



Youth event
Page 9

KDFWR officer receives award from KSP

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer Loren Clark was recently awarded Meritorious Achievement citation from the Kentucky State Police for his help in locating two individuals after a boating accident last year. The award is KSP's highest civilian award bestowed upon individuals who perform an extraordinary act of service or heroism in direct support of a KSP officer. The act resulted in the saving of a life.

On the evening of May 26, 2017, swift waters caused a boat with four occupants to overturn in Bourbon County. Officer Clark worked alongside Kentucky State Police troopers and a Bourbon County firefighter to locate a missing occupant of the boat and another occupant stranded on the overturned boat.

Clark and the firefighter briefed on-scene first responders and were quickly able to get a boat safely in the water to render aid. The missing juvenile was located almost immediately, but was unfortunately deceased.

The team turned their efforts to rescuing the stranded juvenile victim. They navigated a farm to get as close as possible to the victim. Working with the troopers, Clark was able to coordinate and communicate effectively and efficiently. He helped organize the flow of traffic on the narrow roadway allowing the emergency



crews and needed equipment to arrive in a timely manner.

In order to keep the teen from falling into the swift water, the team communicated and provided clear instructions while helping to calm the juvenile. The water was so swift a motorized rescue boat was unable to navigate the water. Clark helped provide safety lines in the water for the young man as well as a life jacket. Those on scene, including Clark, quickly shed all uniforms, down to bare feet, undershirts

and trousers to attempt to have the least resistance to bring the teen to safety. As a result, the victim was pulled safely to shore.

In giving the award, Kentucky State Police said Clark demonstrated true teamwork and humanity, going above and beyond the call of duty, placing his safety secondary to that of the juvenile. The teen's life was, without a doubt, saved that day due to the direct actions of those at the scene.

INSIDE:



3 Retirements



6 Carp briefing



7 Habitat projects

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

This letter came to John Coffey from Jeana Taylor:

"Thank you again for making it possible for Sophia to ride to camp with another county. She would have been crushed if she hadn't gotten to come back for a second summer at Camp Earl Wallace! She got to meet some new friends along the way and bunk with her classmates from Ashland once she got there!

Everything about Camp Earl Wallace is amazingly different than what Sophia is normally drawn to. Most of the time, she is a reader, a trivia expert, she excels at math, is on the chess team and is the captain of her academic team at school. As a family, we've been kayaking locally, which she loves... but hands down Sophia would choose a super hero movie over most outdoor activities. I don't know exactly what you said last year whenever you came to Ashland Elementary and spoke to her class, but you certainly piqued her interest. She talked me straight into signing her up for her first summer camp away from home. A week of nervous nail biting for mom... but a world of fun and adventure for my sweet 10 year old. She earned so many patches and was so proud of what she accomplished there. All she could talk about was going back again.

Fast forward to this summer. We were in the middle of moving and I forgot to sign her up for Camp Earl Wallace. By the time it dawned on me, the Fayette County bus was full. You were so kind to call me and figure out a practical way to make it work.

My daughter's independence level has flourished each time she comes to your camp. I've asked her what her favorite part of the week is... and she can't choose just one. Boating, archery, camp fire, talent show, movie night, hunter safety... basically everything, is her response.

Thank you for running such a special

program, with such a high level of care. I know that having that many children together in one place has got to be challenging... but you guys seem to make every child feel so important. Sophia was stopped the other day by a manager at Target who saw her CEW T-shirt and wanted to let her know that she had once been a counsellor there. She spoke of it fondly and they joked about "the hill" and went on their way. In this day and age of modern technology and electronic devices, you give people the chance to connect with each other on a real basis. You are giving our kids the tools that they need to learn more about their capabilities and about themselves. Thank you again so much... Sophia says she wants to keep

coming back, until SHE'S old enough to become a counselor."

Editor's Note: Some anglers or hunters are anxious about being checked for licenses while participating, particularly if they don't have one! We received the following message from a mom about her daughter's welcoming the opportunity to meet her local Conservation Officers:

"One of your officers made my daughter's day yesterday. This is her first year fishing and she LOVES it. One of your officers checked our family for fishing licenses yesterday here in Somerset. She had been waiting for this and was super excited that you all did. Thank you all for all you do!" – Lena Wesson, Pulaski County



RETURNING OFFICER

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer Bryan Hill, right, was sworn in Aug. 1. Hill previously served as a conservation officer with the department from 2009-2014 before moving to West Virginia. He and his wife, Ashley, and their 10-month-old daughter, Emma, recently moved back into the state, locating in Bowling Green. He serves District 2 in Todd County.

RETIREMENTS



David Bond, center, recently retired from the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources' Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology Division. Presenting him with a plaque acknowledging his years of service with the department are, Greg Logan, left, and David Bruce, right.



John Akers, left, recently retired from the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources' Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology Division. Presenting him with a plaque acknowledging his years of service with the department are, David Bruce, center, and Deputy Commissioner Karen Waldrop.



Mark "Slick" Roberts recently retired as the Fish and Wildlife Management Foreman in charge of the Fish Transportation Branch with more than 35 years of service. Pictured are, Roberts (center) surrounded by his Transportation Branch crew, (from left) Kenny Atha, David Hale, Tyler Fitzgerald, Michael Peach, Slick, Danny Welch, Jason Conley, Jeff Croxton and Travis Williams.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer Capt. Buddy Grayson recently retired.

RETIREMENTS



Members of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Fourth Law Enforcement Division came out to Barren River State park Aug. 10 to celebrate the retirements of Capt. Brett Zalla and Sgt. Joe Mills. Pictured are Zalla and Mills being presented with their duty pistols by Fourth District Officers, Major Larry Estes and Major Shane Carrier.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Captain Charlie Phillips, who served in the Fifth District, recently retired from the department. Phillips, center, is surrounded by other officers from the Fifth District.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Captain Stuart Bryant retired in July. Bryant, left, who served in the Ninth District, is presented with a plaque for his years of service from Major Larry Estes.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Lieutenant Ray Lawson retired in July. Lawson, center, who served in the Ninth District, is presented with a plaque for his years of service from Major Shane Carrier, left, and Major Larry Estes.

RETIREMENTS



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer Bryan Bowling recently retired. He served in the Ninth District.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Resources Conservation Officer Sgt. Tom Land recently retired from the department. Land served the Ninth District.



David Bruce, Engineering and Infrastructure Division Director, recently retired from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Bruce, right, is presented with a Rick Hill picture to celebrate his years of service from Deputy Commissioner Karen Waldrop.



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Sgt. Glenn Kitchen, right, who served in the Eighth District, recently retired after 26 years of service with the department.



Mark Marraccini, Executive Staff Advisor, retired from the Department July 31 after 25 years with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Along with advising the department on various issues, Marraccini also volunteered at the Boy Scout camp for several years. Above, he is helping a scout perfect his rifle technique.

Asian Carp focus of U.S. Congressman's briefing

Kentucky's Asian Carp issues took center stage in July when U.S. Rep. James Comer, who serves Kentucky's First District, had a briefing to examine the threat posed by this invasive species to Kentucky's waterways and economy.

Ron Brooks, Director of Fisheries for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, participated in the meeting along with Allen Brown from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mark Giakowski from the U.S. Geological Survey, Randy Newcomb from the Kentucky Lake and Visitor's Bureau, and Bobby Wilson from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency. The group shared their testimonies on the issue and offered solutions to mitigate this growing problem.

Asian carp are detrimental to native species in Kentucky. They can out compete native species for resources and some females are capable of producing over 1 million eggs annually, causing their numbers to grow at an alarming rate. Additionally, silver carp pose a danger to boaters due to the jumping behavior they exhibit when startled. As a result, this behavior can put



them on a collision course with boaters causing injury to individuals and property.

It's something the public is passionate about as well. Comer, who serves on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, said the briefing was one of the most well attended he was worked in years.

"Our community has sent a clear message: Asian carp are inflicting serious damage on local tourism and threatening our hotels, restaurants, bait shops, restaurants and numerous other small businesses... I hope our discussion today can inform fu-

ture decisions to improve cooperation between our federal agencies, states, and localities," Rep. Comer said.

For years, KDFWR has been working with private fish processors, commercial fishermen, state and federal legislators, foreign businesses, and many local, state and federal agencies to foster interest in the removal of Asian carp and promote the "2007 National Asian Carp Management Plan," a plan developed and approved by personnel from many governmental agencies.

"Kentucky and Tennessee are doing as much as we can to implement strategies to control and reduce Asian carp in Kentucky and Barkley lakes, but we need immediate federal assistance. If nothing more is done soon, based on the rate of Asian carp movement up the two rivers, the fate of the remaining 11 reservoirs will soon follow that of Kentucky and Barkley lakes," Brooks said.

For more information on the briefing and to read full witness testimonies, please visit: <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/field-briefing-protecting-our-waterways-examining-federal-efforts-to-control-asian-carp-in-kentucky/>.

BODY CAMERA TRAINING

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officers trained with the division's new body camera equipment recently. Pictured are officers from the First and Second District during their training session.





Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife team up for habitat improvement projects

With funding from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff were able to work four habitat projects on two Wildlife Management Areas in eastern Kentucky for the state's elk population. Dewey Lake in Floyd County and Fishtrap Lake in Pike County received money for two habitat projects on each WMA. Numerous organizations partnered with RMEF and KDFWR in these projects including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Wild Turkey Federation and the Kentucky Quail License Plate Fund.

The habitat improvements were applied to both field and forest on each WMA. In the openlands, prescribed fire was the primary tool used to refresh cool-season grasses such as fescue and orchard grass as forages for elk. When grasses re-sprouted following the fire, they yielded a higher protein content and were preferred by elk and deer during that first growing season. Diversification of the forage base beyond cool-season grasses was a second objective of the openlands habitat work. Portions of the strip mine at Fishtrap were sown with warm-season grass seed such as big bluestem and Indian grass and other sections received clover seed. While the warm-season grasses will require several years to become established, elk have been

observed many times in the clover fields.

Telemetry locations of a collared elk at Dewey revealed that the young bull was using the forest occasionally in the fall when acorns were present. To expand the use of the forest by elk and to supplement the acorn crop, habitat treatments were applied to oak stands on both WMAs to improve the quantity of grasses and forbs in the forest understory. In order to expose the understory to more sunlight, prescribed fire was used to remove the leaf litter and to kill small woody tree stems. Midstory shade trees like red maple and beech were removed with herbicide. And although habitat changes are just beginning to take shape in the forest, the growth of grasses and forbs is evident

where more sunlight has filtered through the oak canopy to the forest floor.

RMEF and partners contributed money for contractors, seed, herbicide and equipment for prescribed fire and woodland waterholes. KDFWR staff in the Northeast Region provided the effort to achieve the habitat work. Staff planned and implemented the prescribed fires on more than 300 acres, removed midstory shade trees on 200 plus acres, and hand broadcast warm-season grass seed on more than 100 acres. And students from the Eastern Kentucky University Chapter of RMEF helped to plant 4,800 warm-season grass plugs. In all, about 450 acres of Kentucky elk country will be improved when the projects are completed later this year.



Kentucky places second in 50-state marketing campaign

Kentucky/Lake Cumberland received the second-highest number of votes nationally in a recent promotional contest aimed at raising awareness about fishing and boating opportunities. The “Top Mom-Approved Places to Boat and Fish” sweepstakes allowed fishing and boating enthusiasts to vote daily for their favorite state. KDFWR’s Marketing Division partnered with other state and local travel and tourism contacts to promote the contest using social media.

The annual sweepstakes is sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation’s (RBFF) “Take Me Fishing” brand. Only Alaska received more votes than Kentucky. The grand prize is a family fishing vacation trip to Florida, awarded to a sweepstakes participant randomly drawn from among all contest voters.

RBFF partners with state fish and

wildlife agencies, industry partners, and nonprofit recreation and conservation interests to promote fishing and boating. Because of our user-pay, public-benefit model – which is essential to funding fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S. – efforts that help sustain and grow participation in fishing, boating, hunting and recreational shooting in turn help to make participation opportunities possible

for everyone. Marketing and participation programs of state fish and wildlife agencies and partners like KDFWR, RBFF and private fishing and boating interests have helped to fuel increases in fishing participation nationally both of the past two years, helping to reverse long-term declines in fishing participation due to cultural and demographic changes across the U.S.



Kentucky — Lake Cumberland

Lake Cumberland, otherwise known as the houseboat capital of the world, is just a two-hour drive south of Louisville. With more than 50,000 acres, the area has great family-friendly amenities and an abundance of largemouth, smallmouth, white and Kentucky bass, bluegill, crappie, striped bass and walleye.

 TAKEMEFISHING.org  VAMOSAPESCAR.org



New employee

Jonathan Fusaro joined Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources’ Deer and Elk Program July 15 as its newest elk biologist. His duty station will be in Hazard.

Most recently at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fusaro has spent his career working as a wildlife biologist in Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and Utah. He specializes in game species management and human-wildlife conflicts.

Fusaro researched and assisted with the management of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear and furbearers. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Montana and his master’s degree at Utah State University. He is an avid hunter and outdoorsman.

New pollinator site created

This summer, Veterans Memorial WMA in Georgetown established a pollinator habitat site for the Feed a Bee Pollinator Habitat Project. Funded by a grant from the Bayer North American Bee Care Program, the pollinator site included multiple types of habitat including upper and lowland meadows and a pond area.

The project seeks to support local pollinator species populations by improving habitat; provide a site for the public to enjoy and join in the efforts to improve habitat and forage for pollinators; and create a place local schools and other organizations can visit and use in research and education.

Kay Bechel, a National Wild Turkey



Federation Jake's day Volunteer with the Double Eagle NWTF Chapter in Scott County and owner of Hay Honey and Horsen Around, was instrumental in obtaining the \$5,000 grant used to plant more than 5 acres near the entrance to the

WMA. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife employees David Frederick, Public Lands Wildlife Biologist, and Eric Smith, WMA Foreman, assisted in planning, site preparation, and planting on the WMA.

A pilot planting has been done during the past two

years at the Jake's day the Double Eagle Chapter hosted on the WMA. This was an expansion of those plantings. As of the end of July, the plantings have performed extremely well with many species of forbs starting to bloom.



WHISTLER'S DAY

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife participated in the annual Whistler's Day event in Burlington July 28. The event, sponsored by the Northern Kentucky Chapter of Quail Forever, is free to youth 16 and younger and includes target shooting, archery and fishing. Fish and Wildlife held a range day during this event, which allowed 28 people to complete the range portion of their Hunter Education certification.