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## Black Carp confirmed in Kentucky

**K**entucky Department of Fish and Wildlife ichthyologists have officially documented Black Carp in Kentucky waters.

Ichthyologists **Matt Thomas** and **Stephanie Brandt** collected the Black Carp specimen August 2, while conducting surveys to assess rare fish species in Ballard County.

They took the immature fish (17 inches at 2 pounds) while using a seine net in Cross Slough located in Boatwright Wildlife Management Area.

Silver Carp and Common Carp were also present in the slough, which connects Minor Lake and Long Pond. These water bodies drain south and empty into the Mississippi River through Minor Slough just north of Wickliffe.

How the fish arrived in Cross Slough is uncertain, but its close proximity to the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers would afford easy access to the WMA, especially during flood events.

The fish was frozen and shipped to the USGS Asian Carp Research Center in Columbia, Missouri, where it will be analyzed.

The Black Carp is native to Asia and was first introduced into the U.S. during the 1970s as a "contaminant" in imported



*Matt Thomas photo*

Grass Carp stocks, a species that is superficially similar. It was later introduced as a biological control agent to reduce the spread of yellow grub (a parasite) in aquaculture ponds.

The Black Carp is of serious concern because it feeds on mollusks. This means it could potentially have a negative impact on native mussels and snails, many of which are endangered or threatened.

As of the mid-2000s, the Black Carp has been reported in Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, and Missouri.

Earlier this year, two young-of-year individuals were confirmed in a canal draining into the Mississippi River near Jackson, Missouri. This evidence, along with increasing reports of fish taken elsewhere in the Mississippi River basin, strongly suggests that the species is already established in the wild.

The Black Carp was listed as an injurious wildlife species under the federal Lacey Act in 2007, which makes it illegal to import, export, sell, acquire, or purchase the fish anywhere in the U.S.

INSIDE:



**3** Retiring employees



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## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

The following note was posted on our Facebook page. "I just want to recognize a couple of COs. My family and I were on Cave Run this week and our boat refused to start back up. We were stranded with 2 infants and 2 children under 10. There are worse ways to be stranded but the kids were getting cranky.

**Buddy Grayson** got into contact with **William Earlywine** and **Tony Noland** and they both went out of their way to come help us out. They got us started back up and followed us to the dock to make sure we made it back.

All the officers were professional and polite and with all the negativity towards officers here lately I thought you all could use some positivity. You guys were great and we can't thank you enough!!"

#### Enjoys "Blue Water Trails" articles

This note came from John Zippay. He wrote, "I am wanting to thank **Lee McClellan** for the Blue Water Trails articles that have been appearing in Kentucky Afield. I have thoroughly enjoyed these articles and learned a lot from them.

I now know how to identify a "chute," I learned how to identify where the creeks I fish "braid," and I now know how to describe something on the creek I fish to a friend as being on the "river right or left." All the history Lee includes in his articles are interesting too. It's always good to be reminded of how important the waterways were to the folks who first settled this state.

The geology tidbits provide another level of interest for me. For instance, I enjoyed learning in the recent article about the carbon dating done on the logs found in Floyd's Fork.

The articles also pointed out some places to fish in my own area that I had overlooked. The article about Drakes Creek and it's tributaries reminded me of

some places to try on some waters near me that I have never fished before.

The article about fishing the Green River near Greensburg led me to catch one of the largest Smallies I have ever caught. I carried the article with me when I ventured that river for the first time, and it proved to very useful. It also proved to be very accurate. The place where I caught that smallmouth was right where Lee had said in that article, "This stretch is top-notch smallmouth water."

Thanks again for the articles!"

This note to **Commissioner Greg Johnson** came from Thomas G. Floyd, Vice President and General Manager of National Archery in the Schools Program.

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for your willingness to open our first ever NASP® Educator and

Coaches Conference. Your support and enthusiasm for the NASP®, as well as your obvious pride in the conservation efforts going on in Kentucky were noted by all. Your remarks were a perfect start for our large crowd of educators and coaches. Thank you so much for taking the time to speak!

As you may know, NASP® is currently in 47 U.S. States as well as Australia, New Zealand, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mongolia, United Kingdom, British Virgin Islands and 8 Provinces in Canada. Last year alone we involved over 2.4 million students. All of which started right here in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Your leadership and ongoing support for efforts of Kentucky NASP® have continued to make the difference. Once again, thank you!

## UBK OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Third District Conservation Officer Cristian Casper received the United Bowhunters of Kentucky 2015 Bud Reinigan Award, the organization's Conservation Officer of the Year recognition. UBK's Kathleen Fehrenbach made the presentation during the Fish and Wildlife Commission's committee meetings earlier this month.

## Hatchery manager Steve Marple retires

**F**ish Hatchery Manager **Steve Marple** retired on August 1 after more than 26 years of service to the department, all at the Peter W. Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery.

After receiving his M. S. degree in aquaculture from Auburn University, Steve began his career with KDFWR in 1990 as a Fisheries Research Biologist. Steve held that role until being promoted to Hatchery Manager in 2007.

Over the course of Steve's career, he helped the hatchery expand both in terms of fish production and infrastructure. During his tenure as Hatchery Manager, fish production has more than doubled from 60,000 lbs. to 150,000 lbs. annually. Most of the increase is catfish production which has facilitated the rapid expansion of the extremely successful FINs program.

Steve was instrumental in a major hatchery expansion completed in 2013



with the construction of the Isolation and Production Building, containing two re-circulation aquaculture systems, and the addition of five new ponds. He also contributed to refining culture techniques for the department's restoration efforts of

alligator gar and lake sturgeon and on hybrid striped bass culture.

To honor his distinguished service to the department and to fish culture, Fisheries Director **Ron Brooks** announced at his retirement party that the Isolation and Production Building would be named after Steve.

Steve and his wife Jill will be relocating to Sammamish, WA where they have inherited a house and Steve will try his hand at gardening in the Great Northwest. He also intends to continue his hobby of carving bowls from tree burls and may even get back to keeping aquarium fish. It would not even

be a surprise if Steve does some work for a salmon hatchery or the local office of a hatchery design firm.

Though Steve will be greatly missed by the Fisheries Division, we all wish him well in retirement.

## Camp Webb Superintendent Rick Crider retires

**A**fter thirty years of service with Fish and Wildlife, Camp Webb Superintendent **Rick Crider** celebrated his retirement on July 31st.

Rick started his career as a technician in the eastern fisheries district. He transferred to I&E in 2008 and quickly became an integral part of the Camp Webb team.

During his eight years at camp, Rick was involved with the renovation and construction of a two story bath house, installation of two new boat docks at fishing and boating, a major re-roofing project to the main office/cafeteria a building, upkeep of grounds and docks,



facility annual inspections, maintenance and repair of the waste water and drinking water systems, and countless other remodel-

ing projects.

As superintendent, he also hosted employees of the wildlife and law enforcement divisions with various workshops and trainings at camp. Rick did an outstanding job keeping camp facilities updated and in code, and kept a responsible watch on maintenance expenditures as though they were his own budget.

Camp Webb is in the best shape it's ever been, and is something our agency can be proud of. Rick and his family recently purchased a farm in Greenup County, which should mean a very busy retirement!



## Danny Parks retires

**D**anny Parks, a 33-year veteran of the Department, retired July 31, 2016.

Danny began his career in May 1983 when he was hired as a Fish and Wildlife Technician for the Southeastern Fishery District in Williamsburg.

He spent the next 33 years as a valued, dependable employee of the Department. Danny's sense of humor and jovial demeanor kept his fellow employees entertained and amused, and his presence will

certainly be missed by his co-workers.

Danny was given a rousing send-off on July 22, as many current and former employees gathered at the Somerset office for his retirement party. Attendees dined on pizza, salad, ice cream, and fish-shaped cookies, and enjoyed a slide show and stories of Danny's career.

He received several gifts at his party, including a photo book depicting his career and a quilt signed by many current

and former co-workers.

Fisheries Director **Ron Brooks** presented Danny with a plaque honoring his service, and **Becky Littleton** presented Danny with a paint-stained t-shirt commemorating his miserable time while marking boundaries on Shillalah Creek. He vowed never to return to Shillalah Creek, and he was true to his word.

Danny plans to spend his retirement fighting kudzu on his newly-acquired land.

## New hires / promotions

**Jodyi Hall** has joined the Purchasing and Property Branch as a Purchasing Agent I effective July 11th.

Jodyi comes to us from the Finance and Administration Cabinet's Office of Procurement Services where she was the Assistant Director, Goods and Services Procurement Division. Jodyi holds professional certifications as a Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) and a Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO).

Her job duties will include working very closely with the Engineering Division as Liaison with DECA and Real Properties and handling all the Department's leased

property agreements throughout the state.

Jodyi graduated from Texas A&M University in 2002 and lives with her family in Franklin County. Jodyi enjoys spending time outside with her family, taking care of dogs and raising her chickens. Please join us in welcoming Jodyi to the FW family!

Effective June 16, the Administrative Services Division is pleased to announce the promotion of **Barry Stigers** of the Purchasing and Property Branch to Purchasing Agent I! Barry came to the branch in March of 2014 when the Dispatch Center was moved to KSP as the Department's Contract Administrator.

Since then Barry has learned many new skills and taken on many new duties including recently being designated as the Records Retention Officer for the Department. Barry's hard work and dedication are a great asset to FW.

Barry is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Please join us in congratulating him on his promotion.

**Kristen Hundley** officially joined the Accounting Branch Staff on August 3 after being selected as an Accountant III.

Kristen will be performing profes-

See "Hires," page 5

## Anthony Godbey retires

**A**nthony Godbey retired on August 1st after serving 14 years with the Forks of Elkhorn Fish Transportation Section.

Anthony started with the Department of Transportation, District 7 in 1992 and worked there for 10 years before being hired as Fish and Wildlife Technician I in the Fisheries Division in 2002.

Anthony worked his way up to Tech III over the course of his career while stocking potential state record fish, as well as facilitating the restoration of the lake sturgeon and alligator gar to Kentucky waters.

Anthony plans to enjoy his retirement by spending a lot of his time on the farm and traveling to see family and friends. We wish Anthony the best of luck in his retirement. His knowledge and skills will surely be missed.



### “Hires,” continued

sional accounting functions related to cash receipts and program Income, researching outstanding invoices as well as monitoring and reconciling EPAY transactions. Kristen may be reached at ext. 4424 or by email [Kristen.Hundley@ky.gov](mailto:Kristen.Hundley@ky.gov).

Kristen is originally from Woodford County, Saxony Farm, and recently returned to Kentucky from the Washington, D.C. area. Kristen has extensive Administrative experience. She served as the Administrative Coordinator for the PBS Fundraising Program in Arlington, Virginia. She was also the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Human Services, Nursing Case Management, in Arlington.

Kristen has a Masters of Business Administration and a Masters of Science in Mental Health Counseling. Kristen also has a long history of volunteerism.

We are pleased to announce the addition of **Jessica Morris** to the Critical Species Investigations branch staff in Murray, KY.

Jessica began as a seasonal Fish and

Wildlife Technician in November 2015 and will take on additional responsibility managing our Asian carp projects in Western Kentucky as a Fisheries Biologist I.

Jessica was raised on a farm in Cedar Hill, Tennessee. She graduated from the fisheries and wildlife program at the University of Tennessee Martin where she also competed in the NCAA air rifle nationals.

Jessica is an avid outdoorswoman who enjoys hunting elk and outdoor photography in her free time.

**Josh Pennington** has been promoted to Fish Hatchery Manager at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, following the recent retirement of former manager **Steve Marple**.

Josh first started working with KDFWR as a seasonal Fish & Wildlife Technician I at Clay WMA in 2006. In 2007, he was hired as a Fish & Wildlife Technician II at Pfeiffer. He was promoted to Fisheries Biologist II just one year later. Josh was promoted to his previous position of Fisheries Research Biologist (functions as the assistant hatchery manager) in 2013.

During his tenure at Pfeiffer Hatch-

ery, Josh began working on his MS Degree in Aquaculture at Kentucky State University, completing the degree in 2014.

Josh's knowledge and experience will serve him well in his new role and we are confident he will do an excellent job.

Josh and his wife Mallory have two children, Madelyn and Easton. In his free time he enjoys hunting and spending time with family.

The Information and Education Division welcomes **Kevin Osborne** as the new Superintendent at Camp Robert Webb.

Kevin is no stranger to Fish & Wildlife. Early in his career, Kevin worked as a fisheries technician for the eastern, central, and northeast fisheries districts. Most recently, Kevin worked as a heavy equipment operator with the Kentucky Dept. of Transportation. His experience in construction and carpentry, heavy equipment, and facilities maintenance make him a perfect fit for camp.

In his spare time, Kevin enjoys spending time outdoors hunting and fishing with his family. Kevin will live at Camp Webb with his wife and two sons.

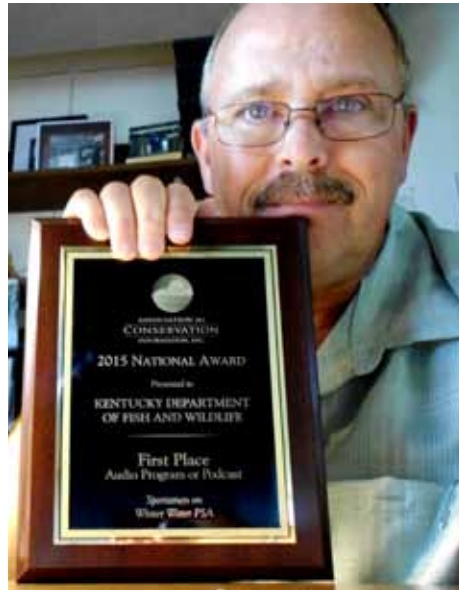
## Department employees work together on winter boating safety message, win national award for their efforts

**W**aterfowl hunters and winter anglers are on the water at one of the most dangerous times of the year. All that gear combined with frigid water temperatures can quickly lead to hypothermia and drowning.

Employees of the Law Enforcement, Wildlife and Information and Education divisions worked together to craft a winter safety message good enough to win first place nationally in a recent Association for Conservation Information contest.

“We wanted to come up with a PSA (public service announcement) that would encourage hunters and anglers to wear their lifejackets in winter,” explained Boating Safety Coordinator **Zac Campbell**. “We want these hunters and anglers to not only think of themselves as sportsmen, but boaters.”

Big Game Biologist **Joe McDermott** could bring the message home. McDermott, while waterfowl hunting with two



others on the Ohio River in 2010, had the boat sink underneath him after a passing barge swamped it. One hunter died during the incident.

Campbell and Kentucky Afield Radio's **Charlie Baglan** worked with McDermott to tell his story – and put a face on water safety. Law Enforcement Assistant Director **Shane Carrier** worked closely with the group to create the “Sportsmen on Winter Water” public service announcement for the radio.

Baglan, who has worked with law enforcement on several nationally award-winning campaigns including “Your life-jacket’s got your back,” noted that boating safety efforts such as with radio PSAs are common in summer months. This was the first time the department has shifted the focus to winter water safety.

“This is personal for me,” Baglan said. “I’m sorry this story ever happened, especially in my home town area of Carrollton. I grew up fishing and swimming in that same stretch of the Ohio River. But I’m honored to have been able to tell the story to hopefully benefit other waterfowl hunters.”

## NWTF Double Eagle Chapter 2016 JAKES DAY

**T**he Double Eagle National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter hosted more than 700 people for its 2016 JAKES Day event earlier this month at Veterans Memorial Wildlife Management Area.

Participants in the Chapter’s 17th annual event included 378 youth, 239 adults and 98 volunteers and exhibitors.

Event organizers expressed their thanks and appreciation to those KD-FWR personnel, administrators, managers, biologists, law enforcement officers,



technicians, specialists and educators, who supported and helped with planning

and promoting the event, and worked to prepare the site.



Above: Staff and Volunteers prepare Pallet Structures. Right: KDFWR and Volunteers prepare Trees.



## Largescale fish habitat project on Cave Run Lake

The third phase of the Cave Run Lake Largescale Fish Habitat Project was completed the week of July 25th.

Crews constructed and deployed 1,200 structures. The habitat material included cedar trees, Christmas trees,

wooden pallets, recycled pvc, wooden cable spool, and stake buckets that were fashioned into habitat. Agency staff have been gathering and stockpiling materials for over a year.

Together with volunteer groups the

habitat structures were placed at predetermined locations in 10 new habitat sites select by both angling groups and Fisheries Division staff based on a priority need for habitat improvement.

The new habitat sites are located along secondary cuts, main lake points, ditch features, and flats in Shroud Hollow, Ramey's Creek, and Warix Run at summer pool depths between 15 to 25 feet.

Maps and GPS location information for the sites are available in Google Map format on the department website (<http://fw.ky.gov/Education/Pages/Department-Lakes-with-Fish-Attractors.aspx>).

The project's primary goals are to increase the refuge and cover for fish and to increase angler opportunities. The project could not have been completed without the partnership efforts between agency staff and volunteer groups.

Coordinators of the project want to



PVC Trees being deployed.

See "Cave Run," page 8

## Gov. Bevin appoints six new members to Fish and Wildlife Commission

**G**ov. Matt Bevin has made the following appointments to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission.

**Dr. Harry W. Carloss, Kevin R. Bond, James B. "Jimmy" Bevins, Paul B. Horn, Richard M. Storm and Dr. Karl D. Clinard** have been appointed to the Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission.

Dr. Harry W. Carloss, of Paducah, is a retired physician. Dr. Carloss will represent the 1st Fish and Wildlife District and will serve for a term expiring August 13, 2020.

Kevin R. Bond, of Burlington, is President/CEO of Trademark Plumbing.

Mr. Bond will represent the 5th Fish and Wildlife District and will serve for a term expiring August 13, 2020.

James B. "Jimmy" Bevins, of Frankfort, is the president and owner of Bevins Motor Company. Mr. Bevins will represent the 6th Fish and Wildlife District and will serve for a term expiring August 13, 2020.

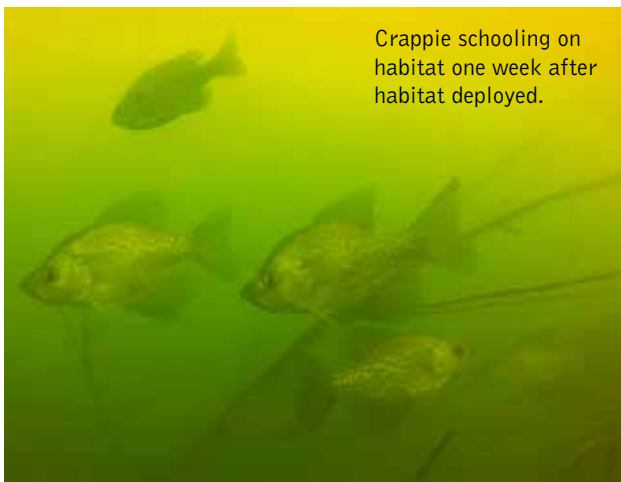
Paul B. Horn, of Prestonsburg, is a mining engineer and president of Booth Energy. Mr. Horn will represent the 7th Fish and Wildlife District and will serve for a term expiring August 13, 2019.

Richard M. Storm, of Carlisle, is a farmer and general contractor. He will

represent the 8th Fish and Wildlife District and will serve for a term expiring August 13, 2018.

Dr. Karl D. Clinard, of Somerset, is a retired orthodontist and former law enforcement officer. He will represent the 9th Fish and Wildlife District and will serve for a term expiring August 13, 2019.

The Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission is a nine-member board which oversees and advises the operations of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, including budget issues, hunting and fishing season dates, and various regulations pertaining to the conservation of hunting, fishing and wildlife resources.



Crappie schooling on habitat one week after habitat deployed.



### "Cave Run," continued

give special recognition to the hard work of volunteers from the Job Corps, Department of Juvenile Justice, Muskies Inc., and the Friends of Cave Run.

Agencies represented included the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Forest Service. Several KDFWR staff from Fisheries, Wildlife,

FILO, Transportation, and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery provided valuable assistance with heavy equipment operation, material accumulation, and manpower.

The Northeastern Fisheries District has received reports of anglers catching fish off the newly created habitat just three days past completion.

To date, the Cave Run Lake Large-scale Fish Habitat Project has added 28 new large habitat sites and 3 large habitat

'reefs' to the lower portion of the lake. Huge thanks goes to all of the agency staff and volunteers who assisted in the project!

The final phase of the project will be completed in the summer of 2017 with new habitat sites planned for Cassidy's near the mouth of Buck Creek on the lower portion of the lake and areas near Poppin Rock in the North Fork of the Licking River arm.





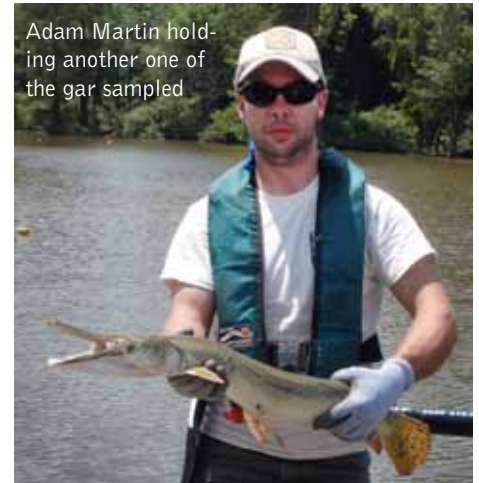
Stephanie Brandt holding freshly tagged Alligator Gar

## Stocked alligator gar numbers reach 40,000

Alligator Gar restoration efforts continue in Kentucky with this year's work bringing the total stocked to more than 40,000 since the project began.

Each year fisheries staff obtain new batches of gar eggs, rear them at the state's hatcheries, tag them with micro-wire tags and then release them in Western Kentucky.

Western Fisheries district staff partnered with Murray State University earlier this summer in sampling for the gar through gill-netting, jug-lining, and electrofishing.



Adam Martin holding another one of the gar sampled



Alligator gar tagging at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery



Staff having fun tagging gar



Allison Labeda, Murray State, holds one of the Alligator Gar sampled from Western Kentucky



Gill net and jug lines set



## Salato's Enriching Enrichment

By **Tiffany Laracuent**e

Those who spend time at the Department's Salato Wildlife Education Center know of its popular enrichment programs.

Enrichments are scents, new objects, hiding of food, and training – something to make an animal acknowledge and utilize its brainpower.



Salato staff works together to ensure they engage the animal both physically and psychologically. Then they use the opportunities created with the enrichments to engage and educate our visitors.

Not only do the animals benefit from the enrichments, Salato Center guests do as well. While visitors watch the animal interact with the enrichment, educators connect with the public and deliver the agency's messages while informing them of the animal's natural history.

Enrichment programs may range from as few as five people on a rainy day to more than 150 school youth listening intently on the boardwalk.

May's public enrichment program centered on being bear aware. Staff set up a campsite in the black bear exhibit – tent, cooler, picnic chairs and a properly hung sack of food.

The program demonstrated to the public how destructive black bears can be and why it is vital to have bear safe containers and bear safe ways to protect personal belongings. It was a big hit. Look for it again next year.

In August, staff celebrates National Watermelon Day with all of the animals and with more than 50



guests at each program. October is pumpkin month. The animals help decorate and promote our big Halloween Walk with the Animals fundraiser.

Salato's season comes to an end in November with staff celebrating National Bison Day with the Salato bison herd.