists make informed management decisions across the 25-state range of bobwhite.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Small Game Program has already begun the next phases of bobwhite conservation in the state. We are moving from targeted management on Focal Areas to landscape level management, focusing on producers in grazing and haying systems. The future of bobwhite in Kentucky is on the brink, but with further collaboration with national experts and what we have learned from our state specific plan, the Wildlife Division is poised to make great strides in the next 10 years of restoration.

Biologists from the Small Game Program recently shared their knowledge while attending the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative's 25th annual meeting in Carbondale, Illinois. The an-



nual meeting brings together public and private biologists from 25 states to discuss the range wide conservation of northern bobwhite. Kentucky has been involved in

this national effort for more than 10 years, with agency personnel serving in leadership roles in the organization since the state's involvement.



## Field to Fork event teaches participants about archery deer hunting

The Fern Creek Sportsman's Club on Aug. 3 played host to a Field to Fork class focused on archery deer hunting.

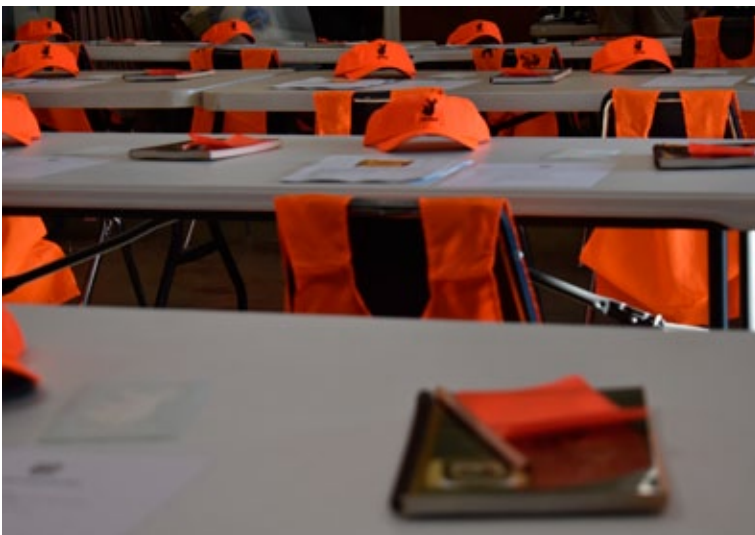
The event attracted 16 participants from Louisville to Richmond and points in-between to learn from eight instructors about deer biology, regulations and laws for deer season, field dressing and processing, scouting, archery equipment and more.

Most of the participants were new hunters and will be meeting up again in October at Taylorsville Lake WMA for a mentor hunt with the class instructors.

Field to Fork offers a variety of classes throughout the year for various hunting seasons; the next class will focus on dove hunting and is scheduled Sept. 21 in Grayson.



Above: Instructor and Fern Creek Sportsman's Club member Rachel Crume demonstrates how to use a climber stand to a group of participants. Below: Jason Scannel shows participants various pieces of archery equipment; broadheads and field tips, sights, arrows and more.



The Quality Deer Management Association provided orange vests and hats for every participant.



## Marker flags help boaters avoid commercial nets



Look for bright yellow flags if you're boating at Barkley or Kentucky lakes this year. The flags mark the locations of nets set by commercial anglers fishing for invasive Asian carp.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources helped deploy the net flags after changing regulations on netting on the lakes. Commercial anglers

going after Asian carp can now deploy nets during week-ends in summer, instead of just during the week. The flags, which are visible for a mile, are designed to let recreational boaters know to avoid the nets in the area.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation purchased about 100 flags and the materials to attach them to the nets. Flags are marked "ACHP," for the Asian Carp Harvest Program.

Each net is approximately 300 feet long. Several nets may be tied together. Commercial anglers set nets about 3 feet underneath the surface. Boats moving slowly through the water could potentially foul their props on the nets.

Commercial anglers have netted nearly 3 million pounds of Asian carp from Kentucky waterways this year, more than double the catch from the same time last year. Approximately 80 percent of the harvest comes from Lake Barkley.

## Gov. Bevin reappoints two Commission members

Gov. Matt Bevin recently reappointed Paul Horn, Jr. and Dr. Karl Clinard to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Horn, a Prestonsburg resident, will serve as representative for the 7th Fish and Wildlife District for a term expiring Aug. 13, 2023. He serves as president of

Booth Energy.

Clinard, a retired orthodontist from Somerset, will represent the 9th Fish and Wildlife District for a term expiring Aug. 13, 2023.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission is a nine-member board, comprised

of volunteers who serve four-year terms after nomination by licensed hunters and anglers, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky senate. The commission recommends hunting, fishing and boating regulations on behalf of the sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth.



## R3 Branch holds annual workshop



Courtney Goodman demonstrates the retrieval skills of her black Labrador retriever, Tun, at Camp Earl Wallace. Below: Bobby McKee discusses training he's done with Zoey, his Mountain Feist, with help from his son, Christian.



The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' R3 branch held its annual instructor workshop Aug. 10 at Camp Earl Wallace.

Retired conservation educator Bobby McKee brought Zoey, a Mountain Feist. McKee discussed the dog's training then demonstrated its skills at finding squirrels in the nearby woods. Region 1 Conserva-

tion Educator Courtney Goodman and her husband, Jacob Goodman, brought their black Labrador retriever, Tun, to show others what goes into training a duck dog. Guest speaker Kate Bringardner offered suggestions on improving presentations during hunter education classes.

Instructors spent some time at the firing range, with three lucky participants drawn for electronic earmuffs donated by Grainger for use on their hunter education ranges. The workshop provides instructors with many new ideas to incorporate into their hunter education classes.





## Eagle Scout project completed at Griffith Woods Wildlife Management Area

The highest rank awarded by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is that of Eagle Scout, and one of the requirements for earning this rank is completion of a service project.

For his service project, 15-year-old Gabriel Nikolic, of Georgetown-based Troop 124, organized the clean-up of a collapsed shed at Griffith Woods Wildlife Management Area in Harrison County.

Nikolic, his fellow scouts and leaders spent more than 100 man hours cleaning what remained of the shed and moving the material to dumpsters. Working by hand, they filled three dumpsters with rotten wood, shingles and old tobacco floats.

Nikolic has been active in Boy Scouts since he was in first grade and looks forward to completing the remaining requirements for this last rank in the coming months.



Scouts and leaders who helped with the project included John Lineberger, Dragomir Nikolic, Brandt Phillips, Kevin Griese, Mark Davis, Spencer Griese,

Connor Griese, Nathan Davis, Gevin Campbell, Griffin Tetreau, Kaden McConnaughay, Luke Mullikin, Vlad Nikolic and Jim Nikolic.



## Hemorrhagic disease confirmed in Graves County deer

A white-tailed deer from western Kentucky is the state's first confirmed case of hemorrhagic disease this year.

Murray State University's Breathitt Veterinary Center recently confirmed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources that a deceased female deer recovered from Graves County tested positive for hemorrhagic disease, sometimes referred to as "blue tongue." Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is investigating other possible cases involving 22 deer in 11 counties and expects the number could grow in the coming weeks.

"Hemorrhagic disease cannot be transmitted to people or pets," said Dr. Christine Casey, state wildlife veterinarian for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "It is caused by two viruses that are transmitted to deer by small biting flies, also called no-see-ums."

Kentucky experiences localized hemorrhagic disease outbreaks each year. More regionally widespread and statewide outbreaks can occur in cycles of five years or longer. A significant regional outbreak of hemorrhagic disease affected many east Kentucky counties two years ago. Far western Kentucky endured an outbreak in 2012, and the last statewide outbreak occurred in 2007.

Outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease generally last from late summer until the first hard frost of the year kills the virus-carrying flies.

Hemorrhagic disease has been present in the United States for more than 60 years. It is not the same as chronic wasting disease (CWD), an always fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, elk and other members of the deer family. Chronic wasting disease has never been detected in Kentucky.

One main difference between the diseases is that some deer do survive hemorrhagic disease outbreaks and produce protective antibodies, which can be passed to their young. Protective antibodies are major contributors to herd immunity and one reason why Kentucky sees cyclic outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease, rather than a higher prevalence every year.

In Kentucky and across the Midwest, deer that die from hemorrhagic disease typically die within 24 to 36 hours after being bitten by an infected insect. People often find carcasses of deer that have died from the disease around water, and because they died rapidly these animals can appear well fed or otherwise normal. Sometimes there are several carcasses in one area.

While elk in Appalachian Kentucky also contract hemorrhagic disease from insect bites, they usually show no outward signs of illness and death does not occur.

"Kentucky's archery deer hunting season opens early next month," said Gabe Jenkins, deer and elk program coordinator with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "The department is asking hunters and others to be on the lookout for sick looking deer.

"Deer with hemorrhagic disease can be more susceptible to other diseases. For that reason, the department always cautions against eating the meat from a deer that doesn't appear to be healthy."

Through Aug. 21, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife had received reports of suspected hemorrhagic disease in 22 deer. The reports originated from Anderson, Carroll, Christian, Graves, Greenup, Harrison, Meade, Oldham, Trimble, Scott and Shelby counties. The only confirmed case was the Graves County deer. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is awaiting test results on others.

People can go online now to report to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife suspected cases of hemorrhagic disease in dead or dying deer. The digital form is available at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) under the "Important Info" tab. It takes only a few minutes to complete but provides important data for estimating the scale of the outbreak and for communicating with the public.

Reports also can be submitted by phone. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staffs a toll-free number weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern). The number is 1-800-858-1549. In addition to their name and contact information, callers will be asked to provide the following about their observation: county and date, number of deer found, and whether the deer were sick or recently deceased.

Information reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife through these channels will help the department create maps so the public can see the extent of the disease's spread.

For more information about hemorrhagic disease, visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and search for the phrase, "Hemorrhagic Disease."

