



Prescribed
burn
Page 6

Researchers to deploy Wall of Sound to deter Asian carp

Researchers will experiment with a riverbed bubbler and sound system as part of the ongoing effort to slow the spread of Asian carp throughout the Mississippi River basin.

They will test the European technology originally designed to steer migrating salmon back into main river channels below Barkley Dam as an environmentally friendly way to block passage of Asian carp upstream.

Deployment of the fish barrier may affect a few anglers who fish in parts of the lock canal. The area between the lock walls immediately downstream of the chamber will be off limits to fishing due to the possibility of damaging the system. However, the area downstream of the bubble curtain located at the end of the short wall along shore will remain open.

Testing will occur over a three-year period. Most likely, officials will remove the barrier system after the test and the entire portion of the lock structure will reopen for fishing.

The Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) creates a curtain of bubbles, and in conjunction with a powerful sound signal, produces an underwater “wall of sound” designed to deter the passage of fish. The fence is a behavioral barrier that requires less maintenance than a physical barrier, such as a screen or an electrical barrier.

A multi-agency research group chose the technology for the Barkley Dam test.



The Nashville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Minnesota, Fish Guidance Systems and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources are combining funding, technology and staff to construct a research plan that should put an acoustic bubbler system below the dam in fall 2018.

Researchers will use an existing telemetry receiver array and other electronic devices to assess the extent of Asian carp movement from the tailwater into Barkley Lake. The existence of the current telemetry array - set up by local Kentucky Fish and Wildlife research staff dedicated to Asian carp - and the large number of Asian carp in the tailwater make Barkley

Dam the ideal location for this research.

The lock systems of Kentucky and Barkley dams are the primary sources of reservoir access for Asian carp, which continue to expand their range throughout the Mississippi and Ohio river basins.

Bio-acoustic fish fences below lock chambers in the Mississippi River basin are untested as an Asian carp deterrent. This requires research to assess the technology’s efficiency at reducing fish movement beyond the barriers. While this technology does not require construction of physical barriers such as fences, challenges remain.

The amount of barge and boat traffic through the lock at Lake Barkley’s dam

[See “Sound,” page 2](#)

INSIDE:



3 Quotas met



4 Berea grouse



5 Hall progress

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Robert Prowell of MossyOak ProStaff sent this note to R3 Branch Manager Brent McCarty:

"Brent, I wanted to let you know that I have had the privilege of attending two of the field to fork events. At each one Samantha Seaton and Becky Bloomfield have really impressed me. Their knowledge, interaction with the attendees, and overall professionalism is outstanding. I am proud to know we Kentucky sportsman have people like these two working for the department. Thank you."

Lloyd Aldridge of Anderson County writes:

"I am a disabled hunter and have been for many years. With the help of family and friends, I have been able to continue hunting. I want to thank all you good men and women at Kentucky Fish & Wildlife for the work you do and the contributions you

have made thru good management so that I continue to put good KY game on my table.

But more important I want to thank you all for keeping the license fees down for as many years as you have. As long as I am able to hunt, I will, and I for one have no problem with the price changes.

"Thank you each and every one!"

This letter was sent to Wildlife Division's Ben Robinson and Laura Palmer from Kentuckiana Chapter of Safari Club International board member Alice Monarch:

"Dear Ben, Laura and all:

The Officers and Directors of KYSCI hope that you will enjoy the enclosed copies of our 1st Quarter 2018 newsletter, the *Kentuckiana Hunter*. Please be sure Laura gets a copy and share the others with your fellow KDFWR folks.

Continuing to do the newsletter after

Sam's passing has been personally challenging; however, it has been very rewarding because of the support from friends like you. When Sam was in the hospital, he worried that we were getting close to the mid-December deadline for the newsletter but he was reassured by the knowledge that you were taking care of getting the article for the "Conservation Corner" for him. He was so proud of the friendship that had formed with the Department and cherished your friendship personally.

I want to say a personal thank you for the support KDFWR has given our Chapter and Sam and me through the authorship of some very outstanding wildlife oriented articles. Please tell Laura that her article in his issue titled "Bobcats in Kentucky" was a wonderful read and answered many questions I had about this elusive cat that I have only been blessed to see a few times."

"Sound," continued

could create logistical challenges for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Water depths during low-flow periods below the lock chamber will be marginally sufficient to pass barges through. A large volume of sizeable debris coming through the lock chambers during floods could pose problems for the sound system and bubble barrier.

The research goals include determining the effectiveness of a sound barrier system at restricting or reducing movement of Asian carp through lock chambers; assessing the system's resiliency; and determining the barrier's effect on movement of native fish species through lock chambers. Information gathered from this research will be important to future tests at other dams in the Mississippi River and Ohio River basins.



PERRY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAM TAKES SAFE BOATING

Seventh District Conservation officers conducted a safe boating education class for members of the Perry County Central High School fishing team. Lt. Greg Watts, Sgt. Homer Pigman, and Officers Shane Amburgey and Robert Owens presented the class to thirty-two youth and adults last month.

USFWS recognizes KDFWR wood duck banding efforts

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recognized Kentucky Fish and Wildlife as the only agency meeting wood duck banding quotas each year from 2008 through 2017.

Wes Little, wildlife biologist overseeing our migratory game bird banding program, shows the recognition plaque recently awarded the department for banding more than 23,000 wood ducks in that time.

Kentucky State Migratory Bird Coordinator John Brunjes said the data acquired through this banding program provides information on hunting mortality and is directly responsible for our September wood duck hunting opportunity.

“Without this data we would not have a September wood duck season,” said Brunjes. “It is the hard work of our staff in the field that makes this possible.”



KDFWR SPEAKS TO KENTUCKY MAGISTRATES AND COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Salato Wildlife Education Center Director Emily Hogue spoke to Kentucky county elected officials earlier this month during a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife seminar at the annual Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association Conference at Louisville’s Galt House. Hogue, who showed the group the center’s resident screech owl and black rat snake, was part of a KDFWR contingent who addressed the group.



Berea College Forestry begins grouse management



Clint Patterson, Berea College Forester and his assistant, Glen Dandeneau use a chain harrow to prep logging trails followed by sowing them to wheat and clover.

Wildlife Foundation grant funds to restore Shortleaf pine to a portion of their forest.

Integral to this research is conducting prescribed fire on 200 acres

In spring of 2017, Berea College and KDFWR entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for wildlife management, including prescribed fire and wildlife surveys.

Immediately these two partners began conducting grouse surveys and planning forest management activities to benefit grouse on the college's 8,000 acres of forestland.

Fortunately, for grouse, Berea College has an active timber harvest program. After the college's forester, Clint Patterson, and other college staff returned from the Black Forest of Germany, they initiated a form of timber harvest known as expanding gap, irregular shelter wood, or what the Germans call *Femelschlag*.

The result of implementing this harvest strategy is a series of small timber harvests that provide the desired amount of daylight for oak regeneration while limiting full sunlight that would favor the competing, shade intolerant species such as yellow poplar.

Closely positioned forest gaps with high-density seedling and sapling tree species provide desirable habitat for ruffed grouse. Even at the early stages of this timber harvest implementation, grouse surveys and incidental flushes of grouse by foresters indicate the presence of this gamebird.

As timber harvesting continues, the Berea College Forestry Program has also begun work using National Fish &

of forestland. KDFWR wildlife staff will conduct the first burn this spring. They will hand-plant Shortleaf pine seedlings into the forest gaps immediately after the burn.

A key feature of the College Forest for implementation of prescribed fire is more than six miles of logging roads and skid trails. The College's forestry staff recently upgraded older logging roads and sowed most to a wheat and clover mix to stabilize the soil, provide forage, and attract insects for grouse broods.

To further benefit grouse (plus wild turkeys and other wildlife), they plan to widen logging roads for more sunlight to encourage growth of desirable herbaceous plants and shrubs.

West Kentucky Fisheries public meeting set for April 5

Get updates on crappie and bass in Kentucky and Barkley lakes then learn about the latest fisheries research in west Kentucky at a public meeting set for Thursday, April 5, at the [Kentucky Dam Village Conference Center](#) in Gilbertsville.

The meeting, presented by the fisher-

ies staff of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, is set for 7-9 p.m. (Central time).

Topics will include ongoing efforts in the battle against invasive Asian carp, including research of a [fish barrier](#) system and augmenting commercial harvest efforts; the latest on the rise of zebra mus-

sels; and alligator gar restoration research. Department employees also will discuss crappie and bass assessments as well as [fish attractor projects](#).

This annual meeting is part of the department's ongoing outreach and public engagement efforts. All interested parties are welcome to attend.



CAMP CURRIE DINING HALL

Construction of the new Camp Currie dining hall is progressing on schedule for a June 1 opening and the first day of the 2018 summer conservation camp season. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission has made tentative plans for an opening dedication ceremony for May 18.





PRESCRIBED BURN AT HQ

Wildlife Division staff conducted a prescribed burn recently this month on the demonstration native grass areas on the grounds at Headquarters in Frankfort. Biologist John Hast uses a drip torch to set the burn line as Derek Beard looks on.



COMMISSION REMEMBERS PAUL BRYAN HORN

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission remembered the late Paul Bryan Horn of Prestonsburg at its scheduled March meeting.

Commission Chairman Jimmy Bevins and Eighth District Commission Member Rich Storm presented a framed Rick Hill wild turkey print to Horn's son, Seventh District Commission Member Paul Horn.

An inscribed plate immediately below the print read, "In Memory of Paul Bryan Horn, October 10, 1939 – February 3, 2018, With our greatest appreciation for his lifelong contributions to conservation and Kentucky's wildlife resources. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission."

TAH Cabinet spotlights Paul Rister, Nathan Brooks and Michael Gray in its Core Value Awards

The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet recently spotlighted “Kentucky Afield Television” Executive Producer Nathan Brooks, retired Western Fisheries District Coordinator Paul Rister, and Marketing Division Assistant Director Michael Gray in its Core Value Awards. Brooks was recognized for a “Spirit of Innovation Award,” Rister for the “Sustained Excellence Award,” and Gray received its “Servant Leadership Award.”

The following texts that accompanied the awards are reprinted here from the Cabinet’s announcements.

Paul Rister “Sustained Excellence Award”

(Paul Rister retired December 31 after 28 years with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. He served as District Coordinator for the Western Fisheries District.)

The topwater lure crept slowly across Kentucky Lake as a layer of fog drifted slowly toward the morning sun.

This snapshot of Kentucky bliss on board a 12’ Jon Boat is one of the many fishing memories Paul Rister made with his father.

“I grew up in Western Kentucky around lakes and had many opportunities with my dad going fishing,” said Rister. “I’ve always enjoyed being outdoors and have a tremendous passion for it.”

As Rister was considering a career to pursue, it didn’t take long to figure it out.

“Being a person who loves the outdoors, the thought of either working in an office or outdoors made for an easy choice. I chose the outdoors and hoped to do something better for the environment.”

Rister’s passion for the outdoors and love of fishing launched his 28-year career with Kentucky’s Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

As a fishery biologist, Rister did a lot more than fish. He tested water chemi-



cal levels and implemented strategies to create a robust environment for fishing.

This biologist was also a home-builder. He built structures where aquatic life could grow into an outdoor challenge for sportsmen around the world.

“Fish need houses like people need houses, which is why we place structures in the water,” said Rister. Better homes mean better fishing. And enjoying the experience of good fishing is what Rister hopes for himself and others.

“Fisherman catch more fish around these structures, and it’s a positive experience they can see resulting from my work,” said Rister.

Building one of the largest and longest running fish habit programs with enthusiasm for nearly 30 years earned Rister the Core Value Award for Sustained Excellence from Secretary Don Parkinson.

Rister says his three-decade career never seemed like a job because he was doing what he loved.

“You can’t fake passion,” said Rister. “You can show up and imitate it, but it’s gonna show over time.”

“There’s a lot of days I’ve been to work and I can remember very few where I thought to myself, ‘This is a job?’”

Nathan Brooks “Spirit of Innovation Award”

The smell of new plastic filled the air as the box cutter slipped slowly through the sturdy packing tape.

The Styrofoam squealed with joy as it

was released from its cardboard prison.

Nathan Brooks excitedly opened the box of his new Roku TV, quickly tossing aside the quick-start guide and moving straight to the components. As a professional in the TV business for over a decade, he didn’t need any help.

Once the power cable was plugged in and Wi-Fi connection established, Nathan began perusing the cutting-edge features of his new smart TV. He was amazed at the seemingly endless number of apps available at the tips of his fingers like sports, news, movies, music...

Everything except Kentucky Afield TV. There wasn’t an app for that. At least there wasn’t until Nathan decided to innovate.

“If you aren’t trying to enhance your environment or reach out to new audiences, your brand will fall behind,” said Brooks. “It’s so important to branch out



and to be confident in taking risks.”

Brooks leveraged an emerging technology to introduce viewers to a

new way of watching the longest continuously-running outdoors television show in the United States.

The app he created empowers Kentucky Afield to reach new audiences around the world and serve as a cost-effective marketing tool.

Developing this new platform earned Brooks the Spirit of Innovation Core Value Award from Secretary Don Parkinson.

See “Awards,” page 8

“Awards,” continued

As Brooks continues to assess opportunities for Kentucky Afield, he says any one of his colleagues has the ability to come up with the next big thing.

“I hope they will take a long, hard look at their environment,” said Brooks.

“Don’t be afraid of your job description. Leaving a lasting impression requires you to explore the unknown and implement the unfamiliar.”

Michael Gray “Servant Leadership Award”

Learning about the man who could fly like a butterfly and sting like a bee. Walking the hallowed grounds of the fastest two minutes in sports. Seeing the Sultan of Swat’s weapon of choice on display.

Those were just a few stops for hundreds of wildlife officials who migrated to Kentucky for The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Annual Conference.

In addition to the usual conference schedule of keynotes and breakout sessions, Michael Gray hosted visiting



officials on tours of several Louisville landmarks including the Muhammad Ali Center, Churchill Downs, and the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory.

Gray, who serves as Assistant Director of Public Affairs for Kentucky’s Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), wanted the conference to be a productive opportunity for professional development. He also wanted guests to have a Kentucky experience they would always remember.

“I take so much pride in the Commonwealth and my community of Louisville,” said the 13-year veteran of KDFWR.

“In addition to the conference activities, I wanted the attendees to make

memories they would treasure for the rest of their lives.”

Gray played a crucial role in the preparation, facilitation, and management of the SEAFWA conference in Louisville.

Gray’s commitment to prioritizing the needs of others and inspiring his team to perform at their best earned him the Core Value Award for Servant Leadership from Secretary Don Parkinson.

Outside of working on the SEAFWA conference, Gray leads marketing efforts around the state and region. For several months out of the year, Gray’s team can be found promoting Kentucky’s outdoor resources to customers at boating, hunting, and fishing shows across the Southeast.

The Assistant Director of Public Affairs says enjoying what you do and working with great people are critical to long-term success.

“Try to learn something new every day and make sure to give back to the people who are working with you,” said Gray.

“It all pays off in the end.”

Slone graduates from CJED Program

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Officer Sergeant Jason Slone is among 19 law enforcement executives from agencies across Kentucky who graduated this month from the Criminal Justice Executive Development (CJED) program.

Slone works out of Knott County in the Seventh District.

CJED is an advanced leadership course designed for supervisors at small- and medium-size agencies from across the state.



Alexandria Police Chief Mike Ward served as guest speaker.

The 19 graduates comprised the Department of Criminal Justice Training’s 22nd CJED class. Franklin Police Chief Roger Solomon served as class speaker.

CJED is a four-week, 168-hour program that focuses

on identifying, analyzing and solving problems as well as leadership, personnel administration, operations, fiscal man-

agement, executive and environmental relationships.

The purpose of the course is to provide students with the academic background, leadership skills and management techniques required for the future. Each session enhances leadership abilities and encourages the development of visionary thinkers.

To take part in CJED, potential students must be supervisors who rank sergeant or above. They must apply for entrance into the program and be selected by a committee of CJED graduates from across the commonwealth.

Students attend CJED courses for one week each month for four months.