

**Wanderings
from the
Woods
& Water**
by Jay
Bicknell
WetStoneKennels@yahoo.com



Estill County Longbeards

I have written about the Estill County Longbeards in the past. The Estill Longbeards is a chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). The Estill chapter does a lot more than turkeys.

What is The NWTf — “a national nonprofit organization — is the leader in upland wildlife habitat conservation in North America. Founded in 1973, the NWTf is headquartered in Edgefield, S.C., and has local chapters in every state.

The NWTf is dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage.

Through vital partnerships with state, federal and provincial wildlife agencies, the NWTf members have helped restore wild turkey populations throughout North America — from a mere 30,000 in the entire United States to more than 7 million across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Who is the NWTf made of? We are sportsmen, women and children who care deeply about our natural resources and the wild places we love to hunt.

We cherish the memory of the ridge top gobbler we hunted last spring and fondly remember the cornfield where we saw that big buck at sunset two years ago.

Collectively, we come from all walks of life to engage in conservation and preserve the hunting heritage we all hold dear.”

The Estill chapter does a lot more than wild turkeys. The chapter is a huge help with the Wounded Warrior hunt. The chapter puts on a Jakes day for kids. The

chapter gives out butterball turkeys to the unfortunate during Thanksgiving. The chapter has a great group of folks and could use more people.

I have been a member of the Estill Chapter for a couple of years. If you are a hunter, then I urge you to get involved with the Estill County Longbeard chapter. It's a great way to get involved with conservation in our community. If you want to get involved, give Teddy Hunt a shout.

Turkey Time

It was just a few days ago, there was snow and cold. Now the temperature is warming up and the grass is getting green. The turkeys are gobbling and I've got bird flu! The only cure for the bird flu I've got is “hurry up and get here turkey season!”

Youth turkey season is just around the corner and regular season will be here before you know it. So, don't wait until the last minute! Don't wait ‘till the last minute to get shells, pattern gun, and get gear ready! Get prepared now to jelly head a big spring gobbler!

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



Nest Building
Birds are gathering material for their nests, and you can help. Put out soft things like string, yarn and (clean) dog hair (NO dryer lint!). These items can be hung from tree branches or scattered on the ground. They'll be easy to spot and will provide extra cushioning for new hatchlings.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfj.rr.com
© 2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources News

Kentucky Afield Outdoors: Although it seems unlikely now, white bass runs around the corner

by **LEE McCLELLAN**
Ky. Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources

Small creeks across Kentucky that normally run placid currently rage with brown froth. Reservoirs now cover marina parking lots and lakeside campgrounds.

Most Kentuckians are punch drunk from the blows of the latest salient of the Polar Vortex followed by dreary, cold rain.

Soon, anglers can alleviate this gloom by hitting the headwaters of Nolin River Lake, Taylorsville Lake and Herrington Lake to catch marauding white bass as they make their annual spring spawning runs. They don't have to own a boat to enjoy fishing as good as any in Kentucky.

Water temperature is the main driver of the white bass runs. With most waters across Kentucky hovering in the low 40s, they are likely still several weeks away. However, a prolonged warm front, similar to the one we are now enjoying, can bring the gorging bands of white bass upstream fairly quickly.

“In spring, look for that warm rain,” said Mike Hardin, assistant director of fisheries for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “The river temperatures can increase dramatically from warm rains. They warm up eight degrees or more quickly. The headwaters are often much warmer than the main lake.”

The U.S. Geological Survey streamflow gauges for Kentucky streams tell the story of how much water is coming into a lake. When you click on a gauge for a particular site on a stream, a box at the top of the page allows users to select parameters to display such as flow rate in cubic feet per second (cfs), gauge height and water temperature. You may access this important information at www.waterdata.us.gov.

“I try and look at the gauges for surrounding streams to estimate what the water temperature is in the river above a lake,” Hardin, an avid white bass angler said. “When the water temperature gets near 50 along with the increased flow and longer days, these factors trigger the white bass to move upstream. Soon after that comes the peak of the run.”

White bass aggressively strike practically anything that flashes silver in the water or resembles a shad or other baitfish. “You can drop down to about any flashy lure and cast it out, reel it in and catch white bass in spring,” said Jeff Ross, assistant director of fisheries for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. “They are a great fish for families, kids and beginners because they strike so aggressively.”

Hardin said an angler can carry all they need for white bass in a shirt pocket. Buy a couple of bags of 3-inch white or chartreuse curly-tailed grubs along with some 1/8th-ounce leadheads and go.

White bass also strike white, grey, pink or chartreuse in-line spinners, small silver casting spoons and tiny shad-colored crankbaits.

Ross said another pleasant aspect of white bass fishing is the ability to catch a slew of them from the bank. Arguably the best white bass run in Kentucky occurs in the headwaters of Nolin River Lake. Bank anglers have good access at Bacon Creek Boat Ramp and at Broad Ford bridge on KY 1214.

Nolin River Lake holds a burgeoning population of 13- to 15-inch white bass, bruisers by anyone's standards.

The headwaters of Taylorsville Lake in Anderson County upstream of the KY 248 bridge offer excellent white bass fishing. These fish run as far upstream of the historic river trading town of Glensboro in spring. Anglers may access the bank of this stretch of Salt River that flows through the Taylorsville Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) from River Road. This old road parallels the river and is open typically from mid-March to the opening of the spring turkey season, depending on weather and road conditions.

Data from last fall's population sampling revealed an improving population of white bass in Taylorsville Lake which portends good fishing this spring.

The white bass running in the headwaters of Herrington Lake produced a clarion call for anglers who traveled from all over the upper South in the decades following World War II to fish the legendary runs. The fishery bottomed out in the 1990s and early 2000s, but the white bass are beginning to shade into the status they had back in the day. The lake contains many white bass in the 12- to 14-inch range with some trophy fish over 15 inches possible.

Anglers have excellent access to over a mile of the Dix River in Rankin Bottoms just above Herrington Lake via the Dix River VPA, located at the end of Rankin Bottoms Road off KY 52 in Boyle County. Rankin Bottoms was once ground zero for spring white bass fishing during the glory days. This stretch is once again a highly productive spot to catch numbers of fat white bass.

Get out this spring and enjoy the fast and furious nature of white bass fishing. When white bass are running, no other fishing offers as much action and excitement, perfect for hooking a youngster into a lifetime of fishing.

Author Lee McClellan is a nationally award-winning associate editor for Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. He is a lifelong hunter and angler; with a passion for smallmouth bass fishing. Get the latest from Lee and the entire Kentucky Afield staff by following them on Twitter: @kyafield.



Kentucky Afield magazine editor Dave Baker holds a white bass he caught on an in-line spinner in the Salt River above Taylorsville Lake in April 2013. With warm rains coming, the white bass will make their spawning runs into the headwaters of Taylorsville, Nolin River and Herrington lakes. (Photo courtesy of Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Resources)

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture

Estill County
4-H Youth Development
Isaac L. Hollon
Estill County Extension Office

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, March 26th, 27th & 28th

Hunter's Education Class (Orange Card)

There will be a Hunter's Education Class (orange card) at the Estill County Extension Office. The 3-day class will be Thursday and Friday, March 26th & 27th from 6-9 p.m., and Saturday, March 28th starting at 9 a.m. at the Estill Co. Sportsmen's Club. You must attend all 3 classes to obtain your orange card. Ages 9 and older (as of March 28). **Effective March 1, 2014, KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife requires online pre-registration for all hunter education courses statewide.** Following is the registration link for the Estill County class: <http://www.registered.com/events/view/57999>

For more information, call the Estill County Extension Office at 606-723-4557.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY
AGRICULTURE NEWS
Richmond FSA Service Center
1024 Ival James Blvd., Ste A-2
Call 888-758-6909

USDA Finalizes Procedures for Sorghum Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing procedures for the upcoming referendum regarding the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff Program and is announcing the dates it will conduct the referendum.

The Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than seven years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. For the program to continue, a majority of those voting must favor the continuation of the order.

USDA will conduct the referendum beginning on March 23, 2015, through April 21, 2015, at county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office for importers. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2014, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff Program, and its 13-member board, is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The Sorghum Checkoff is intended to be a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The final procedures were published in the Nov. 18, 2010, Federal Register. The notice announcing the dates of the referendum were published in the Feb. 19, 2015, Federal Register.

For more information, contact Craig Shackelford, Marketing Specialist, Research and Promotion Division, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, 22 Jamesport Lane, White, GA 30184; Telephone: (470) 315-4246; craig.shackelford@ams.usda.gov. Procedures and additional information about the referendum can be found at www.ams.usda.gov/SorghumReferendum.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Black wireless
NATIONWIDE COVERAGE
LARGEST GSM NETWORK

WORKS WITH ANY UNLOCKED GSM PHONE

\$30
UNLIMITED
TALK, TEXT, MMS
500MB DATA

WEBB RENTALS
721 River Drive
Irvine, KY 40336
606-726-9584

Black Wireless Authorized Dealer
Same Location! Under New Management!
30 Days - 30 Bucks
Unlimited Talk & Text -- 500MB Data
Same Day Activation! Other Plans Available!
No Contracts! No Credit Check!
New Phones Arriving Daily!

U-HAUL
Rentals
STORAGE RENTALS
Call 606-726-9584

Sammie's
Furniture & Appliances
722 Main St., Ravenna • 723-6562
Open Mon.-Fri., 9-6, and Sat., 9-5

- New Appliances
- Dutch Craft Amish-Made Bedding
- New Bedroom Suites
- Bushline Living Room Suites
- Tables & Chairs
- Special Orders

Free Delivery & Set Up
90 Days Same As Cash*

*With Approved Credit

Now Accepting
DISCOVER
VISA
MasterCard