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SEAFWA 2017

Kentucky hosted the 71st Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference last month at Louisville's Galt House. About 675 registrants assembled to attend breakouts, and exchange and discuss the latest fish and wildlife ideas with representatives from state and federal agencies, citizen's organizations, universities, scientists, and research groups.

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PATTERSON TAKES KPPA ESSAY FIRST PRIZE

Audrey Patterson of the Purchasing & Property Branch was recognized recently for winning the annual Kentucky Public Procurement Conference Essay contest. Each year KPPA hosts an essay contest prior to the annual conference. A committee determines at least two topics or members may elect to submit an essay on any procurement topic of their choosing. A committee scores essays and announces the winner at the conference awards luncheon. The contest is open to current KPPA members. The prize awarded for first (\$1,500) and second (\$1,200) is scholarship money that can be used for procurement-related educational or training classes and events.



PROTECTING BEE HABITATS

Wildlife Division's Cody Rhoden, a wildlife biologist in the small game section, joined State Apiarist Dr. Tammy Horn Potter during her presentation earlier this month to about 50 persons attending a pollinator protection meeting in the Transportation Cabinet building auditorium in Frankfort. Rhoden was there to invite landowners and stakeholders to a planned summer event in Hart County and the Green River Region that will address protecting and providing pollinator habitats.

WE GET MAIL

Letters to the Commissioner's Office

We received this via Facebook message from Doyle W. in Pennsylvania:

"I just wanted to let you folks know I came down from Pa. to hunt with the son for the first time. He has lived in Louisville for 10 years now. I absolutely had a great week of archery and an even better opening of gun season harvesting a few deer. The Telecheck system is a great way to report your harvest.

I chased a record book buck for 6 days but never got in bow range and he only gave me a 3 second glimpse on opening day of rifle season. I had a great time hunting a friend's property in Grant County and can't wait for spring gobbler. I will make this a must-do trip a couple times a year. Thanks for all your work and efforts."

Another Facebook message from Larry Proctor of Harrodsburg: "I just want to say, I appreciate what you guys do. Our deer herd is amazing and big boys [are] showing up everywhere. Not for me, but I'm still trying. Keep up the good work!"

From Reed Boylan in Louisville: "I just wanted to express my gratitude to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mossy Oak, QDMA and all the other men and women involved in putting together our Field to Fork course [held in Meade County in October 2017]. This event far exceeded my expectations (which were already high) and has given me the confidence I need to actually get out in the field and safely hunt/harvest my own deer. That's something I didn't have before last weekend. The amount of knowledge passed along, the relationships/contacts built and the level of hands on experience we all received are absolutely priceless. I'm really looking forward to this season and many more to come!

My sincere thanks and congratulations on a wonderful event!"

Nathan Brooks and Paul Rister recognized as TAH Cabinet Employees of the Quarter

The Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet honored Kentucky Afield Television Executive Producer Nathan Brooks and Fisheries Division Western Regional Coordinator Paul Rister as Employees of the Quarter.

Brooks developed a Roku app for the Kentucky Afield TV show that saved the state thousands of dollars in development fees and positioned Kentucky Afield to capture new audience share.

Rister is Program Coordinator in the Western Fisheries District with responsibility for managing Kentucky's two largest lakes, Kentucky and Barkley since 1989. His work and dedication to managing an ever-changing fishery has created a strong tourism draw to the area throughout his career.

Brooks took the initiative on his own to help increase viewership and audience of Kentucky Afield Television since it will help us reach those people that have moved away from a cable or satellite TV subscription, many of them being younger than 30 years old.

Roku is a digital media player that allows users to stream video, music, and en-



tertainment content. It has become essential for cord cutters (folks that have cancelled the typical cable or satellite subscriptions).

With Roku, users can stream Amazon Video, Netflix, HBO Go, Hulu, Spotify, and many other popular entertainment options. Estimates place 39 million United States users employing a Roku device at least once per month in 2017, up 19.3 percent from last year. That's also more than other options from Google, Amazon,



and Apple.

Brooks worked several months through many trials and errors with John Roberts in IT Section to create the Kentucky Afield Roku app before succeeding with a product that met the technical standards set by Roku. Then he worked with Department accounting personnel to monetize the channel.

Rister, a fisheries biologist who joined the Department in 1989, used limited work force in building one of the largest and longest-running fish habitat renova-

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Schweighardt joins department as new safety administrator

David Schweighardt joined the Department of Fish and Wildlife as Safety Administrator October 1, 2017.

David comes to us from the Labor Cabinet of Labor, Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health where he served as a safety consultant, assisting employers and employees by promoting voluntary compliance with occupational safety and health standards.

He conducted complex safety surveys for public and private employers to identify workplace safety issues. His expertise al-

lowed him to assist employers in resolving safety and health issues through consultative assessments.

David earned a 2014 Master's Degree in Safety Security & Emergency Management from Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), and a 2010 Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Health Science from EKU.

"David is a licensed certified safety professional," said Administrative Services Division Director Billye Haslett. "It's advantageous to the department to have a

Safety Administrator with both Safety and a Health background. David likes to instruct, so he also will be conducting safety related classes as needed."

David is in the process of meeting staff, and learning our needs.

He grew up on the Salt River, enjoys fishing, hunting and gardening, but hasn't had time lately to do much.

He resides in Lawrenceburg with his wife Heather, a teacher, and his two young children, Grace and Amos.

“Employees,” continued

tion projects in Kentucky. He also has played a critical role in documenting the Asian carp invasion.

He and his crews dedicated countless hours constructing and placing new fish habitat in Kentucky and Barkley lakes that provides critical protection for young

fish, congregates forage that fosters better growth for all sizes of fish, and enhanced fishing opportunities for anglers.

Premier crappie and largemouth bass fisheries, both lakes are top destination for resident and non-resident anglers. His work and dedication to managing an ever-changing fishery has created a strong tourism draw to the west Kentucky throughout

his career.

The appearance of invasive Asian carp are yet another obstacle for Paul to overcome, but they also have called attention to his ability to connect with the public and provide critical public relations.

Congratulations to Nathan Brooks and Paul Rister – Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Employees of the Quarter.

My Kentucky Elk experience – The hunt of a lifetime!

Dr. Thomas G. Floyd (Tommy) is Vice President and General Manager of the National Archery in the Schools Program. He is a former Chief of Staff at the Kentucky Department of Education, Madison County Schools Superintendent, school principal, teacher and coach. He also had the good fortune to be drawn for a 2017 Kentucky bull elk permit, and he penned his experience.

I write this article to say thank you to the leadership and staff of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department and anyone else (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation) who contributed to the opportunity to hunt elk in Kentucky. My eventual elk harvest described here was a team effort and I am grateful to many people.

As many sportsmen and women do each year, I faithfully applied for the opportunity to hunt elk in Kentucky. Several years ago, I was drawn for, and harvested a cow elk. I found her to be delicious table fare and hoped that one day, I would get the chance to hunt for a Kentucky bull, and my applications continued.

This spring, while driving home from the National NASP® tournament in Louisville, I began to receive texts congratulating me on being drawn for a bull tag. I immediately pulled over at a safe spot and logged in to the “My Profile” page at the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website to learn that I had been drawn for Bull -

Rifle - week one!

After a few grateful jumps for joy, I began to call anyone that I thought would want to hear the news. I was finally going to hunt for a bull elk in Kentucky!

The next day, I contacted friends with previous elk experience, and each reinforced the weight of my good fortune in being drawn. I made the decision to hire an experienced elk guide and contacted Mr. Bob Hunt of Dream Hunts Outfitters in Hazard.

What a great choice! I would highly recommend that anyone interested in a quality elk hunting experience to contact Bob. I found him to be professional, extremely knowledgeable and a great communicator. Each time we spoke by phone, I was further convinced that I was on the right track as Bob patiently explained each step that lay before me.

He explained everything from how I could apply for a voucher area, to selecting the firearm and ammunition for elk, and he assigned me to hunt with a great guide in Mr. Charlie Logsdon.

Charlie was one of the original elk biologists for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife elk stocking effort and proved to be extremely knowledgeable



about elk and almost every aspect of the country where we hunted. He was a tremendous guide, and now I consider him, along with Bob, a friend for life!

Regarding the firearm and ammunition needed for the hunt, I worked with a gentleman that I would soon learn was nothing short of genius with rifles and ammunition for big game hunting.

Mr. Bill Gabbard of Booneville was soon seeing to the accuracy of my Remington 700 in .308 caliber. My decision to stay with the .308 for elk, required a quality bonded bullet set up, and soon Bill had developed an extremely accurate round that grouped under 0.3” groups. This type of accuracy gave me great confidence in my rifle setup.

Bill also suggested that I begin practicing in a similar fashion to how I would

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“Hunt,” continued

hunt. He also suggested that I purchase a .22 bolt-action rifle that was similar in scope, weight and feel to my elk rifle. With that in mind, I soon began practicing from a good pair of shooting sticks with each gun, 2-3 times per week at the Pulaski County outdoorsman’s club rifle range. The .22 gave me the opportunity to practice the “feel” of the sticks with great repetition.

As the hunt date drew nearer, I met Bob and later with his son Josh to scout the area that I would be hunting. With each trip, I learned more about what to expect regarding the approaching hunt. Soon Charlie and I began scouting and discussing a game plan for the opening of the elk rifle season. I felt like I was prepared, my equipment was ready, and finally the day arrived to begin the hunt.

Having never heard elk bugle in the wild, I was amazed that from the first step out of the truck on day one, I heard elk bugles coming from almost every direction out of the darkness. We were truly in elk country!

Over the next several days, Charlie and I worked hard in setting up and calling bulls. Over the four days of my hunt, we worked 11 bulls. We got several to come up close, but either could not see them in the thick brush, or would have



them sneak away after catching our scent in the ever-swirling wind. From daylight to dark, we hunted hard and were encouraged with each new elk encounter.

On the evening of the third day, we had a bull respond to Charlie’s calls right at dusk within 100 yards. As light faded to darkness, we decided to ease out and return in the morning. Upon our return on the next morning, we were met with silence. We covered ground in the valley below and eventually returned to the spot where we heard the bull the night before. When Charlie called, the bull bugled immediately from the ridge above. It was likely the bull from the night before!

Charlie called and eased further downhill. The bull bugled again and in just a few moments began working his way

down the steep timbered ridge toward Charlie’s calling. He stopped to listen for the cow that he thought he had heard. I waited for a good ethical shot and fired at 55 yards. The bull crashed immediately and my Kentucky bull elk was down! I made my way to where the bull and Charlie were located and discovered that the bull was a mature 7X7 that Charlie estimated was 4½ years old.

It is difficult to describe all the feelings that resulted in that one moment; the preparation, the practice, the scouting and the hard effort all came together. As Charlie and I sat on that ridge prior to dressing the bull, we just listened to the wind and enjoyed that moment. A moment that I will remember for the rest of my days.

The bull produced more than 300 pounds of delicious meat and will be enjoyed by my family and friends for months to come. This hunt was indeed a team effort, and for that, I am most appreciative and proud.

For all sportsmen and women that love to venture afield and dream of wild places to hunt, they exist right here in our Commonwealth. It exists on a Kentucky elk hunt!

Arkansas men facing illegal deer hunting charges

A joint investigation by Arkansas Special Investigations and Kentucky conservation officers has two Arkansas residents facing Kentucky illegal hunting charges.

Kentucky First District officers charged Gary Ingle, 63, of Little Rock, Ark., and Christopher Ingle, 40, of Hazen, Ark., with multiple counts after being alerted to their hunting activities in Caldwell County.

Officers arrested Gary Ingle and charged him with hunting while suspended in another jurisdiction, illegal

take/pursuing deer, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. They learned that he was hunting in Kentucky while his privileges were suspended through the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, and that he was a convicted felon who could not legally possess a firearm.

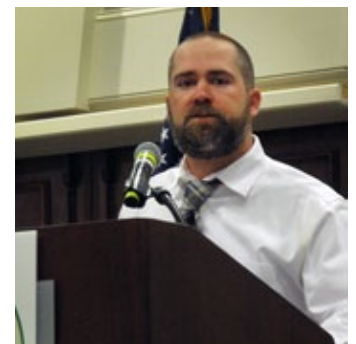
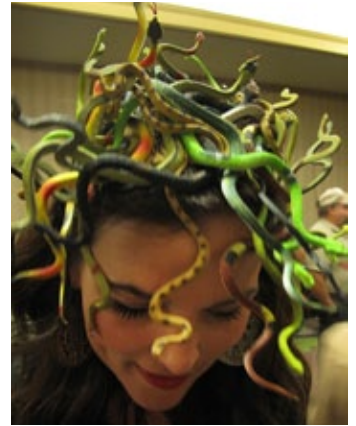
Officers were able to locate a specific area that Ingle hunted, and found Ingle actively engaged in archery deer hunting on a Caldwell County hunting club. They observed him during the early morning hours in possession of a Ruger .7mm

Magnum deer rifle that he had hidden out in the woods.

They lodged him in the Caldwell County Detention Center and seized a Honda ATV, Ruger deer rifle, and archery equipment.

Christopher Ingle’s participation came out during the investigation. Officers charged him with hunting in Kentucky without a hunting license or deer permit, and seized his archery equipment.

Initial court date for the Ingles is November 30, 2017 in Caldwell District Court.



“SEAFWA,” continued

Directors of the 17 member states and U.S. territories met, while others heard speakers and networked. Staff and others dressed for the occasion during the banquet on Halloween night. Sgt. Jason Wells received Kentucky's SEAFWA Officer of the Year flanked by Col. Rodney Coffey and Honor Guard members Patrick Younts and Damon Foster. Maker's Mark wildlife biologist Jason Nally and KDFWR fisheries biologist Dane Balsman filled part of the Plenary Session speakers agenda.