

# Kentucky Fish and Wildlife hiring conservation officers

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is currently accepting applications to fill conservation officer positions in multiple counties. Applications will be accepted through April 17, 2024. Applicants must be 21 years old and possess a valid driver's license. The online application must be completed to be considered. To apply,

visit the Conservation Officer Recruit posting at [personnel.ky.gov](http://personnel.ky.gov). Those who meet initial screening criteria must next pass a physical fitness test, swimming test, oral interview, psychological and drug screen, polygraph, background review and medical evaluation to be considered for selection. Applicants should frequently check their email, including junk

mail folders, after the job posting closes. An initial email to applicants will include important, time-sensitive information, and recipients will be required to respond by a specific date. Applicants will also be notified via email regarding the physical fitness and swim test scheduling. Selected applicants not already Peace Officer Professional Standards (POPS) certified

will undergo 20 weeks of basic training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond. In addition to basic training, all selected applicants undergo another 14 weeks of training in the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Academy before being placed with a field-training officer for a final 12 weeks of on-the-job training. Kentucky's conserva-

tion officers are sworn law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction and have a primary mission focusing on hunting, fishing, and boating laws. Conservation officers work to enforce hunting, fishing and boating laws to help conserve the commonwealth's fish and wildlife resources for present and future generations, and to ensure that the state's

waterways are safe for all to enjoy. Their approach is two-pronged, consisting of both education and enforcement. Fish, wildlife or boating violations can be reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-800-25-ALERT. In an emergency, or when there is an urgent need for law enforcement, calling 9-1-1 remains the best course of action.

# Time for spring cleaning? Don't forget to clean the bird feeder

Spring has arrived and with the warm weather and longer days, many Kentuckians will begin sprucing up their yards and gardens. Whatever your other spring tidying plans may include, be sure to clean your bird feeders.

As spring migration gets in full swing, feeders around the yard provide a great way to attract and view migrating songbirds. However, it's important they are cleaned on a regular basis so they don't spread disease.

"Bird feeders are high contact areas where you have a lot of birds congregating around one shared food source," said Dr. Christine Casey, wildlife veterinarian for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Re-



White-breasted nuthatch at bird feeder. Photo courtesy Devon Stivers.

sources. "If one of the birds visiting a feeder is sick, it has the potential to spread disease to other birds at the feeder." To keep birds healthy,

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends the following tips: Clean feeders every two weeks. Discard old food and debris and wash

the feeder with dish soap and water. Thoroughly rinse before soaking the feeder in a solution of one part bleach and nine parts water. Rinse thoroughly and dry completely before refilling.

Rake up seed hulls and other waste beneath feeders. Moldy or spoiled food can make birds ill. Properly store food in a closed container to keep food fresh and prevent pests.

For birdbaths, clean the bath's basin every one to two weeks by filling it with a solution of one part bleach and nine parts water. Cover the bath with a trash bag and let it soak for 15-20 minutes. Drain the bleach/water mixture in a safe area. Rinse the bath thoroughly and let it dry in the sun before refilling.

While diseases spread by songbirds pose a limited threat to people, Salmonella, a type of bacteria, can be harmful to both birds and humans. Young, elderly and immunocompromised individuals are at a higher risk for Salmonellosis. When cleaning bird feeders, practice good hygiene: wear disposable gloves; avoid touching your face; and wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds after handling feeders and birdbaths.

If sick or dead birds are found at a feeder, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends: Taking the feeder down immediately and removing any remaining seed from the feeder. Clean and store the feeder for two weeks. Re-

moving the feeder stops the birds from gathering in common areas.

When putting feeders back up, place them in a different location, if possible, to avoid contaminated soil. Left-over seed still in the bag should be safe to use. Watch for sick birds. If any are seen, take the feeders down again and clean and store them for another two weeks.

Follow the same protocols for cleaning and storing birdbaths.

If multiple deceased birds are discovered at feeders, report observations to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife via the online sick or dead bird reporting portal or by calling the agency's Information Center at 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding holidays.

# KY Afield - Remember small lakes this crappie season

*Give these paddlecraft-friendly lakes a try this April*

Every spring, anglers pursuing crappie during April's spawn flock to large reservoirs such as Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, Barren River Lake or even Green River Lake. However, crappie fishing in the big lakes is tough if you don't have a good-sized power boat.

The good news is Kentucky offers several smaller state-owned lakes with excellent crappie fishing. These lakes, some of which are under 100 acres, can easily be fished from a kayak, johnboat or even from the bank.

Where to begin? Start your fishing adventure by reading through the 2024 Kentucky Fishing Forecast. The forecast provides great tips and useful information about crappie populations in these lakes.

Next, visit the Lakes with Fish Attractors page online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) to find fishing locations at each lake. You can also download the Fish Boat KY app to your phone to access fishing maps, waterbody lists, fishing stocking schedules and more.

The app and the Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide alert you to lakes with special regulations on size limits for crappie. Otherwise, there are no minimum size limits on crappie statewide. On all waterbodies, anglers may keep up to 20 crappie a day. Using the fishing forecast as a guide, several small lakes in the state stand out for crappie fishing. In central Kentucky, Beaver, Boltz and Benjy Kinman lakes offer excellent opportunities for crappie anglers.

Beaver Lake covers 158 acres in Anderson County and has an expanding crappie population. "The black crappie numbers in Beaver

are insane," said David Baker, Central Fishery District biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "It is the best since I've been in the district. This past year we saw many crappie of 9-plus inches - and quite a few over 10 inches."

Beaver Lake has oodles of fish habitat placed in its waters by fisheries personnel, including brush piles and Christmas trees. A live minnow suspended under a bobber and fished near this cover draws strikes from hungry crappie.

Although Boltz Lake in Grant County is just 92 acres, it earned a 4-star rating for crappie in the 2024 Fishing Forecast. "It is good," Baker said. "The crappie in Boltz had a history of over-crowding. About 5 or 6 years ago, the size of the crappie began to increase with more 9 and 10 inchers and some larger."

Baker said Boltz Lake is perfect for canoes, kayaks or johnboats - like the one he uses to fish the lake. "I troll crankbaits in summer in that top 10 feet of the water column," he said. "I come home with a cooler full of crappie."

Baker recommends anglers keep some crappie for the dinner table as a bumper crop or two of crappie spawns can lead to overpopulation and stunting. "Some harvest is our preference for the crappie in Boltz Lake," he said.

Benjy Kinman Lake is an 88-acre lake on the Boone Tract of Kentucky River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The lake is ringed with flooded timber and holds ample brush piles placed in the lake by fisheries staff. A 2-inch boot-tail crappie grub rigged weedless on a 1/16-ounce leadhead

worked in the brush piles or among the flooded timber draws strikes from crappie. Electric chicken, lime green with a charreuse tail and pearl are good colors to fish.

In Eastern Kentucky, anglers should pay a visit to 1,100-acre Dewey Lake in Floyd County. Although it's much larger than Boltz or Beaver lakes, Dewey offers some of the best bank fishing opportunities for crappie in the state. Fish habitat sites placed near the shoreline along KY 302 in the northwest quadrant of the lake are the best places for bank anglers to catch crappie. Fisheries staff see

good populations of white and black crappie in Dewey. Many white crappie in the lake run from 9 to 13 inches, while a large chunk of the black crappie run from 9 to 11 inches. A live minnow suspended under a bobber and fished over brush piles draws strikes from crappie.

Carr Creek Lake in Knott County is another good crappie lake in the east. The better black crappie in Carr Creek run 10 to 13 inches while white crappie run up to the bruiser 15-inch size.

This lake is laden with habitat structures. The upper lake - upstream of the Defeated Creek arm - holds mega stake beds, mossback structures,

plastic trees, pallet stacks and Christmas trees. These upper lake structures are the best places to fish in spring.

Carr Creek Lake also has substantial numbers of hardwood trees that were cut along the shoreline and felled into the water. Crappie use this cover throughout the year.

The water in Carr Creek Lake usually runs clear, like many lakes in the mountains. More subtle soft plastic lures designed for crappie such as the Baby Shad, Shad Pole and tubes may draw more strikes in Carr Creek Lake.

In south central Kentucky, crappie anglers should head to Shanty

Hollow Lake. This 135-acre lake in Warren and Edmonson counties holds surprisingly large crappie up to 14 inches. The department's Fisheries Division placed many Christmas trees near the boat ramp off KY 1592 (Shanty Hollow Road), a spot easily reached by paddlecraft.

A chartreuse or white marabou 1/16-ounce Roadrunner spinner lure worked above these sunken trees fool crappie in this lake.

Try these lakes for productive spring crappie fishing. You don't need to own expensive equipment to catch a limit of these delicious fish, a delicacy in Kentucky for generations.

## FARM MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

**SAT, APRIL 13TH, 9:00 A.M. CT**  
**GUMM SPRING RD, SUMMERSVILLE**  
**Across from Last Hope Realty & Auction Co. office**

**DIRECTIONS:** From Greensburg, take Hwy. 61 N approximately 12 miles. Turn left onto Hwy. 566 and go approximately 1/2 mile. Sale will be on the left. Signs posted.

**CONSIGNMENT TERMS:** Items accepted & invited: Tractors, Farm Machinery, Automobiles, ATV's, Trailers, Mowers, Gates, Construction Equipment, etc. No seller's fee on large items. 10% seller's fee on miscellaneous items.

**BUYER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** 10% buyer's premium and 6% sales tax (or certificate of exemption) will be applied to all winning bids to determine final purchase price.

Complete settlement day of sale before removal from auction site. Cash or check accepted.

**NO CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED! NO SUNDAY REMOVALS!**

**INSPECTIONS:** Bidders are invited to inspect items and bid at their own discretion. Property is being sold "AS IS" with no guarantees by the sellers or Last Hope Realty & Auction Company. Announcements made from the auction block on auction day will supersede any and all prior advertising or other information. Come bid & buy the auction way! Hope to see you there!

**THIS WILL BE A 2 RING SALE! RING ONE WILL BE SIMULCAST WITH NATIONWIDE COVERAGE VIA EQUIPMENTFACTS.COM. TRACTORS, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, ATV'S, MOWERS AND ALL FORMS OF FARM AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED. RING 2 WILL HAVE ALL FORMS OF TOOLS, HARDWARE, PARTS AND OTHER OUTDOOR RELATED ITEMS.**

CONSIGNMENT ITEMS WILL BE RECEIVED M-F WEEK OF SALE. ALL ITEMS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE AUCTIONEER. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NO SHOWS! FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONSIGN ITEMS CONTACT BROKER/AUCTIONEER WESLEY DOBSON AT 270-405-6060 or 270-932-3321

**Wesley Dobson • (270) 405-6060**  
**Broker • Auctioneer**  
**lasthoperealtyandauction.com**  
**668 Gumm Spring Rd.**  
**Summersville, KY 42782**  
**(270) 932-3321**