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Commission recognizes lifesaving actions by Alley, Campbell



The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission has recognized Conservation Officer Jerrod Alley and Boating Educator Zachary Campbell for their lifesaving efforts on Lake Cumberland during a storm in May. The Commission acted on a motion at its July meeting by Ninth District Commission Member Dr. Karl Clinard to recognize and award certificates of recognition to Alley and Campbell that stated the two “went above and beyond the call of duty when they risked their own lives to save the lives

of others.” Their life-saving efforts occurred May 27 when, after seeking shelter at Conley Bottom Marina from a violent storm, they learned of a family being reported missing in the storm. It was well after sunset and temperatures were falling. Despite observing a low funnel cloud and a bombardment by torrential rain and hail, they returned to the water determined to locate the three missing personal watercraft and their passengers. They located

the two young children and one adult and their disabled craft, and returned all to safety unharmed. The storm registered 74 mph winds and destroyed signs and roof structures at the marina. Winds and wave action snapped steel cables securing a break wall structure. Alley called it the “most severe he’s been in during his 13 years working on Lake Cumberland.”

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WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

Respect, good words for Officer Henning

My family is an avid fishing family, and I must say that we do not have that much contact with conservation officers.

Of the few times we have been contacted by officers, it has been an absolute privilege, so much that we actually hope that they will see us and stop by just to chat. They are a wealth of information and a joy to speak with.

Officer Jenny Henning has my utmost respect and appreciation in the way she has treated and spoke with my family. I have a disabled son and my father was seriously ill, and has since passed, from cancer. She gave him a hug and talked with him about her own life experiences.

She also has a sibling with a similar disability of my son and completely understood how to relate and communicate with him. She



also informed of us special programs and such that he might want to get involved in.

There also are two male conservation officers around the Peabody WMA in Ohio County who are genuinely nice and professional people.

I don't know what is standard issue for conservation officers, but you all may want to think about adding a cape to Officer Henning's uniform.

Sincerely,
Brian Morgan

And some more Mail

This note from Bryan Downs in Nelson County:



Salato Sampler praised

Thank you for hosting a wonderful event at the Salato Sampler. You should be proud of your staff for a fine job indeed!

Gary Adams
Cynthiana, KY



PREPPING FOR KENTUCKY STATE FAIR

The Salato Wildlife Education Center's 3½-year-old groundhog is ramping up her social skills in preparation for a visit to the Kentucky State Fair next month. As part of her stepping outside of her Salato Center comfort zone, she briefly visited Headquarters staff in the Arnold Mitchell Building. Handler Tiffany Laracuente put her through a series of training commands in the lobby as other staff looked on.

Kentucky Afield Radio takes national top spot



The National Association of Government Communicators awarded Charlie Baglan and Kentucky Afield Radio first place for best government-produced radio program for 2016.

The particular episode receiving the trophy was "Kentucky's Red November" detailing the historical controversy surrounding the proposed damming of Red River Gorge to create Red River Lake.

If you're not familiar, you're not alone. But this was headline news in 1967.

A US Supreme Court Justice, who was also a sportsman and environmentalist, visited the area of eastern Kentucky. His purpose was to raise awareness of the proposed damming of the picturesque gorge in the name of flood control for Powell County's Clay City.

Covered by CBS News, TIME Magazine and others, our Red River flowed across the national stage. This debate raged for eight

years.

The radio program recognizes the 50th anniversary of the undamming of Red River Gorge and, perhaps for the first time, tells the complete story. It features many of the project's prominent voices of the day, including Governor Julian Carroll, EKU's Dr. Bill Martin, attorney Oscar Gerald, the US Army Corps of Engineers and more.

Plus, it outlines the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife's partnership

with the Corps for wildlife management areas, the development of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and how this entire storm led to the creation of the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission.

Worth finding on the web, YouTube or iTunes and [listening](#).



NAGC President Kathryn Stokes and Charlie Baglan



WKYT's "Staycation" series encourages Salato visits

WKYT's Andrea Walker brought the Lexington TV station to the Salato Wildlife Education Center earlier this month as part of the station's "Staycation" series for those seeking exciting places to

visit this summer while staying close to home.

Of course she took time for a photo with the Center's resident red-tailed hawk and management staff Brent McCarty and

Geoff Roberts.

And her cameraman joined her for shot with the Center's black bear looking over their shoulders.

Deer working group has first meeting

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife hosted a meeting of the Deer Committee, a working group headed by Commission Member Rusty Gailor and comprised of a variety of individuals with a stake in how deer are managed in the Commonwealth.

Represented on the Committee include people from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, University of Kentucky Extension, Farm Bureau, Corn Growers, farmers, urban constituents, and many others.

This committee will play a pivotal role in providing input and recommendations to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife on ways to better manage the deer herd across the state.

The purpose of this Committee is to discuss current and emerging deer management issues in Kentucky. Member feedback, insight, experience, and ideas



will be invaluable in this process.

Kentucky has one of the top deer programs in the nation, and there are management challenges that cross society and our Commonwealth. The end result, will be some proposed adjustments to our deer program for the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission to consider going forward.

Some items of discussion may include an increased number of antlerless deer

allowed to be taken under statewide deer permit, an increased number of antlerless deer allowed to be taken under youth deer permit, modifications to deer control permits (free antlerless permits), expansion of archery season, expansion of crossbow season, expansion of modern firearms season, bag limit modifications in deer zones, creation of an urban deer hunting zone, and creation of a special deer hunt program.

“Carp-e Diem”

The Salato Center’s Geoff Roberts and Marketing Division’s Leah Godlaski recently had a memorable trip at Cedar Creek Lake in Lincoln County.

While bass fishing, Godlaski hooked into something that neither angler expected.

“At first I thought she was hung up, but then I saw her line quickly moving out to deeper water. I knew it wasn’t a bass but I had no idea what was on the other end of her line,” said Roberts. “When it jumped, we were both astonished at how big it was. It looked like a tarpon!”

Godlaski had unintentionally snagged a giant grass carp in the tail, making it difficult to gain any advantage over the fish. The battle lasted over twenty minutes and spanned a distance of about 200 yards



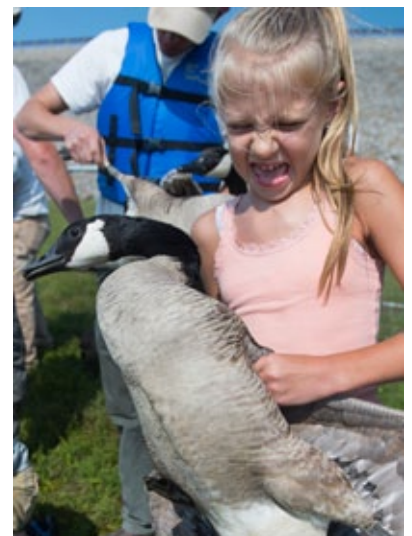
in all.

“It got me wrapped around two different trees and I don’t know how it didn’t break my line. When we finally got the fish up, it took both of us to lift it into the boat. I couldn’t believe how heavy it was,” Godlaski said.

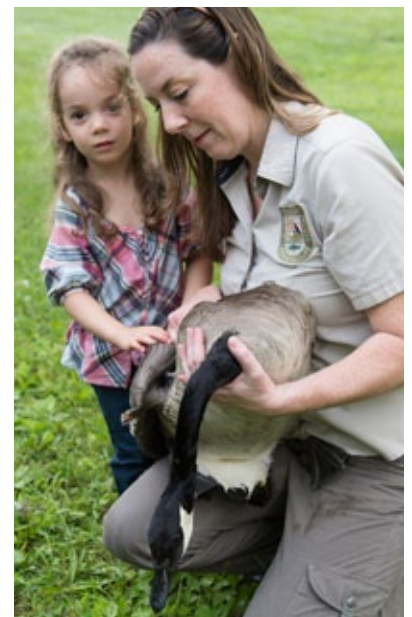
The duo took a few quick photos and did not attempt to weigh the fish, which Roberts estimated to be around 40 lbs. “I told Leah that could very well be the biggest fish she’ll ever catch in her lifetime. People go deep sea fishing and don’t catch fish of that size!”

ANNUAL GOOSE ROUNDUP

Biologists take advantage of summer molting flightless geese with roundups for banding purposes. While the data is important, they offer opportunities for families and others to join in the management efforts. They make memorable moments and great photos. *John Brunjes photos*



They banded geese in Northern Kentucky, Lexington, at Cave Run Lake and Headquarters. Savanna Dyer documented band data. Erin Harper's son, Cam, watched Chris Grascch apply a band. Wes Little held tight as a goose grabbed daughter, Fiona's shirt in front of sister, Ella. Laura Palmer held a bird for daughter Amelia, while Tom Timmerman's daughter, Kaylen, and Rufus Cravens' daughter, Kaylee, controlled their own birds.





Biologists impressed with successful quail efforts on Peabody WMA

The familiar whistle of bobwhite quail, and calls of dickcissels and prairie warblers filled the Peabody Wildlife Management morning air last month when federal and state biologists representing Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky converged on one of Kentucky's premiere Quail Focus Areas.

KDFWR biologists hosted upland game managers from the tristate area to discuss management of quail on reclaimed coal mine sites.

With over 600,000 hectares of reclaimed mine land in the United States, these large contiguous tracts of open habitat offer managers the unique opportunity to implement large scale upland game habitat.

Managers that have worked these mine lands know all too well the hardships associated with transforming the landscape from what was planted in the reclamation process (non-native plants) to

more beneficial wildlife habitat.

Biologist Eric Williams and foreman Peabody WMA were the focus of the field day. The hard work of these two along with the technicians of Peabody WMA has resulted in the targeted management of almost 4,000 acres of quail habitat and an increase of over 50 percent in the quail population.

The field day consisted of presentations in the morning about the history and research conducted at Peabody WMA. An extensive research initiative began in 2009 in collaboration with the University of Tennessee. Over the course of six years, millions of dollars were invested in the site resulting in the completion of four masters projects and over a dozen peer reviewed

publications on that research.

The information learned over that time has been vital to the management decisions on the WMA. In the afternoon, biologist Eric Williams led field stops throughout the property, discussing the how and why of his targeted management techniques.

Visitors were impressed with efforts and the field day. One Illinois biologist noted, "They have certainly created a showcase and all their hard work looks great. [Peabody WMA] is clearly not an easy place to work, but they are getting things done despite the challenges!"

The meeting also spurred collaboration for more field tours across the commonwealth and invitations for visits to WMAs in Ohio and Illinois.



Black bear trapping, cub production studies underway

2017 black bear research trapping is underway on Pine Mountain, and it has been HOT outside!

With our first week over and done, we have had zero success catching new females, and had six new male captures. One large male was close to 500 pounds.

Our ultimate goal is to radio collar new females so that we can monitor cub production, survival and population growth. The females are here, the males just seem to be beating them to our traps.

It also appears that the breeding season is still in full swing as we observed multiple males chasing females while we traveled the Little Shepherd Trail. We even managed to work in a little interdivisional cooperation with Conservation Officer Shane Amburgey accompanying



Trapping and collaring black bears near the Little Shepherd Trail, Biologists Jayson Plaxico and Tristan Curry, and conservation officer Shane Amburgey paused with a young female before outfitting her with a radio collar.

Shepherd Trail in Harlan and Letcher Counties are actually becoming quite common in the summer and fall!

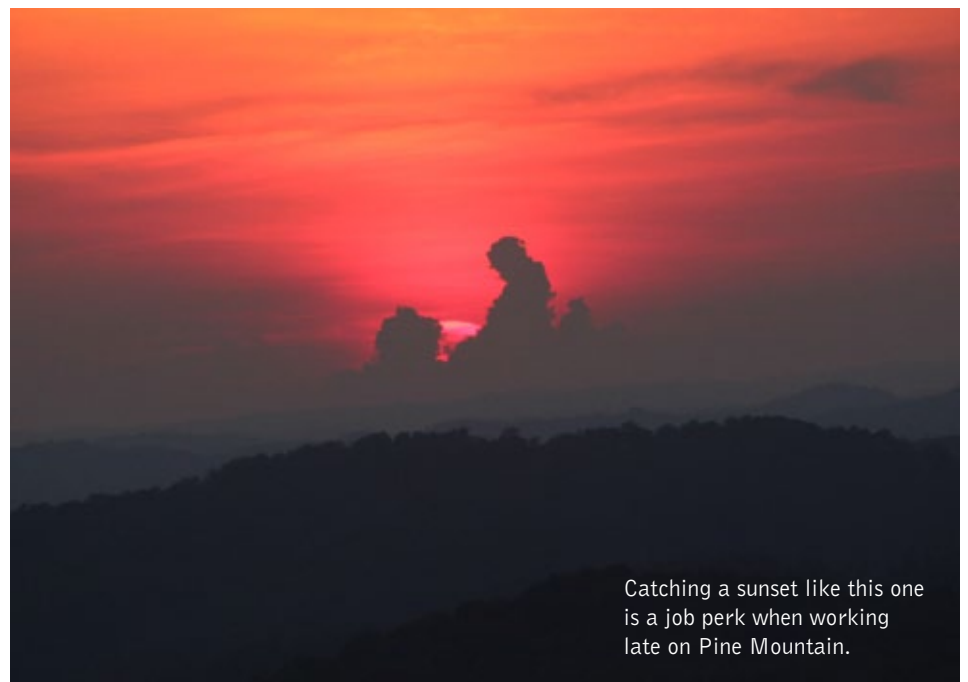
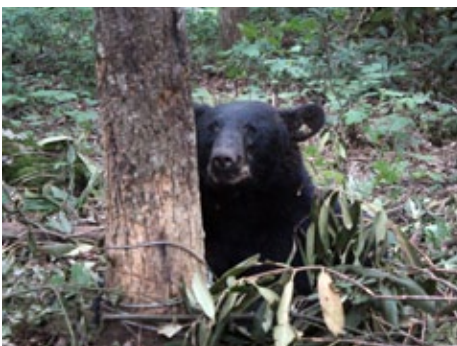
This driving trail that runs through the Hensley Pine Mountain Wildlife Management Area may very well be the best spot to view wild bears in Kentucky. So if you have never been to this part of Eastern Kentucky, plan a day visit or

even a weekend.

Even after catching a glimpse of a bear, the sunsets might end up being the favorite part of your trip.

wildlife division staff for a trap line run.

Maybe you are not aware that Kentucky has a growing black bear population or that bear sightings on the Little

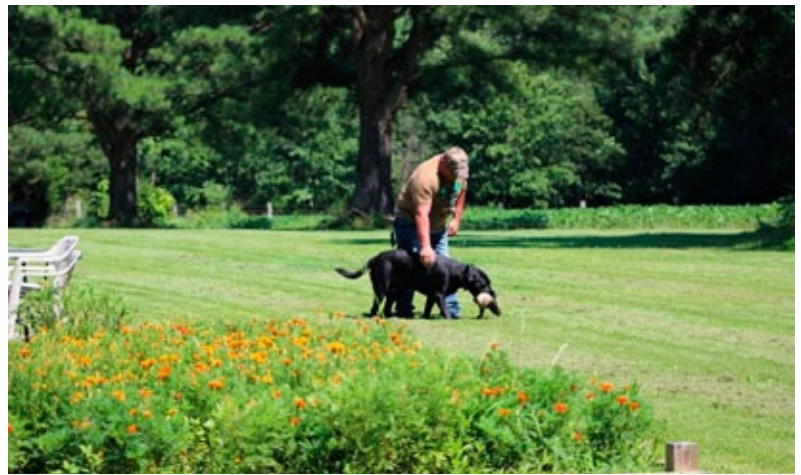


Catching a sunset like this one is a job perk when working late on Pine Mountain.

DU members, KDFWR staff conduct First Field to Fork Waterfowl event

On July 8th 14 developing waterfowl hunters from Williamsburg, Beatyville, Louisville, and everywhere in between traveled to Murray for the first ever Waterfowl Field to Fork Workshop.

Members of Ducks Unlimited and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education personnel kicked off the workshop held at FirstChoice FireArms Inc. with education on waterfowl biology, migration, waterfowl hunting laws and regulations, duck identification, descriptions of blinds, and waterfowl hunting gear tips.



Enjoying the July heat, the workshop moved outside for instruction on how to breast out a duck, how to cook duck meat, a hunting dog demonstration, and then to the range to practice shotgun safety and skills.

Each participant left with a newfound appreciation for waterfowl conservation, the motivation to get into the field in January, and a bottle of Ducks Unlimited wild game marinade to enjoy.





Cave Run Lake Kids Fishing Derby

The 2017 Cave Run Lake Kids Fishing Derby featured in photos in last month's newsletter was a huge event with many sponsors.

Its planning committee made up of Department fisheries biologists, hatchery staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kentucky Bank, Walmart, Kentucky Houndsmen and more put in much time and effort in making the event happen.

The Fishing Derby at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery broke yet another attendance record this year. The derby hosted 705 registered kids from 38 different Kentucky counties and four states. They fished for channel catfish, rainbow trout and largemouth bass in three of the hatchery's ponds.

Each registered youth received a

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goody bag full of Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers swag and a t-shirt donated by Stokley's Marine.

Additionally, the Morehead Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation held a BB Gun training and shoot; the Kentucky Houndsman Association held a casting contest and manned a fish cleaning booth; and Volunteers from Kentucky Bank cooked up 1800 hot dogs, donated by the Morehead Walmart, at 7:00 am for all attendees.

Folks from the Northeastern Fishery District and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery kept things running smoothly with parking, registration and manning many other stations. We are proud to be associated with this fantastic event and introduce so many kids to the great sport of fishing!"