

March 2015

—VOL. 10 NO. 3—



Law Enforcement Division tweaks structure, appoints 8 new captains

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division **Col. Joe West** has announced a organizational restructuring from regions to districts and the appointments of eight captains to head them. The moves become effective April 1.

Each of the nine law enforcement districts will be headed by a captain. West

also announced the establishment of an Operations Support Branch that also will be headed by a captain.

Newly appointed captains are **Garry D. Clark** in the First District, **James E. Heady** in the Second District, **Brett T. Zalla** in the Fourth District, **Charles F. Phillips** in the Fifth District, **James D.**

“Doug” Vaughn in the Seventh District, **William E. “Buddy” Grayson** in the Eighth District, **Stuart S. Bryant** in the Ninth District, and **Richard C. Adkins** over the Operations Support Branch.

Captains **Rick Mehlbauer** and **Richard Skaggs** will head the Third and Sixth Districts, respectively.



Top row: Capt. Garry Clark, Capt. James Heady, Capt. Rick Mehlbauer, Capt. Brett Zalla, Capt. Charlie Phillips. Bottom row: Capt. Richard Skaggs, Capt. Doug Vaughn, Capt. Buddy Grayson, Capt. Stuart Bryant, Capt. Richard Adkins

INSIDE:



3 KCOA donation



4 Golden eagle



6 Waterfowl banding

Mullins named 2014 Mississippi Flyway Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Second District Conservation Officer Dustin Mullins was recently named the Mississippi Flyway's 2014 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by representatives of the Mississippi Flyway Council Law Enforcement Committee at their spring meeting in Memphis, TN.

The MFC LE Committee consists of representatives from 14 states, three Canadian provinces and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mullins, a seven-year veteran conservation officer who primarily works Henderson County, was originally nominated

by his fellow District officers, and then became Kentucky's nominee for the Council award after a state level committee selection process. He was one of 12 candidates nominated by their respective states for the Flyway Council award.

Mullins grew up in the eastern part of Kentucky where there was little duck hunting. His waterfowl interest began to grow when he attended a Greenwing Event as a youth and then began waterfowl hunting during his college years. Today, he serves as a guide and



mentor for Greenwing youth, and also involves youth in waterfowl banding, and teaches duck and goose identification, habitat preservation and conservation.

He is a board member

of his local Ducks Unlimited Chapter.

Mullins will be presented his award and plaque in front of the full Mississippi Flyway Council in New Orleans in July.

New Hires

Please help the Engineering Division give a warm Fish and Wildlife welcome to **Michael Scott**, our new Engineer-in-Training II. He grew up in Frankfort and attended Franklin County High School. Later he graduated from the University of Kentucky with B.S. in Civil Engineering.

Prior to accepting his new position with the department he worked for an Engineering consulting firm in Lexington. He has been hunting and fishing his whole life. He especially enjoys bow hunting and more recently enjoys filming hunts.

Please join me in welcoming **Jason Scott** on board as our NRCS/KDFWR Liaison for western Kentucky.

Stationed in Murray since 2010, Jason has been working with landowners to create wildlife habitat through various Farm Bill programs. He will be taking on the added role of supervising the Farm Bill staff for that region.

Jason hails from Manchester, Tennessee and earned wildlife management degrees from Tennessee Tech (B.S.) and Texas A&M-Kingsville (M.S.).

He enjoys hiking, hunting, farming and family life with his fiancé Brittney Vi-



TAKING FLIGHT

Wildlife biologist John Goodin caught this shot of an American wigeon drake taking flight after being banded by Department staff earlier this year at Sloughs Wildlife Management Area.

ers and her daughters, Darby and Lilly.

Stephen "Kyle" Sams began his tenure with KDFWR on March 2 in the Big Game Program as a Deer Biologist.

Kyle is originally from Pineville, Kentucky and attended Eastern Kentucky University where he earned a B.S. in Wildlife Management in 2007. After graduation Kyle worked as a technician with many different agencies across the country including the National Park Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the KDFWR from 2008 through 2011.

In 2012 Kyle left KDFWR to work

for the Division of Mine Reclamation & Enforcement as an Environmental Inspector. Early in 2013, he transferred to the Division of Water where he worked as an Environmental Scientist regulating the coal community.

He enjoys hunting and spending time with his wife, Kelly, and dog, Trigger. Kyle has a well rounded set of skills and knowledge when working with Big Game and implementing management plans. Kyle has been a familiar face to the agency over the years and we are pleased to have him on board and confident he will do a great job.

KCOA donates \$12,000 toward camp scholarships

The Kentucky Conservation Officer Association has again stepped up with a generous award to fund scholarships for Conservation Camps.

Each year the KCOA provides scholarships that send deserving kids to camp. This year KCOA donated more than \$12,000 in camp scholarship funds. Conservation officers presenting the check to Information and Education Division Director **Tim Slone** are **Steve Combs**, **Willie Amburgey** and **Josh Gunn**.

For many children, conservation camp is the best week of their entire year. It's a break from video games, cell phones, and maybe their brothers and sisters. For campers it's a chance to boat, shoot, fish, earn an orange card, make new friends and to just be a kid.



Booker attends Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow seminar



Administrative Services Director **Charles Booker** recently spent a week in the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program.

The program took place at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Illinois. It was an invaluable opportunity for professionals and lifelong conservation leaders to have frank and engaging dialogue with representatives from Fish and Wildlife agencies from around the country.

The group discussed the history, significance and challenges of wildlife/habitat conservation, and really grappled with how to be better advocates and stewards moving forward. They even found time to get in a pheasant hunt. Charles (front, right) called the week a great experience.

PLANNED OVERTIME

Please keep in mind that planned overtime opportunities for KDFWR employees are those specific overtime requirements, as part of the agency's general presence, to support trade shows and public/partner events such as State Fair, NASP tournaments, Boat and RV shows, and other outdoor-related exhibitor functions. Employees wanting to work such events must access the sign-up form by visiting Personnel/KHRIS on KDFWR's intranet (fw.ky.gov/fwnet if outside HQ) to read the instructions and complete the form.

Kentucky golden eagle fitted with tracking device is heading north

Researchers recently captured a golden eagle in the Bernheim Forest in Bullitt and Nelson counties and fitted it with a tracking device as part of an ongoing research project. Golden eagles are seldom seen in Kentucky.

"Bernheim Forest has a few golden eagles that come back every winter and is one of the more reliable places in the state to see golden eagles," said Department avian biologist **Kate Heyden**. "They don't nest in Kentucky, but spend winters here. Golden eagles that winter here probably nest in Canada."

Andrew Berry, manager of Bernheim Forest, explained the reason the birds find the area to their liking.

"I think the golden eagles are attracted to the remote forested knobs of Bernheim Forest," he said. "This bird seems to spend a lot of time hunting field edges on these knobs."

Staff members of Bernheim Forest and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife captured the adult male bird Feb. 10. Using a road-killed deer carcass as bait, the crew sat in a blind and fired a net over the golden eagle to capture it without harm. The project was funded by Bernheim Forest and the Beckham Bird Club in Louisville.

They banded, measured, sexed and aged the bird and put a custom-fitted



solar powered satellite transmitter on its back that won't interfere with flying, hunting or breeding. Heyden said they hope to track this bird for three to five years.

The installation of the tracking device is part of a larger study of eagles in the Appalachian Mountain region. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife began surveying for golden eagles in Kentucky in 2012.

Heyden said there are more golden eagles in Kentucky than we thought, and



that this was their first successful capture. She said the golden eagle was extremely healthy and at 10 ½ pounds, one of the largest she's handled.

Golden eagles typically show up in Kentucky around Thanksgiving and stay until mid-March. The recent warm winds prompted the eagle to begin migrating north March 12; by the next day, it was already near Bloomington, Indiana. As of March 23, the bird was nearing Madison, Wisconsin.

"The neat thing is we don't know where it is going to go," Heyden said. "We would like to see where it goes to nest. We expect this bird to migrate back to Canada."

Those interested in following the movements of this golden eagle may visit the golden eagle page on the Bernheim Forest website at bernheim.org/golden-eagle/.



KDFWR's Lauren Taylor, Charlie Logsdon and Kate Heyden secure the golden eagle after netting it.



“Introduction to Trapping” event attracts 50 participants

Approximately 50 new trapping enthusiasts enjoyed the 10th annual “Introduction to Trapping” weekend November 1-2 in Campbell County.

This increasingly popular well-rounded program of set making, fur handling, equipment use, safety, regulations and ethics is a joint effort educational event involving the Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources and the United Trappers of Kentucky.

Student participants are recruited through Hunter Education classes, 4-H groups, J.A.K.E.S. events, Youth Fests and elsewhere. The class is open to everyone,

regardless of age. Many parents participate with their youngsters for a great family event.

Students were assigned into groups on the first day led by experienced trappers and Department personnel, both active and retired. Each group enjoyed a day of hands-on activity involving set making, sign reading, proper equipment use, modern methods for humane capture, and more.

On the following day, trap lines were checked and furbearers harvested. After group and individual photo sessions, proper skinning and fur handling was taught for furbearers such as muskrat,

beaver, raccoon, opossum, mink, and more, with hands-on participation by students.

The program received many compliments from students and parents alike, and each year, boasts a number of repeat students interested in continuing the activity and improving their skills.

Thanks to the efforts of Department personnel, particularly, Officer **James Beckett**, and the members of United Trappers of Kentucky, this event was once again successful. Special thanks are also due to the Campbell County Fish and Game Club and to the Bobwhite Club, co-hosts each year.

Grouse, Forest Management meetings attract about 200

More than 200 people came out to three meetings recently to voice their thoughts and suggestions about a Forest Management/Grouse Initiative strategy for east Kentucky. The three meetings were conducted in Morehead, Paintsville and Corbin.

This picture is the group at Tri County Quail Club in Corbin. Many thanks to that club, and also the Kentucky Grouse Hunters Association, for hosting these events.

Next step calls for a draft strategic plan that will be shared for public comment. Stay tuned...





ANNUAL WATERFOWL BANDING

Cold conditions helped make this February and March one of our most successful waterfowl banding seasons ever at several sites across the state. The Department banded 9,529 ducks of 14 species, including 8,029 mallards, 1,002 green-winged teal, 141 wood ducks, 122 American wid-geon, 97 black ducks and 79 northern pintails. At left, Kory Knight readies bands for a day's work. At right, Wes McFaddin bands a wood duck drake. Closeups include a northern shoveler, hen and drake wood ducks, blue-winged teal (bottom left), and a lesser scaup.

