

More sports, law, and military news...

AFTCO partners with B.A.S.S. Nation to provide \$25,000 in conservation grants to seven B.A.S.S. Nation groups

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. , July 7, 2026— AFTCO continues its strong conservation heritage by providing \$25,000 in annual conservation grants to B.A.S.S. Nation Clubs in 2026. This year's \$25,000 contribution is divided among seven B.A.S.S. Nation groups to support local conservation projects in their respective areas. With this year's grants, AFTCO's total contributions to this program have surpassed \$202,000, since its inception in 2018.

The seven grant recipients selected for 2026 are:

Tennessee B.A.S.S. Nation for upgrades to a multi-purpose barge that will serve as a tournament live release boat and as a habitat installation barge used on projects statewide.

Kansas B.A.S.S. Nation for habitat improvement on Lake Perry that will include introductions of native aquatic vegetation and artificial structures.

Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation for habitat improvements on Wolf Lake, a popular water for youth fishing clinics as well as a destination for high school bass tournaments.

Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation for the purchase of a PiranhO2 oxygen concentrator to upgrade their tournament fish care system.

Lake Oconee Bassmaster for the purchase and installation of Mossback Fish Habitat structures to enhance angler catch in Lake Oconee.

New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation for the purchase of Largemouth Bass fingerlings to bolster fish stockings done by the New Mexico Game & Fish Department.

Florida B.A.S.S. Nation for support of the non-profit organization, Mighty River Recovery, that is working to improve water quality, restore native vegetation, and bring back the fishery on the



AFTCO has partnered with B.A.S.S. Nation to provide \$25,000 in conservation grants to seven B.A.S.S. Nation groups in 2026. (Photo courtesy of AFTCO)

fabled St. John's River. All projects are locally coordinated by B.A.S.S. Nation state chapters and clubs, government fishery agencies, local businesses and volunteers — including youth organizations — who contribute labor for the projects.

"We are impressed by the projects that this year's grant recipients have taken on to improve fishing in their respective states. The projects are focused on habitat improvements and fish care which have been two important

parts of our conservation efforts in freshwater. We are proud and excited to support these great projects in 2026," said Casey Shedd, AFTCO president.

"Nine years and counting that AFTCO has supported the great conservation work that our B.A.S.S. Nation chapters and clubs are doing. The Shedd family and AFTCO's commitment to supporting these grassroots projects is a testament to their belief in giving back to the resource that our sport is so de-

pendent on, and those of us at B.A.S.S. sincerely appreciate the continued support," said Gene Gilliland, B.A.S.S. Conservation Director.

About AFTCO
Family owned and operated, the American Fishing Tackle Company (AFTCO) represents unparalleled quality, performance, and reliability when it counts most. Worn across the globe, AFTCO's fishing clothing and fishing rain gear is designed to handle the harshest elements. Whether you are a tournament bass angler looking to stay dry in a late fall downpour or an offshore weekend warrior seeking protection from the sun's harmful UV rays, AFTCO keeps you fishing com-

fortably.
AFTCO reflects a legacy of firsts. From former company Chairman Milt Shedd's pioneering conservation achievements, to the invention of the roller guide and the introduction of the world's first pair of true fishing shorts, AFTCO provides conservation leadership and innovative products proven to deliver performance on the water. Our passion for the outdoors goes beyond our product offering because of an unwavering commitment to help protect our fishing resources and angler rights. Through our 10% Pledge to Protect and Conserve, your purchase of any AFTCO product directly supports conservation initiatives.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders appoints Steve Kueter as new member to the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

JONESBORO, Ark., July 6, 2026— Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced that she has appointed Steve Kueter of Paragould as the newest member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Kueter will serve a seven-year term. Kueter's seven-year term will last until 2033. He is replacing outgoing Commission Chairwoman Anne Marie Doramus, and Rob Finley will serve as the Commission Chairman.

"Steve has spent his life helping steward our natural resources while preserving our state's rich outdoor heritage for future generations," said Governor Sanders. "As a lifelong outdoorsman and third-generation aquaculture farmer, Steve brings decades of experience in conservation, agriculture, and public service and I know he will work tirelessly to enhance and promote access to our great outdoors."

"In my lifetime there have been so many success stories facilitated by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission," said Steve Kueter. "When I was growing up, you had to travel hours away to deer hunt and turkeys were



Steve Kueter

just being reintroduced to the Ozarks. When we deer hunted in North Arkansas, we came back talking about seeing a lone track or the flash of a deer's tail. It wasn't often that you heard of someone harvesting a deer. Today, turkey and deer are abundant throughout most of the state. It is humbling to be appointed by Governor Sanders and entrusted to continue the good work of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the commissioners who have come before me."

Steve Kueter is a lifelong resident of Greene County and earned a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management from Ar-

kansas State University. He owns and operates Kueter's Fish Company, Inc., a third-generation catfish and baitfish farm in Paragould.

An avid hunter and fisherman since childhood, Kueter developed a lifelong appreciation for Arkansas' outdoors through time spent hunting and fishing alongside his father, grandfather, and extended family. Today, he continues that tradition with his wife, Emily, their three children, and two grandchildren.

Kueter currently serves on the Board of Directors for Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation and is president of the Eight Mile Drainage District. He also serves on the Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board, the Greene County Farm Bureau Board, and the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Growers Association. Previously, he served on the boards of Catfish Farmers of Arkansas and Catfish Farmers of America.

A recognized leader in Arkansas aquaculture, Kueter has represented the state nationally as a two-time Catfish Farmer of the Year and previously served as chairman of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Aquaculture Committee.

After Supreme Court women in sports hearings, Congress must protect citizenship... from sports-military 2

to secure U.S. citizenship for their children.

The industry built on this abuse of our laws—birth tourism—rakes in millions of dollars while catering to wealthy Russian, Chinese, and other foreign nationals. According to one estimate, 33,000 children are born each year to women on tourist visas. Under current law, each is entitled to U.S. citizenship. When they reach the age of 21, they can sponsor their parents' migration to the United States.

Just hours after the ruling, the Justice Department vowed to crack down on this appalling practice and protect the integrity

of American citizenship. Congress should do everything in its power to support this effort, which is why I introduced the Ban Birth Tourism Act. This legislation would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to bar birth tourism as a permissible basis for obtaining a temporary visitor visa to enter our country. No one should be able to buy U.S. citizenship. My bill would help ensure that can never happen.

With the two decisions, the Supreme Court has done its job of interpreting the law. Now, it's up to Congress to pass legislation that best serves the American people.

Email sports and military news to MSTsports@prodigy.net

FPC moves to add California ‘Glock Ban’ challenge to handgun roster lawsuit case from sports-military 2

nia's Glock ban to our long-running Roster and microstamping lawsuit, we are bringing the State's latest attack on common handguns into the core fight against its unconstitutional handgun-ban regime. California cannot evade the Second

Amendment by expanding, repackaging, or relabeling its handgun bans. FPC and our Grassroots Army will continue to Fight Forward until every law that prevents peaceable Californians from acquiring modern handguns is eliminated." — FPC

President Brandon Combs

Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC) ing research, legislative and regulatory advocacy, grassroots activism, education, and public engagement.

Launch your cyber career as a Dept. of War apprenticeship applicant

Earn while you learn!

July 6, 2026 -The U.S. Department of War (DoW) Office of the Chief Information Officer launched one the most highly anticipated apprenticeship programs in modern defense history: applications for the DoW Cyber Apprenticeship Program (Cyber RAP) are now officially open on USAJOBS.

This groundbreaking initiative represents a critical step in forging a new generation of elite cyber professionals dedicated to defending the nation's digital frontlines and supporting the warfighter.

The application window for this round of applicants is now open and closes on July 17, 2026. Interested candidates will start their journey on USAJobs at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/875318000>.

Following its initial preview in late April, the program went "viral" across social media platforms, capturing the public's imagination and generating an unprecedented 70,000 + inquiries from candidates nationwide. This overwhelming surge highlights a massive, untapped demand for alternative, skills-based training pathways into national security roles.

"To maintain our decisive advantage and support the warfighter on the modern battlefield, the Department of War must recruit differently," said the Honorable Kirsten Davies, Chief Information Officer. "President Trump and Department of War Secretary Hegseth have issued a clear mandate to advance skills-based hiring. This program bypasses traditional academic gatekeeping to value what truly matters: raw aptitude, patriotic drive, and hands-on capability over traditional academic credentials. By unlocking this untapped potential, we are actively forging America's elite cyber workforce of the future from the ground up."

This pilot is a 12-month paid program designed to rapidly develop and employ cyber professionals within the DoW. Apprentices will receive rigorous, competency-based education that blends online learning, immersive hands-on labs, and on-the-job training under the guidance of senior DoW mentors. Successful completion provides industry-recognized certifications and direct pathways into high-demand DoW civilian cyber roles, such as Cyber Defense Analysts and Incident Responders. These professionals will be on the front lines, ensuring the cybersecurity of DoW operations and the broader Defense Industrial Base (DIB). The Department of War is committed to skills-based hiring, offering pathways for talented Americans from all educational backgrounds. No prior professional cyber experience is required—only the raw aptitude

Please see sports page 5

Matching Donors

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DONATE A KIDNEY TO SAVE A LIFE
DONATE YOUR CAR, BOAT, REAL ESTATE, OR PLANE!

We take donations in any condition, with fast, free pickup.

Every donation is tax deductible.

100% of the proceeds help save the lives of people needing organ transplants on MatchingDonors.com, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Call us at 781-821-2204
or donate online at MatchingDonorsDonations.com