



NASP
tournament
Pg 9-10

Fish habitat projects continuing statewide

Fisheries Division staff and volunteers are continuing to improve fish habitat in reservoirs across the Commonwealth. The Department received at least 2,000 Christmas tree donations this year and the Fisheries District biologists are putting them to good use.

Some of the reservoirs that benefited from this year's Christmas tree donations:

Green River Lake

The Taylor County High School Junior Conservation Board assisted with sinking brushpiles at Green River Lake near the state park campground and Lone Valley boat ramp.

Ms. Lindsay Wayne, the coordinating teacher, and nine students helped sink 116 Christmas/pine trees to create fish attracting areas in near the campground and pavilion. They placed the new habitat near deep water that will provide habitat for bass, crappie, bluegill and muskie.

Elmer Davis Lake

Fisheries personnel took advantage of the drawdown at Elmer Davis following a shad eradication in December 2016 to increase fish habitat. The drawdown, which is not typical at this state-owned lake, provided a unique opportunity to deploy more complex habitat structures. They added 300 pallets, 830 trees, 100 PVC structures,



and hardwood stakes to the lake.

Taylorsville Lake

Anglers also will benefit from work completed at Taylorsville Lake in March 2017. About 575 donated Christmas trees were used to create 8 brush piles in Ashes Creek.

The brush piles were placed in about 12-14 feet of water creating a reef that will attract sportfish, especially crappie, bluegill and bass. The success of this project would not have been possible without our partnerships with Taylorsville Lake Army

Corp of Engineers, Taylorsville Lake Wildlife Management Area and Fisheries Division staff.

Rough River and Nolin

Fisheries staff also worked with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at both Rough River and Nolin River Lakes to construct fish attractors while the lake is near winter pool.

They used more than 14,000 feet of donated scrap gas pipe obtained from

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Kentucky Afield TV segments viewed nearly 3.7 million times last year online



Kentucky Afield Television host Chad Miles autographed a bow case for a young fan this month at the National Archery in the Schools State Tournament in Louisville. Kentucky Afield TV segments were viewed 3.7 million times last year. Responsible for the popular show are (at left) videographers Nathan Sangster and Jamison Standard, Executive Producer Nathan Brooks, Host Chad Miles, and videographers Charlie Baglan and Chase Wininger.

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

National Archery in the School Program President Roy Grimes wrote to thank the Department and all those staff who helped make this year's Kentucky State Tournament as success. He writes:

All,

The Kentucky NASP® State Tournament was so smooth, well-run, and joined by so many happy kids and parents, I thought I was attending Nationals a month early!

My son-in-law, who is a 34-year old Tech Sergeant in the Air Force and new to hunting, received his Hunter Education Card at this tournament on Friday.

I took him deer hunting on a Mentor permit in 2015 (he killed two deer - NR license). Last Thursday, the night before the KY State tournament, I told him if he took the online HE course he could do the field day at the state tournament. He was up until 1:30 a.m. taking the online course.

Thanks for making this possible for those who took advantage of the offer to get their orange card. My son-in-law will now be able to join me on a quota hunt in Kentucky this year.

Sincerely,
Roy Grimes
President, NASP®



Information and Education Division Director Tim Slone says a snapshot of our online Kentucky Afield viewers taken in early April each year showed that our television shows were viewed on YouTube 3,674,317 times in the last 11 months.

Our total online viewership since we started posting segments was up to 32,594,344 views on the day we checked it earlier this month.

We now have 38,254 subscribers to our channel.

Steenbergen assumes management post at Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area

Dirk Steenbergen joined the staff at Otter Creek Outdoor Recreation Area as the Wildlife Management Foreman on April 1.

Dirk started his career with KDFWR in 2010 as an interim Wildlife Technician at Barren River WMA. He has also worked several years with Barren River State Park as a recreation leader and in park maintenance.

Dirk has a B.S. degree in Biology with an emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife from Western Kentucky University.

Ten conservation officer recruits graduate DOCJT Basic Training

Ten Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources conservation officer recruits were among the 33 law enforcement officers from agencies across the state that graduated April 14 from basic training at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training.

The graduates of Class 481 completed 23 weeks of training, which consisted of 923 hours of recruit-level instruction. Major training areas included homeland security, law offenses and procedures, vehicle operations, firearms, investigations, first aid and CPR, patrol procedures, orientation for new law enforcement families and the mechanics of arrest, restraint and control.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Honor Guard presented the colors for the graduation ceremony.

Conservation officer recruits completing the DOCJT academy are Zachary M. Carney, Christopher M. Carson, Paul Allen Chandler, John D. Fields, Aaron B. Green, Brant T. Green, Joel A. High Jr., Carmel L. Keith, Trevor R. Lowe, and Benjamin J. Morris.

Basic training is mandatory for Kentucky law enforcement officers to comply with the state's Peace Officer Professional Standards Act of 1998. The Department of Criminal Justice Training provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriffs' deputies, university police, airport police and others.

The conservation officer recruits must now complete their 14-week Kentucky Conservation Officers Academy that consists of Fish and Wildlife regulations, natural resource protection, boating, ATV and 4x4 operations, and homeland security.



Then they will begin a 16-week field training program.

"This makes the Kentucky conservation officer one of the most well-trained law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky," said Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Rodney Coffey.

The Department of Criminal Justice Training is a state agency located on Eastern Kentucky University's campus.

The agency is the first in the nation to be accredited under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies' public safety training program designation. DOCJT also earned accreditation through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training in 2013 – making it the nation's only law enforcement training academy to achieve dual accreditation by two independent accrediting organizations.



LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINS

State Representative David Hale conducted a swearing in ceremony in the chamber of the Kentucky House of Representatives for seven new Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division chaplains. The new chaplains, from left are Lt. Chad Parker, Lt. Greg Watts, Christian Casper, Sergeant Tracy Bell, Wayne Wilson, Matthew Hartley, and Jason Ping.



Becoming an Outdoors Woman turns 22 with event at Salato

Twenty-one first timers were among the 43 women participating in this month's Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman event at the Salato Education Center. It marked 22 years of BOW events hosted by the Department.

Classes on fishing, archery, bowhunting, types of fishing baits, teaching conser-

vation with animals, crossbows, air rifles, tree stand hunting, basic hunting gear, and wildlife habitats headlined the day.

They fished and caught trout, white bass, largemouth bass and bluegill, shot bows from tree stands, and learned firearms safety and marksmanship with air rifles.





Recruiting adult turkey hunters

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife staff hosted its first ever *Field to Fork: Turkey* last month in Georgetown.

Members of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Mossy Oak Pro Staff, and department staff served as instructors for the course designed for beginning turkey hunters.

During the workshop, 23 new turkey hunters had the opportunity to learn about

turkey biology, hunting tactics, turkey calls and calling, field dressing, how to cook turkey meat, shotgun patterning, hunting regulations and more.

Each new hunter received a hand-made slate call along with instruction on how to use it.

For many, this was their first time operating a firearm or seeing how to butcher a turkey. For others, they were hearing about all the conservation efforts

that license money is goes towards for the first time.

We thank our event sponsors, NWTF Double Eagle Chapter, Mossy Oak, and the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for donating the calls!

The department plans to expand the Field to Fork program beginning this fall with help from Mossy Oak as part of its Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) efforts for 2017.



Murray State students benefit from Shotguns 101 Workshop

Murray State University students participated in the first ever Shotguns 101 Workshop as part of the Hunter's Legacy Program early this month.

This workshop included a classroom session where students learned the technical information about shotgun actions, shotgun ammunition, chokes, gun safety, and more.

Students learned hands on how to clean a shotgun and included some clay pigeon shooting practice at Camp Currie's shotgun range.

Undergraduate Megan Fowler called her first time being around or handling a firearm, "a great first time experience with guns."

The Hunter's Legacy Program plans more Shotgun 101 Workshops, as well as expanding with Rifle 101, Muzzleloader 101, and Archery 101.





REMOVING GREEN RIVER'S LOCK AND DAM 6

The Nature Conservancy of Kentucky says, "the Spring of 2017 marks a time when the Green River reclaimed its heartbeat." Indeed, workers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began dismantling the aging Dam and Lock 6 late last month restoring free flowing water to a portion of the stream. The dam had failed last November. Joining USFWS in the effort to achieve removal of the dam

were The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. At right, KDFWR Commissioner Gregory Johnson, USFWS Lee Andrews, Mammoth Cave National Park's Mike Turner, and TNC's David Phemister answered media questions as workers in the background removed the structure.





Dan Stoelb displays a 50-inch muskie from the Bangor Area of Cave Run Lake.
Joseph Zimmerman photos



Bobby Widener with a 45-inch muskie from Green River Lake.

March muskie madness in Kentucky

Longer days, warming water temperatures, and rising lake levels are triggering muskie madness this spring across the Commonwealth.

Fisheries staff have been busy sampling rivers and lakes in search of muskie, including the Kentucky River, Buckhorn Lake, Green River Lake, and Cave Run Lake. Each of the muskie fisheries produced quality fish in excess of 36 inches.

Shallow flats and the back of small creeks held muskie in the lakes, while tailwater areas and the mouths of small tributaries held river fish.

Cave Run Lake was exceptional this spring. The entire lake, including the Licking River, Beaver Creek, and main lake produced trophy muskie with fish near the 50-inch mark.



Justin Heflin with a 42-pound beast from the Longbow Area of Cave Run Lake. *Tom Timmermann photo*

Lunker lake sturgeon caught in Big South Fork Cumberland River



Chase Wallen and his grandfather caught this lake sturgeon on April 1 in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River.

The men were fishing for walleye in the Big South Fork National Recreation Area near Devil's Jump when they made their surprising catch.

Lake sturgeon must be released, so they took a couple of quick photos and returned the fish to the river.

Since 2008, the department has released nearly 30,000 of these fish in the Cumberland River at the Mouth of Laurel River and in the Big South Fork at Alum Ford.

Each year, these fish are 6-10 inches long at the time of their release.

The Department's efforts so far have been rewarded by an increasing number of large individuals being caught by anglers like Wallen.



NASP State Tournament draws record number of shooters

Trigg County High School emerged from the largest field in the 16-year history of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Kentucky state tournament to win the team competition on April 1 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

The two-day event drew a record 6,071 students from 295 schools across the state.

“The tournament was awesome,” said Lisa Frye, state NASP coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “Over 6,000 smiling faces participating in a culminating event showcasing the skills they learned as part of their in-school NASP program. For most archers, it isn’t about competition. It’s all about participating together in a common sport.”

Elementary, middle and high school student archers competed for individual and team honors. Competition consisted of shooting 15 arrows at targets from 10 meters away and 15 arrows from 15 meters for a total possible score of 300 points.

Lincoln County High School junior Roby Mullins won the boys’ overall title

with a score of 298 and Hancock County High School sophomore Kayla Woodward won the girls’ overall title with a 296.

Trigg County’s overall team title was its fifth in the past six NASP Kentucky state tournaments. A pair of seniors led the way for the Arrowcats. Clay Stevens finished fourth overall in the boys’ division and Lora Lee Heady finished 15th overall in the girls’ division.

The top 10 seniors in the boys’ and girls’ divisions received \$1,000 scholarships to apply to any post-secondary education.

A complete list of individual and team results is available online at nasptournaments.org. Click on “Tournaments” then select “Kentucky” and “Completed This Season” from the dropdown menus.

High school teams scoring 3,100 or better, middle school teams scoring 3,000 or better and elementary school teams scoring 2,650 or better qualified for the NASP Nationals scheduled May 11-13 at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Archers who placed in the top 10 of their division in the state tournament also qualified for the national tournament.

TEAM COMPETITION

High School Division

1. Trigg County HS
2. Madison Central HS
3. Lafayette HS

Middle School Division

1. Pulaski Northern MS
2. Stuart Pepper MS
3. Caudill MS

Elementary School Division

1. Morgantown Elementary
2. White Hall Elementary
3. Flaherty Elementary

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

High School Division

Girls:

1. Kayla Woodward, Hancock County HS
2. Kristen Sedlatschek, Bethlehem HS
Taylor Haley, Logan County HS
3. Hannah Fitzpatrick, P.L. Dunbar HS
4. Katie Karr, Corbin HS

Boys:

1. Roby Mullins, Lincoln County HS
2. Cody Rose, Wolfe County HS
3. T Sanchez, Hopkins County Central HS
Taylor Bell, Wayne County HS
Clay Stevens, Trigg County HS
Noah Platt, Anderson County HS

Middle School Division

Girls:

1. Macayla Falls, Kentucky Christian Acad.
2. Paige Robbins, Twenhofel MS
3. Lilly Buchanan, Henderson Co. North MS
4. Layla Blevins, Science Hill Ind. School
5. Katelyn Petrie, Muhlenberg South MS

Boys:

1. Henry Thompson, Anderson County MS
2. Collin Jenkins, Caudill MS
3. Isaac Shelton, Graves County MS
Morgan Ruckel, Pulaski Northern MS
5. Aaron Stephens, Russell MS

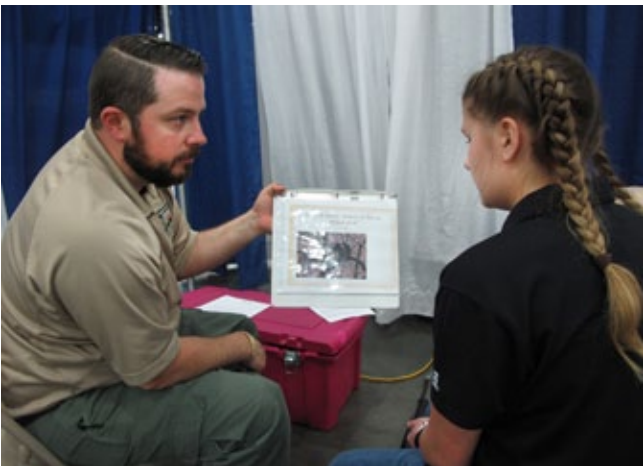
Elementary School Division

Girls:

1. Grace Yates, Model Laboratory School
2. Rebecca Smith, White Hall Elementary
3. Brooke Isaacs, Sand Gap Elementary
4. Olivia Lyle, White Hall Elementary
5. Brayleigh Butcher, Monticello Elementary

Boys:

1. Connor Caudill, Providence Christian Acad.
2. Austin Hall, Northern Elementary
3. Caden Morris, Farmington Elementary
Taylor Conway, Westside Elementary
5. Hunter Falls, Kentucky Christian Acad.



NASP STATE TOURNAMENT ALSO POPULAR HUNTER EDUCATION VENUE

More than 6,000 elementary, middle, and high school archery competitors and 700 coaches from 295 participating schools turned out for the 2017 Kentucky State National Archery in the Schools Program tournament this month at the Kentucky State Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. The event also drew 12,000 spectators. But it also was a popular venue for those seeking to complete their Kentucky Hunter Education range requirements as well. Department Hunter Education instructors certified 77 students who stepped away from the archery targets and demonstrated their firearms knowledge at the department's indoor air gun range. Staff Samantha Seaton, Dan Wilson and Jamie Cook were among those working with students.





NEW GEN X BOW WINNER

National Archery in the Schools Program students across Kentucky participating in the 2017 Kentucky NASP® State Tournament had the opportunity to complete their range day requirement for their hunter safety card. In doing so, they also entered into a drawing for a prize GenX bow. Hailey Martin, a student at Bondurant Middle in Frankfort, was among the 77 completing Hunter Education certification and was drawn as the winner of the bow. Hailey proudly shows her new bow with (from left) Kentucky NASP State Archery Coordinator Lisa Frye, Information and Education Division Director Tim Slone, and her parents Matt and Nikki Martin.

Court fines Martin County man nearly \$8,000 illegal elk guiding activities

A Martin County man was ordered to pay nearly \$8,000 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to multiple counts of illegal guide activities and taking elk.

Byron Delong, 24, of Pilgrim, Ky., pleaded guilty last month in Martin District Court to guiding elk hunters without a commercial guide's license, assisting an elk hunter to hunt over bait, and assisting an elk hunter with an At-Large Elk Permit to hunt in a Limited Entry Area.



The court ordered Delong to pay \$5,000 in fines, \$2,718.36 in restitution for the cow elk taken illegally and \$163 in court costs. The court also stripped Delong of hunting privileges for three years and probated his 60-day jail sentence. The court judgment was Martin County's largest ever handed down for illegal elk hunting and commercial guide services. The prosecution resulted from a months-long investigation by members

of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's Special Investigations Unit and conservation officers in the department's Seventh District.

"Kentucky's elk herd has grown into the nation's largest east of the Rocky Mountains," said Law Enforcement Division Director Col. Rodney Coffey. "We will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our restoration of free-ranging wild elk to east Kentucky this year. Our elk have become a year-round economic engine to our state, and we will continue our vigorous prosecution of those who illegally pursue this great resource."

“Fish,” continued

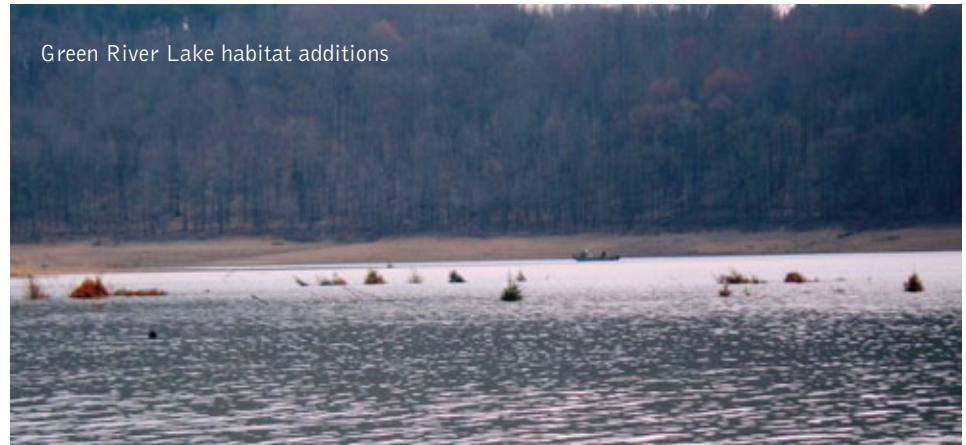
Atmos Energy to add fish attractors in five new locations since February 1. Annual drawdowns at both lakes cause faster decomposition of woody structure making polypropylene structures an appealing option.

These polypropylene attractors will survive the annual winter exposure, provide substrate for micro and macro organisms, offer structure for fish to congregate around, and deliver a snag-free environment for anglers. Attractors were placed at various depths to accommodate changes in water level and dissolved oxygen throughout the year.

The addition of habitat beneficial to fisheries and also provide an excellent location for anglers to target sportfish.

Detailed information on all these locations can be found at fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Department-Lakes-with-Fish-Attractors.aspx.

A very big “THANKS” to all of those who take time to drop their used Christmas trees at our drop-off locations as well as all the volunteers and partners who make these habitat projects possible!



Green River Lake habitat additions



Elmer Davis Lake



Polypropylene habitat structures



Taylorsville Lake preparation