



### Inside

- BGAD and KDFWR partner to help the environment pg. 1
- Igloo Filtration System considered to promote the safe storage of munitions pg. 2
- Construction continues steadily at the BGCAPP site pg. 3
- Latest addition to the KDEP BGAD team provides valuable experience pg. 3

# Demil Dispatch

## Recent Progress on the Blue Grass Army Depot Demilitarization Effort.

*Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection  
Division of Waste Management  
Hazardous Waste Branch  
Blue Grass Army Depot Section*

### BGAD Provides Thousands of Acres for Habitat Restoration

“Native grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the eastern United States. Grassland birds are experiencing severe and sustained declines, more so than any other group of birds.” (The Center for Native Grasslands Management, <http://nativegrasses.utk.edu> ) The Blue Grass Army Depot is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> of 45 military installations in the Eastern US with potential to provide significant grassland habitat for grassland bird conservation. With nearly 15,000 acres of land, BGAD has potential for providing a significant amount of important grassland wildlife habitat.

In 2000, Dr Ron Jones (EKU) identified several sites on BGAD indicative of remnant plant communities present in pre-settlement times. Three sites in particular were described by Jones as grass-dominated, prairie-like patches. One site identified by Jones is located in “C” area and centered at the 900 row. These prairie patches are part of what visibly remains of what were likely thousands of acres of native grasslands a few centuries ago.

Since the locations of these native grassland, prairie-like patches, were identified on BGAD in 2000, more than a decade of encroachment by eastern red cedar has reduced their size. BGAD and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife



After: prairie released from cedars.



Before: cedar trees shade out prairie

Resources (KDFWR) have begun to systematically recover and expand the native grassland prairie remnants in stages beginning with the removal of eastern red cedar trees which are shading out the native grasses. In the upcoming months KDFWR will clear red cedars from the prairie remnant located in “C” area by mechanical and hand tool removal methods.

Grassland restoration on BGAD is being approached two ways. In addition to very small and scattered remnants being restored, KDFWR and the BGAD natural resources program have been conducting larger scaled prescribed burns. BGAD conducts up to 750 acres of prescribed burns annually, resulting in the re-appearance of the unique grasses once so common to this area. To accelerate the recovery effort, the native (locally and genetically unique) grass seed on BGAD is being harvested and planted back on lands where fescue is being eradicated. The goal is to have a minimum of 1,000 acres of contiguous native grasslands on BGAD.

(Continued on page 2: Habitat Restoration)

## Habitat Restoration (Continued)

As the grassland is restored a corresponding improvement in the wildlife that requires this habitat is expected. The Northern Bobwhite quail is one of the species of birds already benefitting from the restoration of native grasslands. BGAD is named as one of KY's eight Northern Bobwhite quail focus areas by the (KDFWR). Critical to restoring quail habitat is the conversion of fescue grasslands, unsuitable for quail, and restoring highly preferred native grass and wildflower species. BGAD's success as a quail focus area will not only result in the recovery of bobwhite quail, but will likewise provide a home for other grassland dependent birds like Henslow and Grasshopper sparrows. Native grassland restoration on BGAD is having and will continue to have far reaching effects in preserving a highly significant and threatened ecosystem.

Tom Edwards, KDFWR Wildlife Biologist,  
[thomas.edwards@ky.gov](mailto:thomas.edwards@ky.gov)



Marcia Schroder, KDFWR employee, harvesting native grass (Indiangrass) on BGAD last fall to plant back on BGAD this spring to accelerate the expansion of the native grasslands.

## Igloo Filtration System Being Tested

The Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) met with Kentucky Division of Waste Management (Division) personnel, the Chemical Destruction Citizen's Advisory Board (CDCAB), and the Citizen's Advisory Commission (CAC) in June and August 2011 regarding testing of an igloo filtration system (IFS) designed to improve storage conditions of the chemical stockpile. The chemical stockpile at BGAD is stored within earthen-covered storage magazines or igloos within the chemical limited area (CLA) and managed by BGCA.

The IFS purpose is to control humidity and filter air exiting the rear vent of the igloo. The data collection period of the IFS testing began in early August and will continue through September. After testing concludes the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) will evaluate all data and share a proposal with the Division, the CAC, and the CDCAB. Any changes to the chemical storage conditions will likely initiate a modification to the existing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste storage permit. All parties involved are optimistic that the ongoing continuous improvement activities at BGCA will create even safer storage conditions for the chemical stockpile.



Front and side view of the igloo filtration system (IFS) proposed for use at Blue Grass Chemical Activity.

## BGCAPP Construction Update

Construction at Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) continues in an efficient and safe manner. Development is currently focused on the munitions demilitarization building (MDB), the control and support building (CSB), the utility building (UB), the laboratory building, and the super critical water oxidation (SCWO) Building.

Ongoing construction at the MDB consists of first and second lift concrete placements, erecting more structural steel and wall paneling, and installing electrical and piping systems, vessels and tanks. At the CSB, crews are presently installing

metal wall studs and sheet rock, working on electrical, piping, and fire detection systems, and installing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). Installation of electrical, piping, and HVAC systems is also occurring at the UB, while crews have begun erecting structural steel in the SCWO building. In the laboratory building, workers are laying concrete foundation placements.

The progress of the BGCAPP project has allowed for additional employment with 888 workers in Richmond, Ky., being employed to date. Of those, 741 are from the local area.

Another 147 staff members exist in locations outside of Richmond including Pasco, Washington, San Diego, California, Columbus, Ohio, and Frederick, Md.

The project has contributed over \$73.8 million to Kentucky companies with \$44.4 being spent in Madison and surrounding counties. Local payroll has amounted to \$199 million and an estimated \$428 million more will be paid throughout the remainder of the project.



An agent holding tank, agent surge tank, and three spent decontamination fluid tanks are installed at the MDB



The SCWO processing building joins the MDB and CSB in going vertical

*The progress of the BGCAPP project has allowed for additional employment with 888 workers in Richmond, Kentucky being employed to date.*

## Frankfort Field Office Hires Environmental Inspector

The Bluegrass Army Depot permitting team has hired a new Environmental Inspector.

On July 15th, **Huff Hammond** started his new position for the Frankfort Field Office. The Olive Hill, Ky., native earned a degree in Biology/Chemistry at Morehead State University.

Huff brings a wealth of experi-

ence to the team with his previous work experience that includes seven years with the state as an Inspector with the Division for Air Quality's Ashland Regional Office.

Prior to that he worked for twelve years at CSX Transportation as an Environmental Specialist. He was responsible for all Waste, Air and Water issues at various railroad facilities. He also managed two of the three

largest hazardous waste generators at CSX and was an emergency responder.

In his spare time, Huff enjoys reading, thoroughbred racing, traveling, Kentucky basketball, coin collecting and scuba diving. Huff and his wife have enjoyed the move to the Lexington area and he is looking forward to working with the permitting team on the unique challenges that BGAD presents.



Environmental Inspector, Huff Hammond



*Kentucky Department for  
Environmental Protection*

Blue Grass Army Depot Section  
200 Fair Oaks Lane  
Frankfort KY 40601

Phone: 502-564-6716 ext. 4507

Web: [waste.ky.gov](http://waste.ky.gov)

E-mail: [daniel.walker@ky.gov](mailto:daniel.walker@ky.gov)

The mission of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management is to protect human health and the environment by minimizing adverse impacts on all citizens of the commonwealth through the development of fair, equitable, and effective waste management programs.



Printed on recycled paper with federal or state funds when printed.

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status. The department provides on request, reasonable accommodations necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. To request materials in an alternate format, please call (502) 564-6716. Persons with hearing and speech impairments can contact the agency using the Kentucky Relay Service, a tool-free telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD). For voice to TDD, call 800-648-6057. For TDD to voice, call 800-648-6056.



*Photographs courtesy of ACWA, BGCAPP, CMA, KDFWR, and KDEP*