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## League of Kentucky Sportsmen gives KDFWR equipment barge and telehandler

The League of Kentucky Sportsmen used revenue generated by its Kentucky license plate sales to purchase and donate two pieces of serious habitat management equipment to the Department.

KDFWR submitted to the League of Kentucky Sportsmen a list of equipment needs for consideration concerning a donation from HILAF to the KDFWR Fisheries Division.

In response, LKS donated a new telehandler that will allow staff to move and distribute heavy, habitat structures to water bodies across the state.

Large tree stumps, wooden and evergreen tree pallets tied to several concrete blocks, and fabricated plastic trees with heavy weights attached are some of the heavy, awkward structures that require large equipment. The telehandler combines the strength of a backhoe and a forklift with an additional ability to reach out and lower habitats onto our barges and pontoon boats.

The telehandler will help KDFWR successfully restore fish habitat in Kentucky lakes and will help us to provide anglers with healthy sport fish populations for years to come.

The LKS and Department also dedicated a new equipment transportation



and habitat barge for use primarily in the management of Duck Island.

Duck Island is a 400 acre island within Lake Barkley and part of Lake Barkley Wildlife Management Area. Depending on the year, there can be 40-100 tillable acres of the island that are accessible by tractors and implements.

The island is susceptible to growing season flood events since the protective levee is overtopped when the lake level reaches 2.7 feet over summer pool.

Habitat management activities are primarily water level manipulation and soil disturbance. Soil disturbance is critical for proper moist-soil management as well as the planting of cereal grains.

Given the need to keep the island in an early successional state and maintain area levees and structures, the ability to transport equipment to and from the island is critical. Over time, the lake contin-

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## Governor Bevin appoints Kenny Knott to Fish and Wildlife Commission

**G**ov. Matt Bevin appointed Kenny L. Knott of Glasgow to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission earlier this month in September.

Knott is a wood procurement manager at Toy Anderson Lumber Company in Tompkinsville.

The commission is a nine-member board that oversees and advises the operations of the Kentucky 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 wild-

life resources.

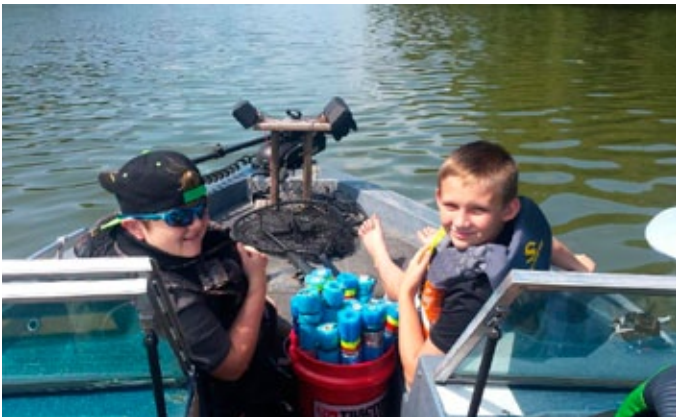
Knott will represent the Fourth Wildlife District, which includes Adair, Barren, Cumberland, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Marion, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Taylor and Washington counties. His term runs through Aug. 13, 2021.

An avid sportsman and longtime tournament angler, Knott is a past president of the Kentucky Trapshooters League, active in youth scholarships in trap shooting. He supported the 2014 resolution that encouraged the recognition of trapshooting as a high school sport.



## WE GET MAIL

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

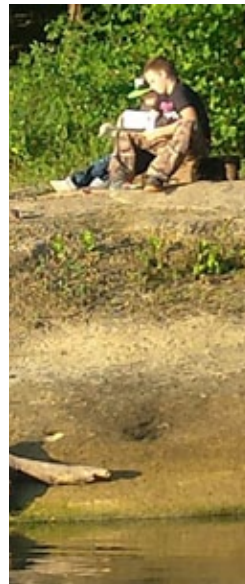


**T**ina Smith Flener provided this feedback on Facebook about an interaction with Conservation Officer Jennifer Henning:

"We had a good day fishing on the river in Ohio County yesterday. We saw one of your game wardens. She was awesome. She gave our kids books and other stuff. I didn't get her name, but she is truly an asset to our community."

Trenton Ashby and Braxton Smith recently enjoyed a day of fishing, and learned to better identify fish with the Kentucky Fish booklet and other materials provided by Officer Henning during her boat safety and license compliance check.

These pictures were taken at/around Small Haus in Kronos. They are sitting on the rock looking through their booklets by where the old railroad bridge was years ago.



**S**usan Brock of Bell County wrote: "Last year (2016) our 10-year-old son Noah (Brock) killed a black bear (in Kentucky), and we had it officially scored.

It's an all time Boone and Crockett!!! The officers that came out to tag his bear treated us wonderful!

We appreciate Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife!!!"



## Fish and Wildlife Commission recognizes Phillips, Horn and Fossitt



The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission recognized Captain Charlie Phillips and Sergeants Scott Horn and Chris Fossitt at its September meeting for their fast action in June that saved the life

of a volunteer who collapsed at a Northern Kentucky sporting event for children.

“Everyone is proud of these officers,” said Department Commissioner Gregory Johnson. “Their training and quick re-

sponse turned a potentially tragic situation into one of hope.”

The incident occurred June 17 during the annual Youthfest at Lloyd Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near Crittenden. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Sgt. Scott Horn was assisting with the event when he saw a volunteer with the Boone County Bow Hunters Club collapse to the ground.

Horn summoned Fossitt, and they immediately began performing chest compressions. Phillips placed a CPR mask on the victim to assist with breathing.

The officers continued CPR efforts 10-15 minutes as Phillips used a defibrillator in an attempt to restart the victim’s heart, but it proved unsuccessful. The officers continued CPR efforts until the arrival of an ambulance.

By this time, thanks to the continuous chest compressions applied by Horn and Fossitt, Phillips detected a pulse.

## COMMISSION RECOGNIZES ALLEY AND CAMPBELL

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission formally recognized Conservation Officer Jerrod Alley and Boating Educator Zachary Campbell for going “above and beyond the call of duty” for their life-saving actions in May. After seeking shelter on Lake Cumberland during a violent storm, the two went back out into the storm to locate three missing jet skiers and their disabled craft and return them to safety unharmed. Campbell missed the Commission meeting and above photo. Alley (second from right) was joined by Captain Stuart Bryant, Ninth District Commission Member Dr. Karl Klinard, Commission Chairman Jimmy Bevins and Commissioner Gregory Johnson.



## Bell, Thomas graduate DOCJT's Academy of Police Supervision

Conservation officer Sergeants Eric Thomas and Tracy Bell joined law enforcement officers from agencies across the commonwealth earlier this month in completing the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training's Academy of Police Supervision.

APS, also called the sergeant's academy, is a three-week, 122-hour training program targeted for newly promoted sergeants or officers who are on their agency's promotion list to become sergeants.

Thomas is assigned to Floyd County in Law Enforcement Division's Seventh District. Bell is assigned to McLean County in the Second District.



While in APS, students participate in classes focusing on the role of a supervisor, leadership, resolving conflict, managing diversity, monitoring officer performance,

professional image, legal issues for supervisors, ethics, interpersonal communication, effective written communication, making decisions, solving problems, managing critical incidents, public speaking, emotional survival, media relations and others.

APS is a stepping-stone to DOCJT's Kentucky Leadership Institute, which consists of a series of three progressive leadership courses aimed at developing and shaping future and current leaders in law enforcement agencies across the commonwealth.



## CONSERVATION OFFICERS ACADEMY BEGINS

Law Enforcement Division welcomed a new academy class this month. Twenty-five conservation officer recruits began their year-long training journey that includes 23 weeks of basic police academy at the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond, 12 weeks in the Department of Fish and Wildlife academy and another 16 weeks with a field training officer.





## CAMP CURRIE DINING HALL

Camp John Currie’s dining hall and kitchen replacement is now well underway. Demolition of the existing structure was completed in August at the close of camp season. Basement walls and floors were recently poured, and construction will continue throughout winter and spring. Completion target date on the new nearly \$3.5 million facility is mid-May, prior to staff and campers returning for the 2018 summer camp season. A significant portion of the funding for the project is being provided by the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Foundation.



## PSAs

Youth have been working with Kentucky Afield Radio personality Charlie Baglan recently in helping to produce public service announcements that enlighten people to the everyday wildlife adventures around them. J.C. Young (right) brought his son Brooks and friend Drew Bevington who participated in the production of several announcements crafted by Baglan.



## Felicitous Find in Floyd's Fork

By **Brian Clark**  
Assistant Director, Marketing Division

**A** young outdoor enthusiast made an unusual discovery during a recent outdoor adventure with her father.

Eight-year-old Shelby Morgan found a pearl in an empty mussel shell while exploring Floyd's Fork in Jefferson County with dad Eric. He shared their story and photos with the Department via Facebook personal message.

Shelby was inspecting one particular mussel shell among hundreds littering the streambed when she spotted the pearl.

Raccoons often take advantage of the filter-feeding forage where present in Kentucky's lakes and streams, prying open or cracking the shells to obtain a proteinaceous prize. Amazingly, the pearl was still nestled inside the crevice where it had formed just inside the outer lip of the mussel's shell.

Dr. Monte McGregor, malacolo-

gist for Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, estimated that perhaps 1 in 10,000 mussels produce a pearl like the one that Shelby found. He also indicated that the mussel appeared to be a "Fat-mucket" (*Lampsilis siliquoides*). "This is a common species in Floyd's Fork and in most of central and eastern Kentucky," McGregor said.

McGregor described the process of pearl development. "Pearls are formed when a piece of the shell or sand gets stuck inside the mussels body cavity next to the shell. The mussel secretes a layer of shell ('nacre' or mother of pearl) around the object and over time as it grows the layer gets thick around the object, making a larger pearl. The pearl is usually not perfectly round, and it is a reflection of the shape of the object."

Dr. McGregor said that searching for pearls in live freshwater mussels is not advisable for several reasons. First, because so few mussels actually contain pearls, search-

ing in live mussels would likely never yield a prize for the pearl seeker. The second reason is that mussels are legally protected.

Kentucky is home to numerous federally-listed endangered and threatened mussel species, so someone who takes or disturbs a listed species could face serious legal consequences, including substantial federal and state fines.

Even common species are protected from overexploitation – only six specimens of non-listed (common) species may be taken by an individual each year. Finally, living mussels filter water and help to perpetuate their species. "Unnecessarily killing mussels attempting to find a rare pearl is not conservation friendly," McGregor said.

However, the Kentucky mussel expert suggested that inspecting empty shells can be educational and fun. "I think people should enjoy the empty shells they find in Kentucky's waters, and learn more about our amazing mussels," he said.





**“Donation,” continued**

ues to fill with silt, resulting in shallower water depths at key access points.

The new barge replaces an aging barge that is inadequate for transporting the agency’s backhoe to the island because it drafts too much water when the lake is low.

The new, larger barge will draft much less water, which extends our ability to complete habitat management activities well into the future. We can move equipment at any time regardless of the lake level. The larger vessel will allow the agency to move larger equipment if needed.

In the past, we were limited to about 20,000 pounds capacity. A 60,000 pound load on the new barge will require only 1 foot of additional draft. In the past, we were unable to move an excavator to the island. We will now have that ability.

We always will have challenges and obstacles with dynamic lake levels and soil moisture conditions, but equipment transportation to and from the island will be safe and efficient.

The loss of fish habitat is one of the largest threats to fisheries nationwide, and in Ken-

tucky most of our aging lakes are losing aquatic habitat and structure through degradation, erosion, and siltation. Habitat availability is one of the key/basic requirements for the health and survival of all aquatic biota, and it greatly affects fish populations.

Angler success increases in concert with habitat availability since structure can be targeted when fishing, and sport fish orient themselves in and around habitat structure.

Physical habitat is critical to sport fish at all stages of life. Young fish use habitat as protective nursery areas, avoiding predation by larger fish.

In addition, growth of algae on these structures attracts forage for these young fish. Mature sport fish also benefit from fish habitat through the attraction of baitfish, which the larger fish will feed on. Physical habitat structures also provide fishing locations for anglers, and without it, lakes with limited habitat become difficult to fish as many sought-after sport fish species are habitat oriented. Anglers are left trying to fish “barren” shoreline with limited or random success.

