



Salato
Sampler
Page 8

Conservation Educator Clay Brummal helps rescue driver from burning truck

Conservation Educator Kaelin McWilliams snapped this photo of the accident's aftermath from a camp bus in the northbound lane of the Natcher Parkway. Brummal's vehicle is the one engulfed by smoke.



A bus load of elementary and middle school students on their way home from a week of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife conservation camp witnessed a harrowing single-vehicle wreck and then saw one of their camp counselors run to the stricken vehicle and pull the unconscious driver to safety seconds before it burst into flames.

Conservation educator Clay Brummal was driving south on the Natcher Parkway near Hartford in Ohio County Friday shortly after 2 p.m. when he came upon a wrecked and mangled pickup just seconds after its driver had lost control

and crashed.

He ran to the vehicle and found its driver badly injured, bleeding and unconscious.

"He did not respond when I tapped his foot," said Brummal. "Then I saw the flames coming up out of the engine compartment and knew we had to get him out of there."

Two other motorists arrived to help. State police say one of them was Edgar Mills of Bowling Green.

"The doors were jammed shut, but the driver's side window was broken out," said Brummal. "It took all three of us, but we

pulled him up through that window and got him out of there. I could never have even budged him by myself."

The flames spread quickly and completely engulfed the truck. "We got worried about an explosion and shrapnel, so we dragged him about 75 feet away," said Brummal.

State Police said later that the driver, Jerry Crowler of Gordsville, Tennessee, was Life-Flighted from the scene to Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Kaelin McWilliams, a conservation

[See "Rescue," page 11](#)

INSIDE:



3 Recycling program



4 Grouse plan



5 New pier

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

The following email came to Commissioner Johnson from Mr. Ron Vanover, Director of Recreational Parks and Historic Sites with the Kentucky Department of Parks. He wrote, "Sorry I have not written sooner. However, John Kington – Kentucky Department of Parks Deputy Commissioner – and I wanted to send you a short note to acknowledge the work and kindness of Mr. **Tristan Curry**, wildlife biologist II for your Agency.

Over the past several months, KyPARKS has been on a mission to "spruce up" Kingdom Come State Park. Back on April 23, KyPARKS hosted a "Clean-Up/Spruce-Up Day" at the Park and invited the local community to assist.

Much to my surprise, Mr. Curry came to that event and gave of his time unselfishly. He worked tremendously hard and represented KDFWR in an exemplary manner. You would have been proud of him. Overall, we had close to 40 volunteers at this event.

Also, I recently saw Mr. **Jayson Plaxico** – Wildlife Biologist – at a Kingdom Come retirement event. I reiterated my appreciation to him for Mr. Curry's assistance and work ethic.

Jayson is also a very fine gentleman; I had the pleasure to work with him for many years in the Dewey Lake region when I was the park naturalist for Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. He too is a very dedicated individual.

It's always a pleasure to work with your fine staff."

Commissioner Johnson received a letter from Heywood Gordon, Wounded Warrior Outdoors Founding Director. The Commission recently held our April 29th



committee meetings at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park and a group of Wounded Warriors were participating in a Spring Turkey hunt that weekend. Members of that group of warriors opened the committee meetings by leading in the pledge and invocation.

Mr. Gordon wrote, "Wounded Warrior Outdoors was honored to have you and your guests visit with us at Pumpkin Lodge during the Lake Cumberland State Resort Park (LCSP) turkey hunt. The warriors were so pleased to lead the pledge and do the invocation at your meeting. The introduction of the warriors to the group and the appreciation shown to them by the attendees was truly meaningful to them.

WWO has enjoyed the LCSP for several years and we hope to continue this annual event. The warriors who attend each year have a great need to understand how to transition from their injuries. This is a great location for each of them to better identify what the future may hold for them.

I want to personally thank you for the exemption

from license and permits the warriors receive. The State of Kentucky is so gracious to offer this to WWO."

Most KDFWR employees know **Phillip Williams** (aka Mississippi) who works in our Information Center. Phillip has worked for the department for 24 years, first in the Law Enforcement Division as a dispatcher, and now in the Information Center.

If you have called in on the main lines, you have no doubt at one time or another talked to Phillip. Any who

have talked to Phillip know how much he loves to package up "goodies" to send to classrooms, scout groups, or whoever. He recently received a request to send some bobbers to a classroom of children in Idaho.

Phillip can't just send bobbers, he has to send a whole bunch of various items. It's just not in his nature to send one item. He sent posters, fish ID books, bobbers, and who knows what else.

He received the following note from Ms. Alvey, the 6th grade science class

See "Mail," page 3



Fisheries heading program to recycle used fishing line and soft plastic baits

The Fisheries Division is spearheading a Recycling Program to reduce the amount of fishing line and soft plastic baits at fishing access sites and in the waterways of the Commonwealth.

The Program has three main goals; 1) educate the public on the negative impacts of discarded fishing line and soft plastic baits, 2) provide an avenue for safely disposing of the items to keep them out of the environment, and 3) facilitate recycling of monofilament and soft plastic baits.

Soft plastic baits and fishing line are non-biodegradable and in some cases can persist in the environment for upwards of 600 years. Fish, birds, and turtles can become entangled or even ingest discarded line and bait.

Outboard and trolling motors, jet skis, and lawn mowers, among other things, can also be damaged by discarded fishing line.

To heighten awareness and garner support for the Recycling Program KDFWR joined with the Kentucky High School Athletics Association to reach out to high school anglers.

For the second year each high school in Kentucky with a KHSAA sanctioned bass fishing team was asked to participate in an event to see who could collect, and



Calloway County High School (top) and Boyle County High School.



recycle, the most fishing line and soft plastic baits. The initiative culminated again at the KHSAA State Bass Fishing Tournament May 13-14 at Kentucky Dam Marina.

Two days were spent educating the public and promoting responsible disposal of fishing line and recycling of both monofilament line and soft plastics.

There was great response from anglers, parents, and the general public. All together 4.6 pounds of fishing line, 1.76 pounds of empty line spools and 40.58 pounds of soft plastic baits was collected! Based on a national average the 4.6 pounds of fishing line collected equates to 8.14 miles of fishing line that was brought in for proper disposal!

Boyle County High School delivered 11.29 pounds of soft plastics and 1.52 pounds of fishing line and empty line spools. Calloway County High School delivered 21.4 pounds of soft plastics baits and 1.49 pounds of fishing line and empty line spools.

Both schools received prize packages which included products from our event sponsors. Event partners included

KHSAA, Berkley and Abu Garcia (Gold Sponsors), Zoom Bait Company (Silver Sponsor), Bass Pro Shops Clarksville, IN (Silver Sponsor), Whopper Baits (Silver Sponsor), and KDFWR.

“Mail,” continued

teacher. “Mississippi – we cannot thank you enough for the treasures you sent along for our 6th grade sci class all the way out here in Idaho! These materials helped me get my students excited about outdoor

science! Thank you!”

The children also wrote notes. “Thank you, Mississippi, for all the fun things and for going above and beyond what you have to do every day.” “Thank you for the Kentucky stuff, they were super fun to look through and enjoy!” “I love the bobbers,

books, and poster. I hung the poster right in the center of my wall.” “I have learned so much from the posters and guides. I can’t wait to use the bobber on my next fishing trip.”

Thanks Phillip (aka Mississippi) for being a great ambassador for the Department!

Department unveils ruffed grouse restoration plan, seeks public input

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is seeking public input on a draft of its new Ruffed Grouse and Young Forest Strategic Plan.

The draft plan, written by wildlife biologists with input gained during a series of public meetings held last year, calls for developing partnerships to help increase the amount of young forests that are critical for grouse populations. The plan is available for public review online at fw.ky.gov.

Once found across Kentucky, grouse are now limited to the eastern mountains of the state.

Grouse need a combination of a young forest's heavy ground cover for protection from predators and to raise their young, as

well as nuts from mature oaks and beeches to help them survive the winter.

The birds thrived in Kentucky in the 1970s and 1980s because of the amount of young forests created by surface mine reclamation, timbering and farm abandonment.

Since that time, much of Eastern Kentucky's forests have matured into more open stands dominated by red maples in the understory. Maples are not as valuable to wildlife as trees that produce nuts, a high protein source of food.

The grouse restoration plan calls for a commitment to sustainable forest management to stimulate plant growth for grouse broods, high stem densities for year-round cover and oak regeneration for the future



Joe Lacefield photo

forest, while maintaining select mature, acorn-producing trees to help boost oak stands in the forest.

The plan also calls for partnerships with other agencies and organizations to help achieve goals, and public outreach to promote the importance of young forest habitat for other species like migratory songbirds and big game.

New Hires

Please welcome **Joe McDermott** as the newest biologist in the Deer and Elk Program. McDermott will oversee the Voucher-Cooperator Program and coordinate trapping efforts for the Wisconsin elk translocation project. Joe's official duties began on May 16.

An Anderson County native, McDermott earned a B.A. in biology from Hanover College in 2011. He began working for the Department as a summer seasonal technician in western Kentucky while attending college, and worked a multitude of seasonal positions with bears and elk from 2011-2013.

Most recently, McDermott led a deer project in Clay County while working toward an M.S. at the University of Kentucky. His research is focused on estimating survival of adult female deer and fawns to better understand reproductive potential and recruitment in Zone 4 counties.

In his spare time, McDermott enjoys hunting and fishing across the Common-

wealth. He and his wife, Abby McDermott, live in Lexington.

Please join us in congratulating **Zak Danks** on being named our new Grouse/Turkey Coordinator. Zak has been with the agency for 9 years. He spent time as a farm bill biologist and private lands biologist before working as a NRCS liaison for the past 5 years. Zak earned a B.S. in natural resource conservation and management from U.K. in 2004, then a M.S. in wildlife management from the S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY, in 2007.

He enjoys time at home with wife Elizabeth and daughters Lucy and Ruby, and hunting upland birds with setters Blue and May.

Brandon Sawyers recently joined the Fisheries Division staff as a Fish and Wildlife Technician II with the Big Rivers Research Branch. Brandon is originally from Pikeville, KY and completed his B.S. in Wildlife Management at Eastern

Kentucky University. During his college career, Brandon completed an undergraduate research project evaluating size limit regulations on Elkhorn Creek. Brandon had recently worked as a Fish and Wildlife Technician I with the Salato Center animal care.

He is an avid fisherman, and enjoys spending time with his wife Melissa, daughter Katelyn, and son Jacob.

The Fisheries Division welcomes **Tom Van Arsdall** as the new Environmental Biologist Supervisor in the Department's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program.

Tom is originally from Harrodsburg, KY where he grew up loving the outdoors. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree from Emory University where he majored in biology. Tom went on to earn his Master's Degree in Aquatic Ecology from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Tom is a veteran biologist having

See "Hires," page 5



Ohio River fishing pier and access opens with Meldahl hydroelectric plant

Several hundred people assembled early this month to dedicate and officially open the 105-MW run-of-the-river Meldahl Hydroelectric Plant project on the Captain Anthony Meldahl Locks and Dam, located on the Ohio River near Maysville.

Excavation and cofferdam construction for the 10-story tall powerhouse substructure (nine stories underwater) began in May 2010. The Meldahl project was developed jointly by American Municipal Power, Inc. and member community



Hamilton, Ohio.

Their construction included several hundred feet of bank fishing access, and a handicapped-accessible walkway/ramp

and fishing pier immediately below the new plant. More than 25 million gallons of water move through the plant each minute.

“Hires,” continued

over 30 years of experience assessing and protecting aquatic resources throughout the southeastern United States. He began his career with private industry before moving to the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection in 1987 and retired as the Branch Manager for Water Quality for the Department of Environmental Protection where he played key roles in establishing state water quality

standards as well as producing the Commonwealth’s 305(b) Reports to Congress on Water Quality and the 303(d) Reports on Water Quality.

Tom began his career with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources in 2009 with the Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program. While with the Department, Tom has undertaken several major FILO stream restoration projects including those that have added significant new acreages to Clay and Kleber WMAs.

Tom’s vast experience and leadership will be crucial in his new role of overseeing the identification and development of new stream and wetland restoration projects.

Tom currently resides on a small farm in Stamping Ground, KY. His claim as “grill master” is well deserved with the “thick burger.” He enjoys spending time outdoors and fishing Elkhorn Creek. He is excited that he can continue his career with the Department. Please welcome Tom to his new role with KDFWR.

Ohio DNR teams up with Wildlife Division

Seven staff members from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division visited with Clay WMA and Small Game Program staff to learn about the Department's efforts towards restoring northern bobwhite. Over a two-day field visit, Ohio DNR toured Clay WMA and Shaker Village.

Jacob Stewart, Clay WMA Biologist, lead the group on day one. He was supported by **Nathan Gregory**, Northeast Regional Coordinator, and **Brian Waggoner**, Clay WMA Technician III.

The group discussed the challenges of managing bobwhite on a WMA. Multiple user group interests coupled with forest management needs make Clay a difficult bobwhite restoration site. Despite the hurdles, the area has seen a favorable response by bobwhite.

The group discussed a host of management practices including prescribed fire, herbicide management, prairie plantings, edge feathering, equipment needs, and forest management. **Jimmy Woods** and **Zach Beyer**, Clay WMA technicians, prepared an outstanding lunch to maximize opportunity for interaction.

Day 2 provided a sharp contrast to Clay WMA. **John Morgan**, Small Game Coordinator, and Ben Leffew, Shaker Village Property Manager, presented the Shaker Village Project. The Village represents a 100% quail management opportunity that is privately owned. Discussions centered on native grass management including fire, herbicide, disking, and planting. Fire rotations and strategies were more aggressively aimed at benefitting bobwhite on the area. Disking, shrub plantings, and invasive management were topics of discussion. The challenges of managing private lands and integrating habitat with production agriculture were key talking points throughout the day.

The two site visits provided a well-



rounded perspective of Kentucky-style bobwhite management for our northern counterparts. Perhaps the biggest take-home for them was the scale and connectivity of the management. KDFWR staff showed thousands of acres management in close proximity over a 5-year period. Ohio DNR staff were very appreciative of the

opportunity for interaction. The in-depth discussions provided benefits for both agencies. Ohio DNR offered a reciprocal opportunity in the future as they roll out a more aggressive bobwhite management strategy. We wish them the best as they tackle one of wildlife management's toughest tasks – bringing back bob!





ANNUAL SALATO SAMPLER

Legendary 60+ year Master Distiller Jimmy Russell and his wife Joretta greeted visitors to Wild Turkey's table during the annual Salato Sampler this month. Nearly 500 people attended the popular event, sampling Kentucky bourbons, wines, ales, cheeses and more.



SAMPLER OUTDOORS



Sampler patrons outdoors enjoyed band music, visiting with Salato's red-tailed hawk and handler Geoff Roberts, catfish fried by I&E Director Tim Slone, retired Col. David Casey and volunteer Tom Clay, and Bandlands BBQ prepared by retired Taylorsville WMA Manager Bill Mitchell. A brief shower failed to dampen the dedication of a few visitors, and when the rains departed, they partied under a rainbow.



Benefits of Hunting

By Ben Robinson

Ben Robinson is a wildlife biologist and Assistant Director in the Wildlife Division. He was invited to write this piece for an edition of Safari Club International's newsletter.

Imagine a world void of wild game. Lands that were once plentiful with deer, elk, turkey, quail, and waterfowl are now barren. Passionate sportsmen and women like you and I would consider this to be their worst nightmare. Efforts by that same group of passionate sportsmen and women have ensured that the nightmare is far from reality.

Step back several decades into the 1930's, when the nation found itself in the midst of a great depression. The economy



was severely struggling, and for most American households, money was tight. In addition, wildlife populations were experiencing severe declines. A lack of attention to wildlife resources, coupled with unregulated hunting and a lack of funding to address the issues created the perfect storm for steep declines in our cherished wildlife species.

During the heart of these uncertain times, a group of passionate visionaries saw an opportunity to generate a secure funding source that would ultimately be considered one of the most successful pieces of conservation legislation ever to be enacted. The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act created a mechanism for hunters to fund conservation efforts.

The Pittman-Robertson Act imposes an 11 percent excise tax on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and handguns. Manufacturers, producers, and importers of these items pay the excise tax with the understanding that the funds are earmarked specifically to help fund state wildlife agency conservation efforts. Today, every time that someone purchases a gun, ammunition, or archery equipment, they can take pride in knowing that they've played a role in supporting world class hunting opportunity's across this great country.

In order for legislation like the Pittman-Robertson Act to be the most beneficial, hunters once again continue to lead the way through the sale of state hunting licenses. The benefits of purchasing your hunting license may seem obvious, but did you know that every Kentucky hunting license sold acts as a match and increases the state's share of the Pittman-Robertson Act fund?

A state receives this federal funding based on its hunting license sales and total land area. Since Kentucky's land area probably won't be changing anytime soon, we must find ways to increase the



number of hunting licenses sold so that we can continue to ensure that our cherished game species are managed based on sound science through proper funding.

Kentucky has reaped the benefits of the user pay, user benefit model for many decades. If you've ever enjoyed watching wildlife, stepped foot on one of our many public Wildlife Management Areas, sighted in a rifle at one of our public shooting ranges, pursued white-tailed deer, elk, eastern wild turkey, or waterfowl, thank a hunter. Without the financial contributions that hunters continue to make, our abundant wild game populations would not exist.

The benefits of hunting and the funding generated remain obvious to those of us who actively participate in the sport. But for many outside of the hunting community, those benefits may not be so clear. What happens if hunting goes away? Most of us shiver at the thought, but we must remain vigilant at protecting and promoting our ability to hunt heading into the future.

Without hunting, we risk jeopardizing the conservation movement for all. We must not only continue to generate

See "Hunting," page 10



Barren County wins Kentucky's first High School Trap Championship

Barren County High School's trap team won the first Kentucky State High School Trap Tournament earlier this month at the Blue Grass Sportsman League traps near Wilmore.

Barren County took first place with a team score of 474 out of a possible 500. Scott County was the runner-up team

with 467.

Eleven schools entered the tournament.

The Kentucky Trap League recognized State Representative Kenny Imes of Murray for his substantial efforts in moving the enabling legislation through the Kentucky General Assembly.

Tournament organizers are excited

about the initial turnout and say 31 school systems now have authorized trap teams.

They expect that number to continue growing and that when at least 50 systems are participating, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association will begin administering the sport.

"Hunting," continued

revenue, we must embark upon educational campaigns to share the benefits that hunters bring to the conservation world. As hunters, we must find ways to educate and engage those who are passionate about other parts of the great outdoors: bird watching, hiking, paddling, and camping

to name a few.

We must unite to protect our great traditions so that future generations can find the joy that we've experienced while pursuing wild game. We must make known the fact that without management funded by hunting, the abundant non-game populations like songbirds, butterflies and salamanders enjoyed by so many

would not thrive.

For most outdoor enthusiasts, it remains obvious that hunters pave the financial way for conservation. Take pride knowing that each time you purchase a hunting license, buy ammunition for that big game excursion, or a new firearm for the grandchild, you are ensuring a bright future for the sport of hunting.

“Rescue,” continued

educator accompanying the campers returning to their Hancock and Breckinridge County homes, said they had stopped along the northbound side of the highway to repair a flat tire on the luggage trailer behind the Miller Transportation bus when the students began exclaiming about the wreck.

“The wreck happened directly across from us. The campers saw it, and then they saw Clay pull up,” said McWilliams.

“They all started shouting ‘Mr. Brummal’s here.’” They had just spent the last week with him at Camp Currie.

“In a crisis situation, Clay is definitely the type of person you want there,” said Information and Education Division Director Tim Slone. “He stays calm; he keeps his head about him. We practice and train to deal with emergencies at camp, and that clearly paid dividends here.”

Ohio County EMS Director Jim Duke said that it is extremely uncommon for a vehicle to ignite on contact and to have someone unconscious inside. “I’ve been doing this for 34 years and that’s a movie thing that just doesn’t happen in real life. (Brummal) was in the right place at the right time and he saved a life in Ohio County today,” he said Friday evening. “He got him out of that vehicle or he would have died.”

When State Police and ambulance personnel cleared, Brummal, who had slowed originally upon noticing the camp bus across the highway in the emergency lane, crossed the road and changed the luggage trailer’s flat tire.

“Not only did he rescue that injured driver, but he changed our tire and got us back on the road home,” said McWilliams. “He was definitely our hero.”

About Clay...

Clay Brummal is a conservation educator in the Department’s Division of



Conservation Educator Clay Brummal presented the Archery High Score Award to camper Devin Cook.

land in Wayne County). All three conservation camps host approximately 200 elementary and middle school-aged students each week and are open 10 weeks (June, July, August).

On Monday mornings, Clay and his counterparts escort or accompany buses that pick up youth bound for a week at camp. On Friday afternoons, they escort the buses and campers back to

their home counties. On this particular Friday, Clay had followed his bus and delivered the youth back to their families, and was then traveling south on the Natcher Parkway in Ohio County when the single-vehicle crash occurred in front of him. By sheer coincidence, another bus from camp traveling in the northbound lane had become disabled with a flat tire at almost the exact same location. That created the circumstance of how the bus load of campers that Clay had just spent a week with at camp came to be witnesses to his life-saving actions.

Education and Information. During the school year he is one of 19 such Department staff who go into 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classrooms all across Kentucky and teach conservation education. When the school year ends, he becomes an educator/counselor at Camp John Currie on Kentucky Lake near Benton.

Camp Currie is one of three such conservation camps operated by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (the others being Camp Robert Webb on Grayson Lake in Carter County, and Camp Earl Wallace on Lake Cumber-



BOBCAT VISITS CAMP WEBB

Camp Webb Director Jack Lee thought others might enjoy a glimpse of one of Camp Webb’s visitors. He snapped this photo of a bobcat taking a swim in Grayson Lake earlier this month.