

KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004

\$2.75





On Point

by Mike Hayden



Circle K Part III: Habitat Restoration

As I've discussed over the past few months, the Circle K Ranch project offers a unique opportunity to work toward sustainable water usage in the Middle-Arkansas River basin. At the same time, we can diversify the area's economy by creating a public outdoor recreation area.

If the state legislature approves KDWP's purchase of the ranch and it is open to public hunting, up to 75 percent of the cost will be reimbursed by the federal government. This money will come from federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, known as the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. As with all of our wildlife areas, though, the ranch will provide ideal opportunities for birding, wildlife viewing, and hiking.

However, the project's success hinges on restoring the area's natural habitat. Most importantly, the ranch's sandy soils need to be stabilized. Currently, the Circle K, which lies just south and east of the Arkansas River, has 41 center-pivot irrigation systems, as well as areas of natural prairie. KDWP plans to gradually reduce the irrigated cropland, while restoring native vegetation. The entire ranch has basically the same type of unstable sandy soil. Restoring the native vegetation will not be easy and will take several years of intense management. However, by restoring the natural habitat and managing it appropriately, both game and non-game species will flourish. Deer (both white-tail and mule), turkey, rabbits (both cottontails and jack rabbits), bobwhite quail, and pheasants are plentiful in areas of native sandhill prairie and the Arkansas River valley that border the Circle K. Lesser prairie chickens also inhabit nearby areas, and department biologists know that by restoring the ranch to native habitat the prairie chickens will reestablish themselves on the land.

To begin restoration, each field will need to be analyzed to determine what crop was last planted there and what chemicals have been used. In the first year, a cover crop such as milo or cane will be planted to create a microclimate for the grass to germinate and

grow. The second spring, grasses will be planted.

Depending on the rainfall and other factors, the grass may need to be replanted the following year. A mixture of grasses will be planted including side-oats grama, switchgrass, sand lovegrass, and sand bluestem. In time, forbs (wildflowers) will either be deliberately interseeded or will naturally interseed from the surrounding areas. Also, over time, native shrubs such as sandhill plum will grow.

While most of the ranch will be returned to native grasses, it is possible that some parts, particularly those farthest from the river, could continue to be farmed. Kansas grasslands evolved with grazing animals, so KDWP will use grazing as a natural management tool. Controlled grazing helps maintain the health of native prairie grasses by aiding in the nutrient cycling necessary for vigorous plant growth. Also, wildlife food plots containing forbs and legumes will be part of the management plan. The mix of grassland, food plots, and water sources creates the richest habitat for all wildlife.

Grassland won't be the only type of habitat restored on the ranch. Modeling by the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources has indicated that retiring the irrigation wells on Circle K could help return base flow to the adjacent Arkansas River. Prairie streams provide an oasis for many wildlife species in the relatively arid prairies of western Kansas.

As for the river, it takes only a minimal amount of water to create a home for fish, snails, freshwater mussels, beaver and muskrat. For example, recently water began flowing in a stretch of the Arkansas River near Larned where it hadn't flowed in 7 years. Within two days, minnows, frogs, and snails inhabited the crystal clear flow that was only a couple of inches deep.

With time, work, and proper funding, the Circle K Ranch will be restored to a rich and varied sandhill prairie habitat with many types of plants and animals. When that happens, the local community of Kinsley, Edwards County, and all of Kansas will benefit.

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KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS (ISSN 0898-6975) is published bimonthly (every other month) by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612. Address editorial correspondence to Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS 67124 (620) 672-5911. Send subscription requests to Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine, P.O. Box 8059, Red Oak, IA 51591. Subscription rate: one year \$10; two years \$18; and three years \$27. Articles in the magazine may be reprinted with permission. Periodical postage paid at Pratt, KS and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine, P.O. Box 8059, Red Oak, IA 51591. For subscription inquiries call toll-free 1 800 288-8387.



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Front Cover: November offers the best chance to see Kansas' biggest bucks. Mike Blair photographed this deer with a 600mm lens, f/8 @ 1/500th sec. **Back:** Mallards quicken the pulses of Kansas waterfowlers when hunting seasons open. Mike Blair filmed this scene with a 600mm lens, f/11 @ 1/640th sec.



Editorial Creed: To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land.

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COLD DUCK

A blue-tinted photograph of a pond with ducks swimming and birds flying in the sky. The scene is set in a natural, open area with bare trees in the background. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the birds. The overall mood is serene and cold.

“We have a front coming in tonight, bringing with it colder temperatures and the chance of sleet. Sleet will change to snow late in the morning and taper off by tomorrow evening. Highs tomorrow in the lower 30s.”



by Dustin Teasley
senior graphic designer, Pratt
photos by Mike Blair

***For the diehard duck hunter, some of the coldest
hunts hold the fondest memories.***

The announcement on my radio confirmed the forecast as I drove home from work on a dreary, January evening. Icy crystals were already smearing my truck windshield, and a cold wind was blowing. The front had arrived.

The telephone rang as soon as I walked in the door. It was Mike: “Hey the weather forecast is looking bad. Are we still on for the duck hunt tomorrow?”

“Sure,” I said. “It will be great hunting. Be at my house at 5:30 a.m.”

The plan was laid. I would hunt with my good friend Mike and his future son-in-law, Jason. It would be cold and wet, but I was confident about the hunt.

The alarm rang early. At 5:30 sharp, right on time, two sleepy hunters pulled in behind my truck and loaded their gear. Steady sleet had iced the roads, making them slick and treacherous. Single-digit windchills cut through heavy clothing, promising a cold morning. There wasn’t much conversation as we drove, considering the bad weather and poor visibility. But the hope of ducks in the air accompanied the slapping wiper blades.

The 25 miles to the backwater pit took longer than expected, and we arrived at the marsh by the gloom of a stormy dawn. Icy snow crunched under our feet as we unloaded the truck. Clouds hung low as the sleet changed to snow. The temperature was cold, but hauling gear and expectations helped fight the cold. Every cold-weather hunter has experienced this — the weather loses its bite in view of tasks at hand and

A freezing day, dreary skies, and brutal winds — a duck hunter's dream come true. When the conditions are right and the ducks are down, bad weather days can be great hunting days. Hunters wait with high expectations that make the cold conditions easier to endure. Below a good duck dog will enjoy the day just as much as the hunter, seemingly oblivious to the icy water.



anticipation of the hunt.

Once gear was unloaded and the truck hidden, we discussed our setup. Usually we sat with our backs to the rising sun, but today clouds allowed more choices, and the northwest wind would funnel ducks to the north shore. We threw our decoys accordingly, and decided a blind was unnecessary. Instead, we would hunker against a four-foot-high, sharp-cut bank. Our camou-

flage clothing would blend with the tawny cordgrass bordering the bank. We would conceal the yellow Lab with empty decoy bags. In the poor light, maybe it would work.



For a while, there was silence. We sat apart as the eroded bank dictated, and conversation was difficult. The gloom lifted to a gray morning. And then came the sound of wings. Heads turned, eyes searching. There was the faint sound like ripping fabric — that was all — no mallard talk, no boisterous quacking. Then we saw them — a dozen or so ducks coming hard to the decoys.

We readied for action. Closer, closer, they slid, seeming to float as they came.

Fifty, 40, 30 yards now, and still in the fog, we couldn't make out the drakes. The birds dropped their feet and barreled in, oblivious to our motionless forms. Fifteen yards, and now it was time. In unison, three of us aimed and fired. Four mallards splashed among the decoys. The sound of rapid wingbeats filled the air as the rest of the group escaped.

The yellow dog splashed through the shallow water to retrieve our prizes. No sooner had she grabbed the last one, than another wave of ducks set wings. Mike and I looked at each other knowingly. We grinned. This would be a great day.

A half hour later, we had our limit of five mallards each. Now came the challenge of finishing our bag limits. We could each

take one more duck of another species. The first one was easy, a drake widgeon that hung outside a group of mallards. One duck down, two to go. Mallards continued to pour into our decoy spread, providing a rare show in the cold winter morning. Birds landed within 5 yards, actually splashing us with water. Then, seeing us and the dog at point-blank range, they powered off. Finally, Mike pointed out a pintail. Soon, the dog was retrieving it from the spread.

An hour went by without a third odd duck. We decided to call off the hunt. Though the action had been fast, birds returning from feed would soon land to spend the day. There was no use in scaring them from this normal routine. We got up to leave.

As if on cue, a lone widgeon drake sailed in. I shot the bird, and the dog finished the day with a nice retrieve. We gathered our decoys and returned to the truck. The drive home was different than the sleepy drive at dawn. Now, conversation was fluid and energetic. We recapped the hunt, rehearsing our stories. There was a satisfaction and friendship that would always mark this day.

It was a special hunt for all, despite our difference in waterfowling experience. Now, years later with the water gone and the three of us separated by changing circumstances, the memory lingers, bringing three lucky hunters together on a cold January creek bank. 🍷





Our ancient ancestors depended upon their skill to craft tools from stone. The nearly lost art is being revived by modern craftsmen, and the tools are proving to be as useful as they are beautiful.



STONE POINTS: REVIVING AN ANCIENT ART

By Bryan R. Simmons
aquatic ecologist, Pratt

photos by Mike Blair

Have you ever needed a knife while in the field and unfortunately discovered that yours was at home? You probably didn't realize that a natural material lying at your feet could have solved your dilemma. With the right knowledge and a few minutes of work, you could have created a functional tool in the tradition of primitive man.

Historically, stone was the tool of choice as early man hunted game in the harsh environment. America's earliest inhabitants relied on readily available natural resources, and they utilized their surroundings to the fullest. Most of their time was spent hunting animals such as the extinct mastodon or mammoth. And tools were needed for defense against dangerous beasts such as the saber-toothed cat, American lion, or short-faced bear. The stone tools left behind not only remind us of the difficulty of this existence, but they help us understand the intricate skill required to survive in prehistoric North America.

Modern people share a common attribute, regardless of all differences: our ancestors knew how to manufacture and use these stone tools. The process of chipping stone tools is now called

flintknapping, which means "to break flint." The term originated in Germany to describe the early craft of gunflint production. The spark produced from flint on steel was used to ignite powder in flintlock rifles. And the process to create gunflint is similar to that used in making primitive spearheads, knives, and arrowheads.

I began flintknapping as a hobby long after my boyhood days of roaming plowed fields looking for arrowheads. With each lucky find, I was astounded that stones were made into such sharp, thin, and beautiful tools. I wanted to better understand this skill that was nearly lost to the ages and for the past seven years, I've been learning the art of flintknapping.

As Europeans settled America and moved westward, their steel tools quickly won the fancy of American Indians. However, this was not because of steel's sharpness. Economics, not performance, drove stone points from the marketplace. Steel was easier to obtain and maintain and was more durable than stone. Flint was hard to find and gather and took meticulous processing to fracture into a tool. The art of knapping began to die.

In 1911, anthropologists discovered a starving native in the hills of northern California, and curiosity about this ancient skill was rekindled. The Indian, named Ishi, was invited out of his wilderness home where he had managed to survive using primitive weapons, including obsidian-tipped arrows. Dr. Saxton Pope and Art Young, for whom the modern bowhunting record keeping organization is named, learned their legendary bowhunting skills from this primitive bowyer. Fortunately, Ishi still knew how to fabricate sharp stone implements and shared this knowledge with the



scientific community. Since then, many people, myself included, have become attracted to this nearly lost tradition.

Methods used in flintknapping rely on basic physics. A point can be fabricated from a wide variety of materials, but all must contain sufficient amounts of microscopic silica to be fractured with any control.

To understand this, consider what a BB does when it hits a glass window. A small piece of glass, known as a Hertzian cone, blows away from the point of impact. If you were to measure the cone, you would notice it always forms an inside angle of 100 degrees. Early man learned through trial and error that if a stone was held at a certain angle and struck sharply, razor-edged flakes could be produced from the parent rock and used as tools. The process was continually refined to allow the fabrication of astonishing weaponry. But learning was slow. It took native people thousands of years to improve their tools and techniques.

It's difficult to describe the knapping process within the limits of a magazine article. The best way to learn is to watch someone in action. Several quality videos, Internet sites, and events called "knap-ins" are possible learning sites. You will learn more in an hour from someone who is experienced than in a year on your own. Further, this craft requires perseverance. Don't expect to fabricate beautiful sharp blades in a short time. It takes hands-on experience and constant practice. Experience can often be measured by the amount of stone you've broken before success shines through.



Modern tools for an ancient craft. The author uses all of the above tools to craft beautiful stone points in the same fashion as prehistoric hunters. The spear point above is a stunning example of the author's work. This large piece was knapped from obsidian.

Demonstrating his skill for a captivated audience of school children, the author displays his simple tools: a knapping tool made from a dowel with a copper cap and a piece of leather to protect his leg. Notice, too, that he is wearing safety glasses. Never knap without them. The arrow point below was knapped from flint found along an eastern Kansas highway.



In knapping's simplest form, two types of flaking methods are used: percussion and pressure. Percussion flaking is the method where an implement such as another stone, a fresh antler, or copper billet is struck directly onto the edge of the parent rock to remove flakes. I personally use copper caps glued onto dowels of various sizes, mainly for economy and availability compared to higher priced antlers. However, in experienced hands, soft billets, like those made of antler, produce the flattest, thinnest, and widest flakes compared to those made by harder materials such as stone or copper.

Pressure flaking is mainly used to shape and sharpen a nearly finished piece. Tools can be as simple as an antler tine or

can be constructed from a wide variety of modern materials. I made mine from a section of broom handle with 3/16" copper wire in one end that can be replaced when necessary. Whatever material is used, it must be stiff enough to with-

stand direct pressure needed to "push" the flakes off the thin stone. Also, an abrader such as a piece of sandstone is used extensively to keep the tool edges dull and stiff and allow the tool's energy to remove flakes. Heavy pads protect legs and hands from cuts during this process.

It might be easier to learn with materials besides stone. Several man-made materials fracture easily and are readily available and inexpensive. These include glass or porcelain from items like old televisions, bottle bottoms, or even toilet tanks. Experience gained on this material will help you learn what to expect before you pick up a stone containing natural cracks, fossil inclusions, and crystal pockets. Such aberrations complicate the learning phase.

Kansas has only a few



natural sources of material with knappable qualities. However, in the areas where the material occurs, it can be seen within road cuts and comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. Even so, these sources of stone are usually fractured due to the blasting from construction. It is important to note that an average 4-inch blade usually comes from a core stone that is nearly as large as a cantaloupe, and may take an hour or two to produce. Smaller arrow, or bird, points can be made from small flakes in as little as 15-20 minutes. You might not find stone pieces along roadsides big enough to make larger tools.

Quality stone is more likely found on gravel bars of streams and creeks that drain the roadway area. Streams have a great natural ability to break up



cracked material, leaving solid stone to work with. Raw stone – that found in nature – does not flake as easily as stone that has been heat-treated. “Found” artifacts of gorgeous red and orange material were transformed from a grainy, bland, off-grey character to their glossy colorful states within a campfire. Color change, however beautiful, was incidental to the purpose of making the stone easier to flake.

The signed pieces of art displayed below are the result of not only hours of knapping, but also represent years of learning. A skilled craftsman working with good material can put a sharper-than-razor edge on these points. The arrow point at left was made from a piece of flint.

For those with neither the time nor ability to gather native material, many varieties and grades of stone can be purchased by mail order or at knap-ins. Cost ranges from 50 cents to \$5 per pound.

Most consider stone work merely a recovered art, as arrowheads, spears, and knives are seldom used beyond decorative purposes. However, the use of stone has remained scientifically viable. Recently, it surfaced in modern medicine. Eye surgeons discovered that



the sharpest material known was obsidian, a natural glass developed only under special environmental circumstances within buried lava flows. When properly cleaved, obsidian can provide an edge of impeccable sharpness only one molecule thick and 500 times sharper than a new razor blade. This important finding has growing implications for specialized

surgery.

Flintknapping is a connection with the past that continues to produce usable tools. Before you try your hand at this razor-edged hobby, though, there are additional cautions. First, an unavoidable effect of knapping is that you are going to bleed. To help prevent cuts, you should wear leather gloves when starting. Second, eye pro-

tection cannot be over stressed. One airborne razor-edged chip can cause instant blindness. Safety goggles should be worn by both worker and bystanders. Third, all knappable materials produce microscopic silica dust. If inhaled, these sharp particles irreversibly affect your lungs by cutting the thin tissue, scarring and creating a disease called silicosis. The disease inhibits oxygen from getting to the bloodstream while eventually causing secondary problems including pneumonia. This dust can be avoided by working outside in a breeze or with a fan that will carry it away. You should also shake out your clothes and hair before returning indoors, and shower after each session to prevent exposure to others. Silicosis was actually considered the first industrial disease.

With proper precautions, transforming large, bland blocks of stone into sharp, useful, and beautiful works of art becomes a rewarding and tranquil pastime. Also, friendships gained with others of the same interest allow you to trade material as well as stories. Maybe you'll try knapping. However, if you feel after your first few attempts you are a failure and can't comprehend why a modern human couldn't easily duplicate a primitive point, don't take it too harshly. Just go to the refrigerator and pull out a steak and be glad that you don't have to worry about surviving solely on stone tools. Then the next time you see an authentic arrowhead, you can appreciate the skill and labor required by our primitive ancestors' hands. ♡



The author displays a few of his creations. One byproduct of learning to flintknap was that he also learned about archeology and how ancient people crafted their tools.

2003 KDWP Annual Report

As we prepare to observe our centennial year in 2005, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks takes pride in past accomplishments and looks forward to the challenges of the 21st century.

The revenue and expenditure summary contained in this report illustrates the basic financial underpinning of the department, but there's much more to tell about outdoor recreation in Kansas. Hunters, anglers, state park users, and boaters constitute a major economic force.

Did you know that Kansas hunters spent more than \$245 million in support of their hunting activities in 2001, the most recent year that wildlife-related recreation was surveyed? Or that those purchases from Sunflower State merchants generated more than 5,400 jobs? Similarly, Kansas anglers spent more than \$205 million in 2001, generating another 4,220 jobs. Kansas state park visitors spend in excess of \$190 million annually on purchases related to their park visits. Add to that the millions of dollars in state and federal income, sales, and fuel taxes generated by those purchases, and it is readily apparent that outdoor recreation provides a substantial economic boost to Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is charged with preserving and protecting the natural resources of Kansas and providing the public with opportunities to use and appreciate these resources. I am honored to lead our dedicated staff in carrying out that mission and would like to thank staff and our partners who made the following achievements possible in the past year.

In the Parks Division, 107 full-time personnel, augmented by seasonal and part-time staff, accommodated 7.2 million park visits in 2003. Loss of State General Fund revenues challenged park managers and limited some operations and improvements. The federal AmeriCorps program provided about 60 supplemental staff members to help with projects in state parks and local communities. In addition, parks utilized nearly 70,000 hours of inmate and corrections facility labor.

State parks continued development of rental cabins, providing a valuable addition to the menu of camping accommodations. Cabins have been built at Cheney, El Dorado, Cedar Bluff, Lovewell, Milford, and Eisenhower state parks and are in the planning and development stage at Webster, Milford, Tuttle Creek, Cross Timbers and Fall River state parks.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Division expanded the popular Walk-In Hunting Areas (WIHA) and Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) programs. More than 977,000 privately-owned acres were enrolled in the WIHA program in 2003, and more than 1 million acres in 2004. The FISH program enrolled 1,086 acres of privately-owned ponds and lakes, as well as 63 miles of quality stream habitats.

Fisheries and Wildlife Division staff formed partnerships with a variety of organizations to deliver on-the-ground enhancements to upland bird populations. For example, the department's Southeast Kansas Quail Initiative works with landowners in a four-county area (Allen, Bourbon, Crawford, and

Neosho). More than 100 habitat plans have been written to assist private landowners with funding and development of quail-friendly land-use practices. In the Pheasant Initiative pilot area (Gove, Logan, Sheridan, and Thomas counties), more than 52,000 acres were treated with a variety of management practices, such as forb interseeding of CRP and establishment of grass buffer strips, with promising results for pheasant populations. What's more, the department signed an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist landowners statewide with habitat development provisions of the federal Farm Bill.

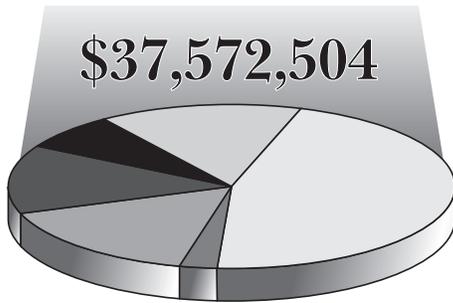
KDWP's Environmental Services Section completed the tenth year of its stream survey program. Since the program began, more than 1,000 surveys have been completed, documenting aquatic life and habitat quality in river basins around the state.

The Law Enforcement Division added an effective new enforcement tool: canines. Four officers were teamed with Labrador partners to perform a variety of enforcement-related duties such as tracking, and evidence recovery.

These are just a few of the many achievements that have provided important benefits to outdoor recreation in Kansas. On behalf of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, I appreciate your support and look forward to a rich future for our state's natural resources and the many people who enjoy them.

J. Michael Hayden
Secretary

Revenue (Calendar Year 2003)



Hunt/Fish License Sales	\$16,833,924	45 %
Hunt/Fish Federal Aid	\$8,155,431	22 %
Park Permits	\$5,024,415	13 %
Boat Registrations	\$841,505	2 %
Other Federal Aid	\$3,548,500	9 %
State General Fund	\$3,168,729	9 %

Totals **\$37,572,504** **100 %**

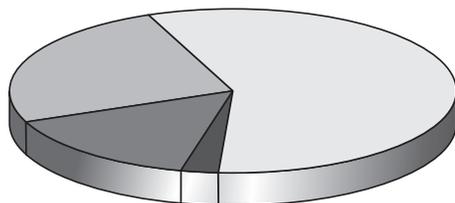
FISHING, HUNTING, FURHARVESTING		
License/permit	Number sold	Revenue
Resident Fish (\$18.00)	165,700	\$2,982,600
Combination Fish/Hunt (\$36)	37,723	\$1,358,028
Nonresident Fish (\$40)	8,743	\$349,720
Five-Day Trip Fish (\$20)	4,878	\$97,560
24-Hour Fish (\$5)	66,002	\$330,010
Trout Stamp (\$10)	7,348	\$73,480
Lifetime Fish (\$300)	235	\$70,500
Lifetime Comb. Fish/Hunt (\$600)	1,293	\$775,800
Lifetime Fish (payments) (\$45)	34	\$1,530
Lifetime Comb. (payments) (\$90)	99	\$8,910
Lifetime Hunt (payments) (\$45)	120	\$5,400
Lifetime Hunt (\$300)	1,077	\$323,100
Resident Hunt (\$18)	84,092	\$1,513,656
Nonresident Hunt (\$70)	47,837	\$3,348,590
Nonresident Junior Hunt (\$35)	1,747	\$61,145
Controlled Shooting Area (\$15)	8,825	\$132,375
48-Hour Waterfowl (\$25)	637	\$15,925
Deer Permit (variable)	159,782	\$4,165,435
Turkey Permit (variable)	67,604	\$1,130,280
Adult Furharvester (\$18)	4,910	\$88,380
Junior Furharvester (\$10)	150	\$1,500
TOTAL	668,836	\$16,833,924

THREE- YEAR BOAT REGISTRATIONS		
Registration Type	Number Sold	Revenue
Boats under 16 feet (\$20)	17,744	\$354,880
Boats over 16 feet (\$25)	19,465	\$486,625
TOTAL	37,209	\$841,505

STATE PARKS		
Permit Type	Number Sold	Revenue
Annual Vehicle	37,340	\$1,248,263
Annual Camp	3,730	\$448,340
Second Vehicle	14,245	\$255,668
Duplicate Vehicle	1,013	\$11,143
Daily Vehicle	229,758	\$1,230,456
Daily Camp	92,485	\$638,512
14-Day Camp	1,363	\$95,305
Utility (1)	13,237	\$72,803
Utility (2)	114,892	\$861,690
Utility (3)	18,985	\$161,373
Youth Group Camping	345	\$862
TOTAL	527,393	\$5,024,415

FEDERAL AID	
Coast Guard (boating safety)	\$430,269
Dingell-Johnson (fish)	\$4,967,121
Pittman-Robertson (wildlife)	\$3,188,310
Other	\$3,124,231
TOTAL	\$11,703,931

Expenditures (Fiscal Year 2004)

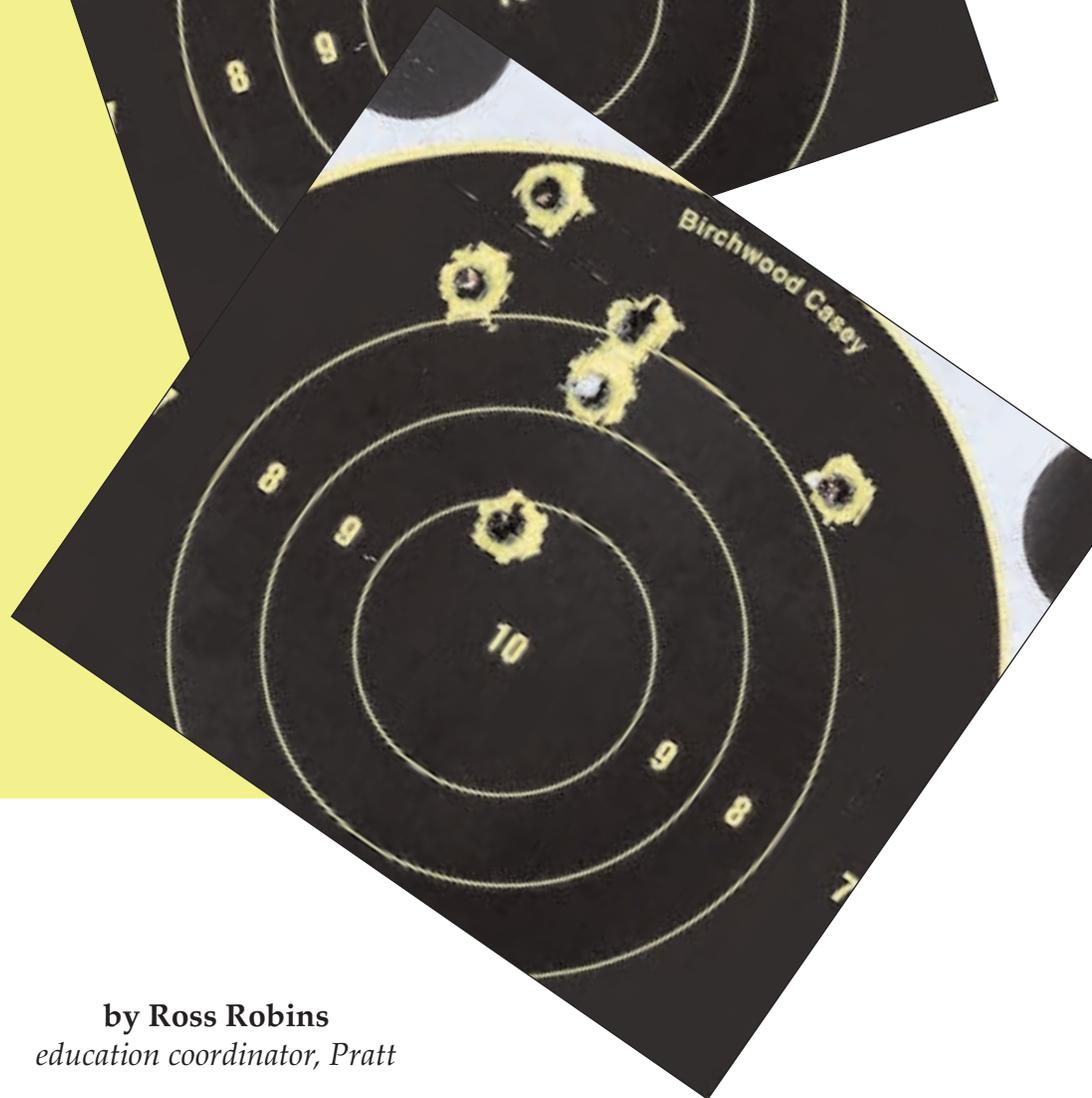


Fish & Wildlife	61 %
Parks	27 %
Administration	9 %
Boating	3 %

Totals **100 %**



NEW AND IMPROVED SHOOTING RANGES



by Ross Robins
education coordinator, Pratt

photos by Mike Blair

Through a grant program and valuable partnerships, private and public shooting ranges have been constructed and improved across Kansas, providing “new and improved” shooting opportunities.

In the old days, a shooting range was often considered nothing more than a pile of dirt behind a target. That is no longer the case. Shooting range technology has evolved, and increasingly, modern shooting ranges are more than just a bullet stop. Many ranges now boast carefully sloped backstops and side-berms, and they sometimes incorporate additional features, such as overhead baffles or horizontal bullet catchers. These features often add to the safety or convenience of a shooting range.

Overhead baffles, for example, are barriers supported on posts that run across the top of a range, designed to restrict or interrupt errant off-the-target shots. Horizontal bullet catchers, or eyebrow catchers, are devices installed along a backstop, a berm, or on the range floor, and are designed to capture ricocheting projectiles. Several of the department's recent shooting range projects, such as those at Cheney, Fancy Creek, Shawnee State Lake, Garnett, and Horton



With proper planning and construction, shooting ranges can be very safe. Most ranges in Kansas are privately owned and operated, but there are few on public land.

contain some of these features.

Hunting and shooting have always been favorite outdoor activities among Kansans. Reasonable access to safe places to sight-in rifles or pattern shotguns prior to hunting, and to learn, practice, and enjoy recre-

ational shooting, is an important need. Youth shooting programs, such as those supported by the department's "Pass It On" program, are increasingly popular, and require places to shoot. In addition, there is a need to provide live-fire training to more hunter education classes throughout the state in order to better train new hunters.

In response to the need for safe, convenient places to shoot, KDWP has recently been building and improving shooting ranges on department properties. The department has also worked with partners to build and improve shooting ranges on private and municipal properties. These shooting range projects were funded by hunters and shooters, with money they spent for department-issued licenses and permits.



Covered shooting lines and baffles can prevent bullets from being fired in an unsafe direction. Downrange, a berm with bullet catchers stop all bullets.

The following projects were built on state managed properties:

FANCY CREEK

The Fancy Creek Range, located three miles east of Randolph in Tuttle Creek State Park, was completed in 2002. The facility features fully baffled 100-yard rifle and 50-yard pistol ranges. This shooting range project was a cooperative effort between The Friends of Fancy Creek Range and KDWP. The friends group is essentially an off-shoot of the Riley County Fish and Game Association and was formed specifically to assist with the construction of the range, as well as to help maintain the range after it was completed. Through the efforts of the



Recreational shooting is fun for all people of all ages. While many shoot to prepare for hunting season, competitive shooting is an enjoyable and rewarding sport.

friends group, the project received several thousand hours of volunteer labor and many donations of materials.

The range is open an average of two weekends per month and is manned by certified range officers who belong to the friends group. The range is open more

during warm weather when demand is higher. The range is located within park boundaries, so a daily or annual vehicle permit is required. Daily permits are available at self-pay stations, and annual permits can be purchased at the park office.

Information regarding special events at the range and days of operation can be obtained from

the Tuttle Creek State Park Office, (785) 539-7941.

CHENEY

The Cheney Shooting Range, located at the north end of the Cheney Wildlife Area, was built by the department in the 1960s. It had been extremely popular



Improvements at some shooting facilities include concrete walkways and shooting lines, making them accessible to persons with disabilities.



Stuart Schrag photo



Just recently completed, the Cheney Shooting Range is located on the Cheney Wildlife Area near Cheney Reservoir. It is now staff operated, and only open on certain days.

with Wichita-area shooters prior to closing for renovation two years ago. The major renovations and improvements, completed earlier this year, and changes in the operation of the range have made it safer and easier to use.

Lead that accumulated in the backstop over the years was removed, and the range floors were elevated to reduce the pooling of rainwater. A drainage system was constructed, and limestone filter traps were installed to capture any lead that might be present in rainwater run-off. The heights of the backstops and side berms were increased, and a large horizontal bullet catcher was placed in front of the backstop. In addition, cement shooting pads were poured and equipped with solid plastic

shooting benches anchored in concrete. A unisex toilet was installed, as well as disabled-accessible sidewalks.

Prior to these renovations, shooting was unsupervised. The range is now supervised by certified range officers employed by KDWP. The range offers

shooting opportunities for rifles and pistols at distances of 25 yards and 100 yards. Anchored target holders with poly-foam backers are provided at each of the 18 shooting stations. The range is open Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The range is closed to the public all other days, including state-designated holidays. There is no charge to use the facility. Users are required to fill out a survey form, which serves as their permit to use the range.

HOLLISTER

The Hollister Shooting Range is located on the Hollister Wildlife Area in Bourbon County, approximately 8 miles southwest of Fort Scott. The range was constructed in 1996, in cooperation with the Old Fort Sharpshooters and accommodates rifle and pistol shooting out to 100 yards. The Old Fort Sharpshooters entered into a friends group agreement with



The Fancy Creek Shooting Range at Tuttle Creek State Park is a state-of-the-art facility. It is operated by the Friends of Fancy Creek, made up of Riley County Sportsmen's Association members.

the department, and they take care of range operation and maintenance. Through the efforts of this group, the Kansas National Guard was enlisted to do the earthwork and parking lot construction.

Recent improvements to the range include a cover for the firing line, a pre-fabricated vault toilet, and the construction of earthen side berms to accommodate simultaneous rifle and pistol shooting at varying distances. The range is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the year. For more information call the Hollister Wildlife Area at (620) 449-2539.

SHAWNEE STATE LAKE

The shooting range at Shawnee State Lake is located approximately 7.5 miles north and 2.5 miles east of Silver Lake.



Shawnee State Lake Shooting Range is still undergoing extensive renovation which will include installing overhead baffles. It is operated by the Shawnee County Hunter Education Association.

It was built by KDWP in the 1960s and is undergoing extensive renovation. This project entails lengthening the range to 100 yards, installing overhead baffles and firing line cover, and increasing the height of the side berms. Once this project has been completed, the range will be operated by the Shawnee

County Hunter Education Association and will be open to the public on a regular basis.

Shooting Range Grants

In addition to developing and improving ranges on department lands, KDWP formed partnerships with municipalities and private entities to build or improve shooting ranges located off of state property. Partners provided a minimum of 25 percent of the construction costs and in return agreed to operate and maintain the ranges, keep them open to the public, and allow KDWP to use facilities special events and programs.

Over a period of four years, the department entered into shooting range grant agreements with 20 different partners. Two of the largest grants went to the cities of Garnett and Horton, each of which built fully baffled rifle and pistol ranges. The ranges are open to the public, and are manned by certified range officers.

Unfortunately, budget restraints have forced the department to eliminate the shooting range grant program.



The Hollister Shooting Range is in Bourbon County. It is operated by the Old Fort Sharpshooters friends group. It is open Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the year.



Shooting ranges can be operated and funded in a variety of ways. Horton's range is operated by the city of Horton, but it does provide the public a place to shoot.

However, the short-lived program had a positive impact on Kansas shooters. The partnerships allowed dollars to be stretched and resulted in the construction of quality facilities. The public has more places

to shoot, and our partners in the grant program are taking care of the range operation and maintenance. 🎯



RANGE RULES

Below are some universal shooting range rules that all shooters need to be aware of, but it's also a good idea to check with each range and find out what unique rules or procedures it may require.

Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Know your target and what is beyond.

Be sure the gun is safe to operate.

Know how to use the gun safely.

Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.

Wear ear and eye protection as appropriate.

Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.

Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

FINDING PLACES TO SHOOT

The Department maintains a list of shooting ranges in Kansas that are open to the public. The list describes the location of each range and the types of shooting available there. The list can be found on the department website (www.kdwp.state.ks.us), and is available by request from the Pratt office (620) 672-5911. Target shooting on department lands is allowed only in designated areas.



**text and photos
by Marc Murrell**
*manager, Great Plains
Nature Center, Wichita*

Entering a deer into the record books requires a score derived from measurements taken from its antlers. Here's how.

WHAT'S IT SCORE?

If you asked a handful of deer hunters about their favorite trophy buck, you'd likely get a handful of different answers. Some prefer wide spreads while others might judge the antlers' merit by the number of points. Massive antlers would be mentioned, as well as tine length. Certain characteristics of antlers are individual preference, but they all add up to a measured score that allows hunters to compare and rank antlers.

Scoring trophies isn't new.

One of the oldest conservation and record-keeping organizations in the country, the Boone and Crockett (B&C) Club, was founded in 1887. Pres. Theodore Roosevelt and ten of his influential friends initiated the venture as a result of the vast numbers of passenger pigeons and bison killed by unregulated market hunting during the previous decade. Goals of the club were simple, focusing on the conservation of critical wildlife habitat and the principle of fair

chase hunting. The B&C Club currently maintains records for 35 species of big game.

While the B&C Club is the oldest and most noted scoring organization, the Pope and Young (P&Y) Club was founded nearly 40 years ago. It was named in honor of pioneer bowhunters Dr. Saxton Pope and Arthur Young, whose exploits with a bow during the early part of this century drew national attention. Known as the leading bowhunting and

conservation organization in the country, the P&Y Club was patterned after the B&C Club. The P&Y Club advocates and encourages responsible bowhunting by promoting quality, fair chase hunting and sound conservation practices.

Muzzleloader hunters aren't left out. The Longhunter Muzzleloading Big Game Records Program keeps records of big game taken with muzzle-loading firearms. It is administered by the National Muzzleloading Rifle Association and recognizes 32 species of big game in its record book.

These two organizations compare white-tailed deer antlers using the same formula that measures antler length, circumference, and symmetry. The inside spread of the rack is measured along with the length of each main beam and tine, or point. Circumference, or mass, is measured in four places along the main beam. Abnormal points (those that do not project upward from the main beam) and differences between corresponding left and right antler measurements (lack of symmetry) are subtracted from the



Certified scorer Ron Little is shown taking measurements on a nice whitetail rack. Measurer's tools usually include a metal tape and a cable.

final score.

There are two categories for most big game species; typical and nontypical. If a rack has at least one abnormal, or nontypical, point, it can be entered in the nontypical category. It can't be entered in both typical and nontypical categories. Generally, racks with just a few inches of nontypical points are entered in the typical category.

White-tailed deer antlers are judged against the idea of a perfectly symmetrical rack. Antlers that are exactly the same on both sides would have no deductions. The spread is added to the sum of the measurements from the right and left antler providing a gross. Any deviations from perfect symmetry results in points (actually inches) being taken away from the total score to end with a net score.

Whitetail antlers have intrigued hunters for ages. Early hunters used

antlers for tools and decorations. Modern hunters often use antlers for decoration or they may have a taxidermy mount of the deer's head to commemorate the animal and the hunt. A deer with large antlers is usually an older deer and hence more intelligent and difficult to hunt. Many deer hunters enjoy matching wits with these fascinating creatures, and when hard work, time and luck finally come together in a successful hunt, the antlers are a prized trophy.

If you want to see where your deer ranks in Kansas, you can refer to the Top 20 List, which is an unofficial record kept by KDWP. Available through the department's website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us, the Top 20 List includes white-tailed and mule deer take with bows and rifles in both typical and nontypical categories. You can also apply for a Kansas Trophy Deer Award certificate. To qualify for a state award, the antlers must be measured by a



certified B&C, P&Y or KDWP measurer. All record-keeping organizations have minimum scores. To qualify for a Kansas Trophy Deer award, a white-tailed deer taken with a bow would have to score at least 115 in the typical category and 120 in the non-typical category. If taken with a firearm, a typical set of antlers would have to score at least 135 and non-typical antlers would have to score at least 150. There is no charge.

To qualify for listing by P&Y's record book, a typical whitetail would have to score at least 125 and a non-typical at least 145. Minimum score for B&C's all-time record book is 170 for typical whitetail and 195 for non-typical whitetail. Both record-keeping organizations require that antlers be scored by certified scorers after the antlers have been allowed to dry for 60 days after harvest, and there is a fee to be listed in either record book. For more information about the Boone and Crockett Club log on at www.boone-crockett.org. For more information about the Pope and Young Club log at www.pope-young.org.

Hunters will always keep records so that they can compare their deer with those of others. However, the best way to judge the score of a deer is whether or not you're happy with the overall experience. Getting caught up in the score of a deer's antlers can take away from what should be a wonderful experience. Judge a deer by what makes you happy, not by someone else's score standards. If you want to compare antlers, then by all means have them scored, or score them



Mass is measured at four places on each main beam. In the Boone and Crockett's measuring system, symmetry between the left and right side is rewarded.

yourself. You can score your own by simply following the instructions on B&C's website. You'll need a tape measure, pencil, and cable or string. An

electronic score sheet and instructions are available at the site. Have fun. 🦌

DEFINITIONS

Main Beams-The sweeping portion of the antler attached to the skull from which the points or tines originate.

Inside Spread-The widest distance between the inside of the two main beams.

Mass-The distance around the main beam of the antler. This is measured in four places. They are between the skull and brow tine, brow tine and second point, second and third point and third and fourth point. In the case of an 8-pointer, the last circumference measurement is taken halfway between the third point and tip of the main beam. The smallest figure is recorded for each location.

Tines or Points-A point must be at least 1-inch long from its tip to its base line AND it must exceed the width at some location on the point at least 1-inch down from its tip.

Typical Points-Points that extend upward in a "normal" fashion from the main beam.

Non-typical Points-Points that do not project upward from the main beam, or that appear at "odd" locations or that branch from other points.

Kicker-Usually a small, non-typical point that protrudes from the base of the rack or another point.

November's

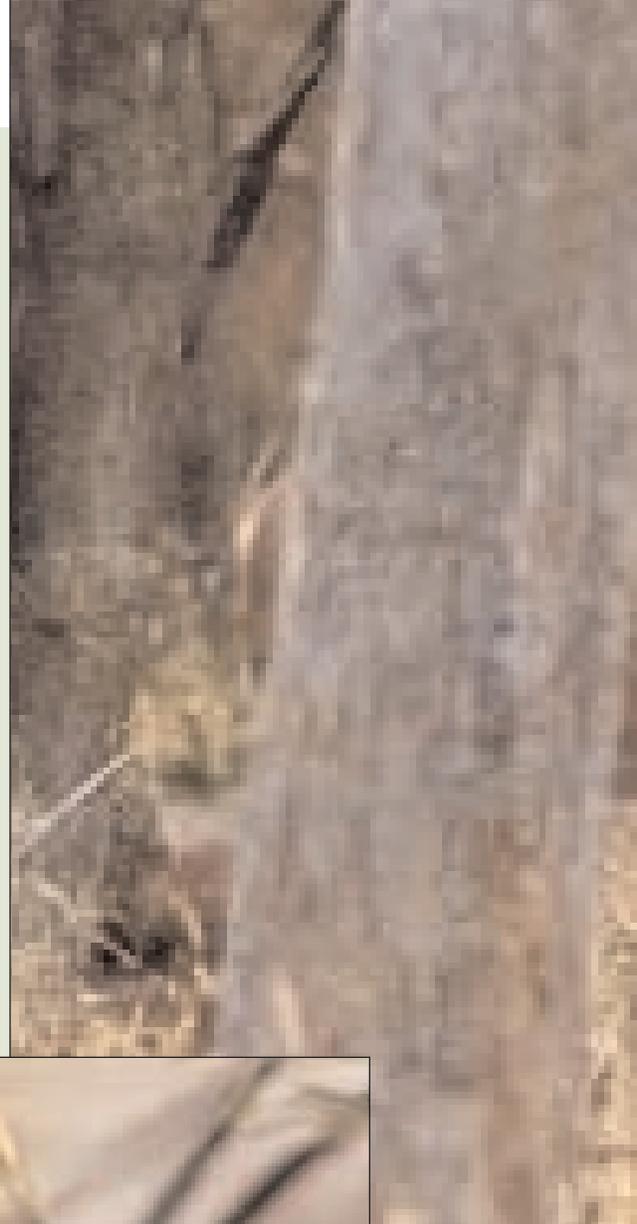
Rut

by Mike Blair





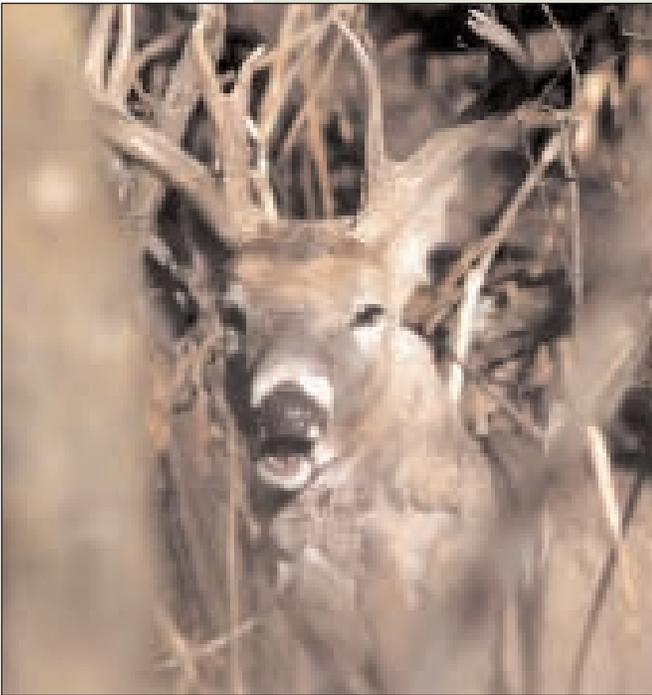
November. Twenty-eight degrees at sunrise, and the wind is finally northwest. High pressure is building, the sky is clear, and today is the day. Bucks will hit the trails to search for does. It's not about food now; the rut is on.





You wait all year for this day. You glass the summer hills, hang trail cameras, and watch feed fields, hoping to see horns. You fight chiggers, swat mosquitoes, wipe sweat, build stands — all to be ready for this day. You press into October's woods, knowing it's too early, but unable to wait. Fall's grand kaleidoscope surrounds you, hinting at what is to come. And then — it's November.

Big bucks move, deserting night's safety to appear in your world. It's a priming time, when rubs and scrapes trace travel ways and show the intentions of male deer. Bucks prowl the habitat, asserting ownership. Now they are visible — and vulnerable.



Challenges and fights are commonplace. Most are harmless, but some leave scars. Even the injured press on with broken antlers and open wounds. The rutting urge is strong.





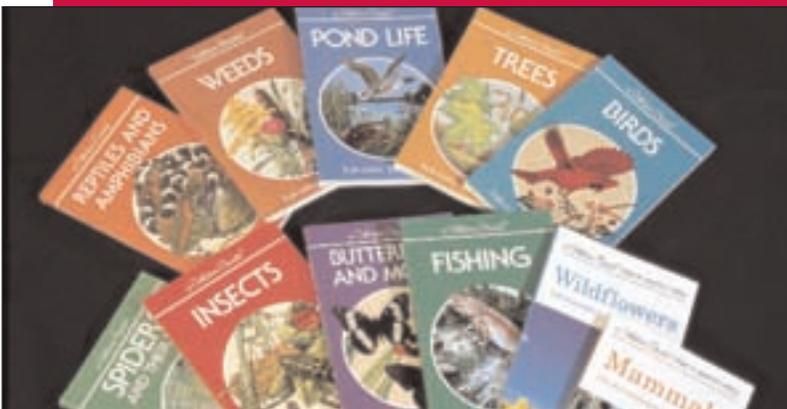
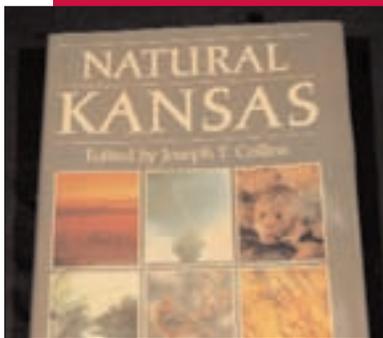
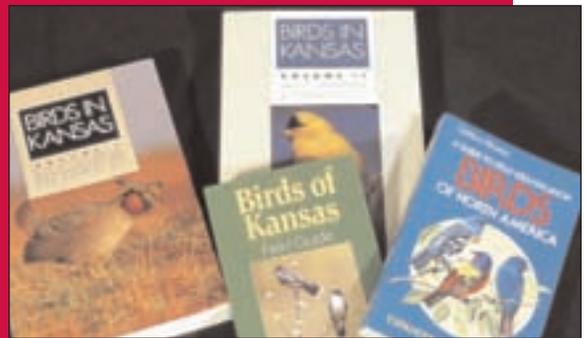
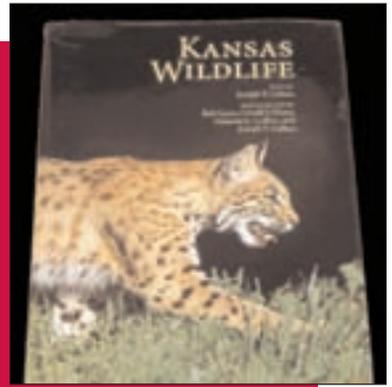
*For a few short weeks, bucks
mingle with the does. First they
chase, then patiently follow.
Finally, it is time.*

November's magic is realized.

Kansas Ou



Outdoor Store



OUTDOOR STORE ORDER FORM

Orders may be mailed in with check or money order or called in Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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- Birds of Kansas Field Guide \$12.95
- Insects in Kansas \$20.00
- Natural Kansas \$25.00
- Kansas Wildlife \$20.00
- Watching Kansas Wildlife \$5.00
- Hiking Guide To Kansas \$20.00
- Field Guide to Common Weeds of Kansas \$10.00
- Guide to Kansas Mushrooms \$20.00
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- Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie \$15.00
- Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Kansas \$15.00
- Roadside Flowers of the Southern Great Plains \$18.00
- Illustrated Guide To T&E In Kansas \$13.00
- Kansas Atlas and Gazetteer \$19.95
- Waterfowl ID In The Central Flyway \$1.00
- Wildlife ID Pocket Guide \$1.00

VIDEOS

- Deer In Kansas \$21.20
- The Wild Turkey Story \$21.20
- Birds In Your Backyard \$21.20
- Kansas Waterfowl: The Puddle Ducks \$21.20
- Shorebirds of Kansas \$21.20
- Shorebirds of Kansas (DVD) \$25.00

Shipping/handling:

Add \$7.00 for orders of \$30.00 and less.
Add \$9.50 for orders of more than \$30.00.
Make checks payable to KDWP.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____

Credit card order: Visa Mastercard

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Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

GUIDES

- Golden Guides** \$5.00
 - Fishing Trees Weeds
 - Mammals Wildflowers Spiders
 - Snakes Butterflies & Moths Pond Life
 - Birds Insects Amphibians & Reptiles
- Finder Guides** \$2.50
 - Berry Flower Fern
 - Tree Bird Track
- Pocket Naturalists** \$5.00
 - Animal Tracks Wilderness Survival
 - Pond Life Urban Wildlife
 - Butterflies & Moths Edible Wild Plants
 - Roadside Flowers

ACCESSORIES

- KDWP Hats** \$10.00
 - camouflage orange khaki loden/blue
- Denim Shirt (adult)** \$17.50
 - S M L XL XXL
- Buffalo T-Shirt (adult)** \$12.00
 - M L XL XXL
- Sweatshirt (adult)** \$20.00
 - M L XL XXL
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 - M L XL XXL
- Whitetail Wonders T-Shirt (youth)** \$10.00
 - XS S M L
- Wildlife Wisdom T-Shirt (youth)** \$10.00
 - XS S M L
- Coffee Mugs** \$5.00
 - white/blue cobalt/white purple/white
- Key Floats** \$2.00
- Frisbies** \$1.00
- Birds of Kansas Poster** \$5.00

**Call (620) 672-5911
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Or send order to:
**Outdoor Store, KDWP
512 SE 25th Ave.
Pratt, KS 67124**

Edited by Mark Shoup

TRAPPING MATTERS

Editor:

I would like to compliment you on a very interesting and colorful magazine. I have been a subscriber for many years, and we enjoy reading each and every issue.

The July/August 2004 issue had one of the best articles you have published, "Trapping Matters," by Mark Shoup (Page 39). It is a very explanatory article on one of the activities offered to outdoorsmen and women in Kansas. I would like to see more articles like it.

Because my wife and I are furharvester education instructors, attend several youth events, and help teach or organize classes each year, we truly enjoyed the article.

We would like to know if a copy of this article could be sent to us, so we don't have to separate our issue of the magazine. We would place it in our scrapbook that we have on display at our numerous outings.

Keep up the good work.

*Roger and Donna Macy
Portis*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Portis:

Thanks for your kind comments. We'll be happy to send to a copy of the article. Also, look for a feature article on this subject in an issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine next year.

-Shoup

TRAPPING MATTERS 2

Editor:

I just read Mark Shoup's article describing the experience he had taking part in the trapping information class given in Salina. I was also in attendance and would like to thank him for a well written article.

We trappers often are written about but rarely is the whole story laid out. I have trapped in the state of Kansas for the past 35 years and have done animal

damage control work since Lee Henderson of K-State gave a tele-conference back in the early 1980s. I am currently an officer of the Kansas Fur Harvesters Association, Inc., and once again would like to thank you for your unbiased view.

*Daniel D. Kvacik
Salina*

MOVE MUZZLELOADER

Editor:

I have enjoyed Kansas hunting for many years. (I'm now 53.) I have also hunted in Colorado, Nebraska, and Missouri, and I think Kansas is probably one of the best places in America to hunt. I have enjoyed deer hunting with both firearm and bow.

I am concerned that I will not be able to afford to hunt in my home state much longer as more and more land gets leased up for high dollar out-of-state hunting, but what I really wanted to write to you about is the muzzleloader season. I have tried muzzleloading now for the second year. Knowing that I just get one shot at my game and seeing that huge cloud of smoke just seems to add to the enjoyment of the hunt. I like the concept quite a lot, but hate the weather. It is just too hot and buggy, and deer don't seem to move much during the daylight hours in the heat.

Is there any way I could help convince KDWP to move the muzzleloader season to January? I think it would be much better in the cold weather. We have had January deer seasons for many years now for deer population control. Having muzzleloader season just before archery season is not especially popular with archers, either. And for those real traditionalists who would like to wear the fringed leather clothing and coonskin caps, January would be better for them, too.

I also think KDWP would sell more deer permits with a muzzleloader season in January. Also, those that just couldn't bag that big buck during the firearm season could give it another try in a January muzzleloader season. A January

muzzleloader season could also be longer than the current September season. This would also be good for retailers, especially those selling muzzleloader firearms and accessories.

When the smoke clears from suggesting such a change, I hope the KDWP can see the logic of it.

*Dave Griffith
Wichita*

Dear Mr. Griffith:

Thanks for forwarding the comments. As you may already know, we have attempted to put the muzzleloader season in October, but that was seen by some as taking away days from archers. The concept of a January muzzleloader season may have merit. I'll run the idea through staff.

*-Lloyd Fox, big game research
biologist, Emporia*

KUDOS TO GLEN ELDER

Editor:

My family and I and my wife's sister and her family from Hill City camped at Glen Elder last summer. I wanted you folks to know that Kurt Reed did a nice job seeing that the park was ready for the holiday weekend. Culverts were trimmed and weeds were taken care of around the campsites and fire rings (among other improvements).

I saw Mr. Reed many times in the campgrounds, visiting with folks, and his patrol was out in force keeping the peace. Just seeing these folks is great because it helps to give the campers a feeling that they and their property have a level of security. This also deters those who would violate parking and camping permit rules.

At the office, I found Lisa Silsby to be very friendly and helpful. She truly knows her business and does a great job representing and welcoming the new folks to the grounds.

Mr. Reed stopped by a couple of times and supplied us with information on events in the park. He has a good nature about him, and he is a great ambassador

for the state.

Please note that I, as well as others I have spoken to, are in favor of a fee attached to all license plates in place of resident parking permits. Please pursue this issue because it has merit and opens the parks to all.

*Allen Kee
Beloit*

CCC STATUE DEDICATION

Editor:

I wrote [Secretary Hayden] about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Statue Project that was initiated by a group of people with an interest in the CCC's history. Our goal was to raise \$20,000, and we did it. Thanks to your department for the \$2,000 grant. We ordered the casting of the statue, which is the 27th to be placed in Kansas. The statue is now located at the Marion County Park and Lake, near Marion, and a dedication was held on Oct. 2.

This site is an exceptional example of the work the CCC accomplished throughout the nation. Franklin Roosevelt's original plan for the CCC in 1933 was to put 500,000 young, unmarried men ages 17 through 23 to work in our forests, rangelands, and parks. He made a modification soon after to include veterans of the Spanish American War and World War I. The Marion Park and Lake CCC Company #4755 was comprised of black veterans of WW I.

The statue will recognize the three and one-half million men in the United States, including 38,163 Kansans, who restored our national treasures and created new ones.

*Helen J. Beckham
Marion*

ALL ABOUT EGRETS

Editor:

Today, seeing cattle egrets is common, in small and large groups. It seems to me that they are relatively new in this part of the country. I am 85 and don't recall them years ago. I have lived in Whitewater all my life, but I have some questions.

Where did they come from? What is

their diet? Are they migratory? How do you tell male from female? Why do you see them around cattle and horses? Are they edible? Where do they nest? Do they spread disease?

I think they deserve coverage in your magazine, which I think is great.

Also, will jack rabbits make a comeback? I haven't seen one in years. Did the mechanized coyote hunters get rid of them? I just don't see them anymore?

*Rollan K. Eberhard
Whitewater*

Dear Mr. Eberhard:

You are correct in your observations. Cattle egrets aren't native to Kansas or even North America, for that matter. We ran a story about them in the March/April 1999 issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine, which I've enclosed with this letter. They are native to Africa, commonly seen on the African plains feeding around large grazing animals, just as they are seen here, feeding around cattle. The grazing cattle stir up insects, which the egrets catch and eat.

Cattle egrets were documented in the Western Hemisphere in 1877, and have steadily expanded their range. They

were first spotted in Florida in 1941. The first reported sighting in Kansas was in 1964, and as you've noticed, today they are quite common here.

They migrate south during the winter. The sexes look alike. I can't tell you if they are edible, but I can tell you they are protected by the same laws that protect other herons and egrets.

Jack rabbits did make somewhat of a comeback in the western part of Kansas during the last few years of drought. And that is a key point. The drought changed the western Kansas landscape - there was less tall, lush vegetation. Jack rabbits are adapted to arid, shortgrass landscapes, and avoid predators by seeing them from long distances and outrunning them. They aren't adapted to surviving in tall, heavy grass or crops.

Jack rabbit numbers peaked during and shortly after the drought years in the 1930s. In the region of the state where you live, the landscape and farming practices have changed dramatically over the last 30 years, so jack rabbits have become rare.

Thanks for the letter and nice comments about the magazine.

-Miller



DEER CHECK STATIONS, 2004-2005

Deer hunters taking a deer in deer management units 1, 2, 3, 17 & 18 must take their deer to a check station within 48 hours after they kill the deer. Data will be collected from the hunter, and a

seal will be attached to the deer. This will allow a check of the report card system used to survey deer hunters. KDWP personnel will periodically be at these check stations to collect biological information

from the deer.

The primary reason for the check stations is to create locations where large numbers of deer may be examined and samples obtained to monitor the health of the herd, including checks for chronic wasting disease. Thank you for your cooperation with this project.

CITY	Business Name	Address	Phone #	Hours / Comments
Ashland	Clark Co. Sheriffs Office	221 W 9th	(620) 635-2802	8 am-5 pm Mon-Fri
Atwood	Northwest Arms & Service	720 S 2nd St.	(785) 626-3700	8:30 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri, 9 am-3 pm Sat., Phone # on door
Bucklin	Bucklin Oil Coop	201 S Main	(620) 826-3561	7:30 am-5 pm M-F; 8 am-noon Sat
Bunker Hill	Wildcat Bait & Tackle	4296 194th Blvd.	(785) 483-6217	24 hours / 7 days a week, Just ring bell
Cimarron	Ampride	901 East Ave. A	(620) 855-3728	5 am-10 pm Mon-Sat; 6 am-10 pm Sun
Colby	Bud VanHorn	1760 W 4th	(785) 460-2781	7:30 am-5 pm Mon-Fri, Sat 7:30 am-Noon, Colby Lumber Yard
Dighton	Lane Co. Sheriffs Office	144 S Lane	(620) 397-2828	24 hours / 7 days a week
Dodge City	Ford Co. Fire & EMS	10986 113 Rd.	(620) 227-4638	24 hours / 7 days a week, Near Airport
Elkhart	Morton Co. Sheriffs Office	1025 Richard St.	(620) 697-4313	24 hours / 7 days a week, Behind Courthouse
Ellis	Gnad Fur Company	1305 Baughman	(785) 726-3149	9 am-9 pm / 7 days a week
Ellis	Sport Haven (Cedar Bluff)	12 M south Ogallah	(785) 726-4457	8 am-8 pm / 7 days week, Phone # on door
Garden City	Coyote Shooter Supply	1203 N Taylor	(620) 276-8171	1 pm-6 pm, Mon-Sat
Goodland	Goodland Sinclair	2320 Commerce Rd.	(785) 890-6855	6 am-10 pm / 7days a week
Goodland	Bob's Wildlife Taxidermy	303 Grand	(785) 821-1207	3 pm-8 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-8 pm Sat & Sun, Phone # on door
Gove	Cook's Feed & Seed	105 W 2nd	(785) 938-4484	8 am-5 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-12 pm Sat, Phone # on door
Greensburg	Rattlesnake Creek Outfitters	1 E, 7 1/2 N Greensburg	(620) 723-3005	8 am - 6 pm / 7 days a week
Hays	Outdoor Edge	1003 E 37th	(785) 628-2993	8 am-9 pm Mon-Sat, Sun 12pm-6pm
Hill City	J&M Taxidermy	819 W Main St	(785) 421-2848	Noon-8 pm / 7 Days a week. Phone # on door
Holcomb	Ron's Market	106 N Jones	(620) 277-2073	8 am-9 pm Mon-Sat, 8 am-8 pm Sun
Hoxie	Bainter Oil Service	929 Main St.	(785) 675-3903	7 am-6 pm Mon-Fri, 7am -2pm Sat
Hugoton	Stevens Co. Sheriffs Office	510 Monroe St.	(620) 544-4386	24 hrs / 7 days week, Best time 8 am-5 pm
Jetmore	Hodgeman Co. Sheriffs Office	500 Main St	(620) 357-8391	9 am-5 pm Mon-Fri
Johnson	Stanton Co. Sheriffs Office	208 N Chestnut	(620) 492-6866	24 hours / 7 days a week
Kalvesta	Dodge City Coop	33760 East Hwy 156	(620) 855-3591	8 am-5 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-Noon Sat
Kensington	Country Corner	P.O. Box 216	(785) 476-2282	6:30 am-9:00 pm / 7days a week
Kinsley	Edwards Co. Sheriffs Office	312 Mass St.	(620) 659-3636	8 am-5 pm Mon-Fri Near Courthouse
Kismet	Riverbend Taxidermy	706 Market St.	(620) 563-7659	24 hours / 7 days a week
Lakin	Alan Peters	1105 S Hamilton St.	(620) 355-6213	By phone appointment
Larned	The Butcher Block	14th & Trail St.	(620) 285 6376	8 am-5 pm Tues-Sat, More hours in Dec.
Leoti	Wichita Co. Sheriffs Office	204 S 4th St.	(620) 375-2723	8 am-8 pm / 7 days
Liberal	Rash Oil	563 E Pancake	(620) 624-2214	6 am-10 pm / 7 days
Logan	Logan Hardware	200 Main St.	(785) 689-7592	8 am-6 pm M -Thur. 8 am-8 pm F-Sat
Meade	Corner Auto Parts	109 E Carthage	(620) 873-5161	8 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-noon Sat
Minneola	C Plus	Hwy 283 & 54	(620) 885-4395	6 am-10 pm Mon-Sat, 7 am-10 pm Sun
Montezuma	County Feeds	W Hwy 56	(620) 846-2259	8 am-6 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-5 pm Sat
Ness City	South Fork Meats	S Highway 283	(785) 798-3464	8 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri, 7 am-9 pm Dec1-12
Norton	Phillips 66	407 W Holme (Hwy 36)	(785) 877-2274	7 am-9 pm Mon-Sat, 8 am-8 pm Sun
Notoma	Masters Oil	718 N 2nd	(785) 885-4804	6 am-6 pm Mon -Sat, Closed Sun.
Oakley	Oakley Premium Meats	3847 Hwy 40	(785) 672-3220	8 am-5:30pm Mon-Fri, 9 am -1 pm Sat
Oberlin	Dales Fish and Fun	502 E Frontier Pkwy	(785) 475-2201	9 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-4 pm Sat, Phone # on door
Osborne	Camelot Inn	933 N 1st/US 281hwy	(785) 346-5413	7 am-11 pm / 7 days a week
Osborne	Corner Cupboard	200 S 1st St.	(785) 346-2929	5:30 am-10 pm Mon-Thur, 5:30 am-12 am F 5:30 am -12 am Sat, 7 am-10 pm Sun
Phillipsburg	Phillipsburg Locker Plant	759 3rd St.	(785) 543-2312	8 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri, 9 am-Noon Sat
Plainville	Carmicheal True Value	201 W Mill St.	(785) 434-2927	8 am-6 pm Mon-Sat, Closed Sunday
Russell	Westside Propane	616 W Wichita	(785) 483-5450	6 am-9 pm Mon-Sat, 8 am-8 pm Sun
Scott City	Scott Co. Sheriffs Office	301 Court	(620) 872-5805	24 hours / 7 days a week
Sharon Spgs	Fox Still	421 Elm St.	(785) 852-4318	8 am-6 pm Mon-Fri, Call Sat-Sun
Smith Center	Smith Co. Sheriffs Office	217 S Jefferson	(785) 602-2538	8 am-5 pm / 7 days a week
Spearville	JT Phillips 66	10396 126th Rd Hwy 50/56	(620) 385-2782	6 am-11 pm / 7 days a week
St. Francis	Tri-State Gun Shop	223 W Washington	(785) 332-2731	8 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am-Noon Sat
Stockton	Baxter Bait & Tackle	424 Main St.	(785) 425-6321	8 am-5 pm / 7 days a week
Sublette	Haskell Co. Sheriffs Office	300 Inman St.	(620) 675-2289	24 hours / 7 days a week
Syracuse	Double J	204 W Ave. A	(620) 384-5033	5 am-10 pm / 7 days
Tribune	Ampride Convenience Store	Hwy 96 & 27	(620) 376-2311	5 am-11 pm / 7 days
Ulysses	Grant Co. Sheriffs Office	210 E Central	(620) 356-3500	24 hours / 7 days a week
Wakeeney	D & E Towing	4th & Barclay	(785) 743-5680	8 am-6 pm / 7 day a week

Some locations may no longer be valid. Please check with the station listed before bringing deer in.

Trails Council's 30th Year



The Kansas Trails Council (KTC) was created in 1974 when a group of trail enthusiasts joined together to build multi-use trails near several Kansas lakes. In 1978, KTC officially became a non-profit 501c3 corporation dedicated to promoting the development and enjoyment of Kansas trails.

Over the past 30 years, in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers and KDWP, KTC has developed and currently oversees the maintenance of the North Shore and the George Latham Trails at Clinton Lake, the Perry Lake Trails, the El Dorado Lake Trail, the Tuttle Creek Trails, the Eagle Rock Biking and Elk River Hiking Trails at the Elk City Reservoir, and Ike's Trail at Melvern State Park.

KTC members include hikers, bikers, runners, equestrians, and paddlers. KTC trail coordinators and 12 Board members are volunteers who collectively spend thousands of hours each year working on Kansas Trails.

KTC trail coordinators organize and train local trail maintenance teams to develop and maintain sustainable trails according to established standards.

KTC's primary purposes are as follow:

- develop and maintain trails in Kansas;
- provide resources to trail developers and trail stewards;
- provide trail information to interested parties; and
- educate trail stewards and trail users.

KTC assists prospective trail stewards in developing new trails through the George Latham Legacy Grant program by purchasing trail equipment and providing training and other resources.

More information about the KTC can be found at www.kansastrailsCouncil.org.

—Kansas Trails Center

NO CHANGE IN TOPEKA SHINER PROTECTION IN KANSAS

On July 27, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released its announcement regarding the final designation of critical habitat (50 CFR Part 17, Vol. 69, No. 143: 44736 44770) for the endangered Topeka shiner. The Topeka shiner was listed as a federally endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on Dec. 15, 1998. The shiner was listed as a threatened species by the state of Kansas under the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975 on Nov. 11, 1999.

The Topeka shiner is a small minnow found in small- to mid-sized prairie streams with relatively high water quality and cool to moderate temperatures. Populations have been greatly reduced

over much of the historic range.

Critical habitat for the shiner in Kansas was excluded from federal designation at the request of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) because Kansas has a recovery plan in place that provides comprehensive conservation measures and programs necessary to achieve recovery of the Topeka shiner. This recovery plan was evaluated by the USFWS and satisfied the following criteria: 1) the plan provides a conservation benefit to the species; 2) the plan provides assurances that it will be implemented; and 3) the plan provides assurances that it will be effective.

Under the ESA, critical habitats are geographic areas identified

by the USFWS that contain features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and may require special management considerations. Critical habitat designation does not affect land ownership or allow government or public access to private lands or establish a refuge, wilderness, reserve, preserve, or other conservation area.

The Topeka shiner is still federally-protected as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Thus, its level of protection has not changed in Kansas either at the federal or state levels. As before the critical habitat exclusion, any activity involving federal funding, permitting, or authorization would continue to require some form of consultation with the USFWS regarding potential effects to the Topeka shiner. In most cases, this is already occurring under the Section 7 inter-agency consultation requirements of the ESA.

Similarly, certain activities are statutorily subject to KDWP regulation if they are publicly funded, state or federally assisted, or require a permit from another state or federal government agency to protect species listed as threatened or endangered as designated by the Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1975. Kansas statutes and regulations require the issuance of special action permits from KDWP for activities that affect listed species before such activities may proceed.

The final ruling on the Topeka shiner can be found on the internet at <http://mountainprairie.fws.gov/species/fish/shiner>.

—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREME

Sometimes "environmentalists" do more harm than good to the cause of conservation when they make rash statements that alienate the general public. Here are a few examples:

"Should we eliminate suffering, diseases? The idea is beautiful, but perhaps not a benefit for the long term. We should not allow our dread of diseases to endanger the future of our species... In order to stabilize world population, we need to eliminate 350,000 people a day. It is a horrible thing to say, but it's just as bad not to say it." — Jacques Cousteau, *UNESCO Courier* (French language edition), November 1991

"If I were reincarnated, I would wish to be returned to earth as a killer virus to lower human population levels." — Prince Philip of England, World Wildlife Fund president (1981-1996), from *Insider's Report*, American Policy Center, December 1995; p. 3.

"We need to seek the most compassionate way of weeding out people. Nature would be much better off without us." —Rosemary Radford Ruether, author of *EcoFeminism and Deep Ecology*, in *The Wanderer*, June 11, 1998, p. 1.

—Shoup

PARENTS, TEACHERS: PETA WANTS YOUR KIDS

A 15-year-old girl attempts to ban circus elephants in Denver. A rash of adolescent driven, animal-rights-related vandalism hits California. A 12-year-old boy passes the hat for animal rights. A popular software company promotes a video game about "animal liberation" activists who destroy medical research labs. Ten-year-olds in Ontario are shown "don't kill the animals" videos in public schools. North America's largest animal rights convention features two separate panels titled "Engaging Children."

Is there any doubt that the animal rights movement is targeting your kids? In its 2003 annual report, PETA boasts of reaching more than 2.3 million children and teachers with its destructive messages.

Despite denunciations from psychologists and school officials, PETA contin-

ues to target children as young as six years old with violent and graphic propaganda. Side-stepping parents and school authorities, PETA lures young and impressionable children into radical activism with a coordinated effort including the use of graphic comic books, grotesque toys, schoolyard demonstrations, email alerts sent directly to 65,000 children, and even a classroom lecturer with a felony rap sheet.

Not convinced? Read "Your Kids, PETA's Pawns" and learn how this radical animal rights group is a multi-million-dollar menace to children of all ages. Teachers, principals, school board members, and school psychologists can request printed copies by emailing name and job title, the name of school or school district, and a mailing address to research@consumerfreedom.com. The full report may be downloaded from www.consumerfreedom.com/news_detail.cfm?headline=2624.

—Center for Consumer Freedom

BOATING GRANTS AVAILABLE

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water will give grants of up to \$4,000 to local community organizations for projects that focus on increasing the voluntary use of life jackets by recreational boaters.

"Preferential treatment will be given to those that focus on increasing life jacket usage," says Chris Edmonston, director of the organization's Boating Safety Programs. The grant program has nearly \$40,000 available, and the deadline to apply is Nov. 1.

Over the past 15 years, the BoatU.S. Foundation has awarded more than \$615,000 in safety grant funds to organizations that develop innovative projects to promote safe boating on local waterways. Topics have ranged from creating literature on the effects of boating under the influence of alcohol to boat ramp signs informing users about free vessel safety checks.

"We believe that the creativity that goes along with a grass roots approach to increasing life jacket awareness, and education may yield some original ideas," Edmonston says.

KWF AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF) is accepting nominations for its annual Conservation Achievement Program (CAP) awards. The CAP program honors a number of candidates who have given considerable time and effort for wildlife conservation. The awards seek to honor those who have excelled in 13 categories this year:

- Conservationist of the Year;
- Wildlife Conservationist;
- Land and Soil Conservationist;
 - Water Conservationist;
 - Forest Conservationist;
 - Youth Conservationist;
 - Conservation Educator;
 - Conservation Legislator;
- Conservation Communicator;
- Conservation Organization;
- Outdoor Skills Instructor;
 - Stream Team; and
- Farmer/Rancher Wildlife Conservationist.

In addition, a Conservationist of the Year will be selected from the full slate of nominations.

"KWF is asking anyone active in these areas to consider worthy candidates they know and nominate them before Dec. 1," says Ken Brunson, CAP coordinator. "I know there are many conservation-minded individuals and groups that are deserving of recognition, and this is an excellent way to reward them."

Nomination forms and more information can be obtained by contacting Brunson at brunson@prattusa.com.

—Shoup

Boat and yacht clubs, flotillas, and squadrons that would like to apply for grants may download an application and learn more about boating safety grants online at www.BoatUS.com/foundation or phone 410-897-0943. The grants will be awarded in late January 2005.

—BoatU.S. Foundation News

BOWHUNTERS BEWARE: Power Poles Can Kill

The power pole was old and gray and appeared abandoned. Unfortunately, it was not. During the 2001 archery deer season, a Barber County hunter who thought an old power pole was no longer functioning was electrocuted when he decided to place his portable treestand on the pole.

Despite such freak accidents, hunting is safe. Very safe. Riding a bike and playing golf are more dangerous than hunting. Kansans experience fewer than 20 hunting accidents in most years (very few have been fatal) while hunters spend hundreds of thousands of hours afield. Of these few accidents, however, some are due to illegal or unwise behavior of the hunter, such as placing a portable stand on a power pole.

The Ninescah Electric Cooperative (NEC) is informing all bowhunters that this incident was not only unwise, it was illegal.

"It is critical that youth learn important life lessons in the outdoors from experienced, responsible hunters," says Les Rolo, director of operations for NEC. "While hunting is a safe activity, placing treestands on power poles is very dangerous. It's also illegal, and anyone caught doing this could be prosecuted."

Hunting regulations state that it is illegal to put any unauthorized equipment on power poles, such as portable tree stands and ladder stands. It can also be deadly.

"Pass It On: A little of your timethe time of their life!" That's the motto of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' Hunter Recruitment and Retention Program. Hunting is a valued natural heritage and one that most hunters want to pass on to the next generation. Making hunting safe is essential to this heritage.

This hunting season, be sure to "Pass it on" and hunt safely. But stay clear of power poles.

—Shoup



DID YOU KNOW?

Each day, I get a number of questions through the KDWP website feedback button, and each year, I get many of the same questions while manning our agency booth at the state fair. Some of the more common questions have to do with trespass, particularly railroad rights-of way, purple paint, and pursuit of wounded game. These issues are addressed under "Trespass" on Page 4 of the 2004 Kansas Hunting and Furharvesting Regulations Summary, as follows:

"It is illegal to hunt, shoot, or trap on private land without the owner's permission. Hunting from public roads and railroads requires permission of landowners on both sides of the road or railway. Railroad rights-of-way also require permission from the railroad.

"Written permission is required to enter land posted with hunting and/or trapping 'By Written Permission Only' signs or having trees or fence posts painted purple.

"Landowner permission should be obtained before pursuing wounded game onto private property. If you cannot find the landowner or get permission, contact your local natural resource officer."

—Shoup

Hunt Motives Matter

In a nationwide survey (see credit), 73 percent of Americans approved of legal hunting, and 81 percent think hunting should remain legal. However, public opinion varied dramatically when the motivation for hunting was considered.

The study found the following:

- Americans who were raised in a rural environment were more likely to support hunting;
- as level of education increased, support for hunting decreased;
- white Americans were more likely than minority Americans to approve of hunting;
- married Americans were more likely to support hunting;
- Americans who were raised in single-parent households were less likely to support hunting;
- Americans aged 18-24 were less likely to support hunting;
- men were more likely to approve of hunting;
- angling Americans were more likely to support hunting; and
- hunting deer, elk, waterfowl,

and small game is more acceptable than hunting large carnivores.

Americans feel differently about hunters than they do about hunting:

- 62 percent feel that many hunters violate hunting laws or are unsafe while hunting; and
- even 50 percent of active hunters feel that a lot of hunters violate hunting laws or are unsafe.

Concerns over hunter behavior and safety issues are primary reasons the majority of the public favors mandatory hunter education. Ninety-three percent of non-hunters and 89 percent of hunters agree that new hunters should be required to pass a hunter education course.

To read more about this study, go to www.responsivemanagement.com.

—from *American Attitudes Toward Scientific Wildlife Management and Human Use of Fish and Wildlife*



EDUCATE, NOT LITIGATE

by Mark Shoup

These days, it seems that everyone wants to sue someone or petition the government to get their way, whether the issue is well-intentioned or just plain self-serving. This “litigation mindset” has of late slithered into the much of the conservation movement’s strategy. On the High Plains, some laws or proposed regulations are intended to either exterminate or protect certain wildlife. Ironically, these opposing regulatory goals are sometimes equally destructive.

Take the black-tailed prairie dog, for example, one of the most common creatures associated with the High Plains. This squirrel-sized, highly-social rodent lives in intricate systems of underground burrows, feeding primarily on grass. Some of these “towns” may harbor thousands of dogs.

But the prairie dog does not thrive as it once did. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks estimates that prairie dogs inhabit only 11 percent of their original range in Kansas, compared to rough estimates made in 1901. Most of this is due to changing land-use practices, but some of the decline may be attributed to an archaic state law, also passed in 1901, that mandates elimination of prairie dogs as vermin.

One obvious solution to this problem would be to modify such laws and manage prairie dogs. Instead, in 1998, one prominent environmental organization led a group that petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to place the prairie dog on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species, a move that frustrated state wildlife agencies and enraged many landowners.

Another maligned shortgrass prairie inhabitant is the pronghorn. Although this creature’s generic name is *Antilocapra*, meaning “antelope goat,” it is not related to either antelope or goat. Found only in the High Plains of North America, it is the

sole survivor of an ancient family thought to date back millions of years. Fleet of foot, the pronghorn avoids its enemies by running at speeds up to 60 miles per hour.

In Kansas, the pronghorn has suffered under the misconception that it, like the prairie dog, is vermin. Despite research to the contrary, the pronghorn is often accused of being the primary cause of bindweed spread, leading some to believe that pronghorns should be shot on sight.

Then there’s the swift fox, which only weighs 5 pounds but can run 25 miles per hour. Combine this speed with keen hearing and eyesight, and the swift fox, like the pronghorn, is uniquely adapted to the shortgrass prairie. But its numbers – like those of the prairie dog and pronghorn – declined in the first half of the 20th century.

Early settlers noted that swift foxes were second in number only to the prairie dog on the plains, but by the early 1950s, they had been extirpated from Kansas. Early poisoning and trapping campaigns that targeted wolves and coyotes nearly wiped them out.

But the swift fox is an adaptable creature. By the 1960s, they were spotted more frequently, and by 1982, they had become common in western Kansas. That year, the Kansas Fish and Game Commission decided that the swift fox population was stable enough to establish a furharvesting season. However, few are harvested. Today, their numbers in Kansas are healthy and increasing.

But this smallest of all the world’s canines are actually threatened by the very factions that purport to be their saviors when groups such as the Biodiversity Legal Foundation pressured the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the swift fox as an endangered species.

And here’s the irony: listing could have

a negative effect on fox numbers. The swift fox’s number-one enemy is the coyote, but if the fox were listed, trappers who accidentally catch a swift fox would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Trappers catching coyotes actually help the swift fox, but listing could persuade trappers to halt this activity.

Wildlife agencies throughout the High Plains realize that many shortgrass species – such as the prairie dog, pronghorn, and swift fox – are habitat specialists that cannot adapt to habitat fragmentation and that these species have exhibited population declines. However, they also realize that education, not litigation, is the only hope for the species.

The article, “Prairie Dog Plan,” in the May/June 2002 “Issues” section of *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine outlined the efforts of state conservation agencies in the Great Plains to work together to prevent listing of the black-tailed prairie dog. A more recent article in the magazine, “Prairie Dogs, Cattle, and Controversy,” (Page 25) by K-State extension wildlife specialist Charlie Lee, details the effects of prairie dogs on the environment and cattle ranchers and provides an update on the activities of agencies working to prevent listing of the prairie dog.

Due in part to this effort, the USFWS has recently determined that the black-tailed prairie dog is not likely to become an endangered species and is no longer threatened as defined by the Endangered Species Act.

If the shortgrass prairie is cared for and native wildlife are respected, black-tailed prairie dog, pronghorn, and swift fox will thrive. But using litigation to force federal regulation will only drive a wedge between landowners and conservation agencies and do little for the species that need our attention.

Hooked For Life

Editor's note: This is a note that might ordinarily go in our "Letters" section, but I felt the accompanying photograph says so much about fishing that I just had to put it here.

— Shoup

Mark:

Here is a fisherman that I think is hooked for life after his first outing on Pomona. Thought it might work for a youth photo somewhere in the magazine in the future. I enjoy the magazine.

—Jerry Dudley, Topeka



IT'S TROUT SEASON!

It's that time of year again, when Kansas anglers get the opportunity to fish for a tasty species that isn't native to the state — rainbow trout. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks stocks rainbow trout in waters throughout the state at various times of the year, offering a special angling opportunity for both novice angler and seasoned flyfisherman.

Anyone fishing for trout in these waters from Oct. 15 through April 15 must purchase an \$11 trout permit. In addition, all residents 16 through 64, and non-residents 16 and older, must also have a valid fishing license.

Two new areas, Pratt Centennial Pond and Topeka Auburndale Park Stream, have been added to the program this year. Smoky Gardens at Goodland may not have trout stocked unless the area receives significant rainfall to fill the lake. In addition, trout fishing at Mined Land Wildlife Area #30 (Cherokee County) and Tuttle Creek Reservoir Seep Stream, where trout survive through the summer, require a trout permit year-round.

Trout will be stocked throughout the state during this season. Check the stocking schedule under "Fishing" on the KDWP website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us stocking dates and waters. Two areas no longer stock trout — Kanopolis State Park Pond and Glen Elder Stilling Basin.

For more information, email feedbacks@wp.state.ks.us.

—Shoup

REELING ON NEW LAKE

Kill Creek Lake, near DeSoto, opened last July, and local anglers were quick to catch on to the Johnson County Park and Recreation lake. Mary Brown, of Brown's Bait and Tackle in Olathe, noticed a steady flow of customers stocking up on minnows, night crawlers, and stink bait shortly after the lake opened.

"It's a real nice-looking lake, and people have been catching fish," Brown said. "Many of our customers have been talking about it, and they just keep going out."

The lake opened in June to youth only, with anglers doing well on channel catfish and smallmouth bass.

"When it opened for kids, they were just catching fish left and right," according to Monte Fiegel, park manager, "but to be quite honest, I think the fish have wised up a bit. It's not quite as fast and furious as it was, but it's still pretty good."

Not all fish in the lake are keepers. Park and Recreation

officials decided to open the lake to fishing earlier than planned because the catfish were outgrowing the other species and having a negative impact on those populations. Most of the bass are still under the legal 15-inch length limit but can provide a lot of action.

"If a guy sees his neighbor pull in a 6-pound catfish, he's going to quit bass fishing for awhile," Fiegel noted. "And then there's a lot of anglers who are catch-and-release people, and they like to come out for that mixed catch."

Kill Creek offers a special fishing experience because of the species the county decided to stock, including smallmouth bass and walleye, which aren't stocked at Shawnee Mission or Heritage lakes. Fiegel said the stocking mix was an experiment and that it will be a few years before they know if it was successful or not.

"Our lake structure allowed us to try smallmouth," said Fiegel. "We have some nice ledges, and we put in about 50 boulder piles and some brush piles for cover

before the lake filled. We hope this will provide viable smallmouth habitat."

The lake might also have another species during the winter months if park officials decide to extend the rainbow trout program to Kill Creek.

"While we are smaller than Heritage, I think we'll have better water quality for trout," Fiegel explained. "We're taking a wait-and-see attitude to determine if we'll get the visitation to support a trout program."

While the fishing is good, Fiegel said that there are plenty of trails and other activities and breath-taking views for the non-angler to enjoy.

"The lake nestles in the valley, and it's really pretty," he said. "Even if you're not a fisherman, come on out. There's plenty of other things to do."

To get the Kill Creek Park, take Kansas Highway 10 to the Kill Creek exit, then take Kill Creek Road south to 115th Street. Turn right on 115th, then turn left onto South Homestead Lane.

—Adam Lee, Johnson County Sun, July 22, 2004

Don't Tread On Me

Last September, wildlife diversity coordinator Ken Brunson got a call from a woman who said a hawk with a broken wing had been hanging around her place for several days. By the time Brunson got there, the red-tailed hawk had had an unfortunate encounter with a bull snake. The snake had the hawk in a death-grip.

We can only speculate about what happened, but it is a good guess that the weakened hawk pounced on the bull snake – a natural prey species for large hawks – and got more than it could handle. After taking a few pictures of this most unusual event, Brunson was able to remove the snake, but the hawk did not survive.

—Shoup



Dustin Teasley Photo

WHERE ARE WHIP-POOR-WILLS?

Walter Lewis of Tonganoxie wrote us asking the following question: "I have lived north of Tonganoxie for the past 25 years, in the wooded hills of Leavenworth County. I have enjoyed hearing the whip-poor-wills and the poorwills all of these years. This year, there are no more here. Do you or your people know what has happened to them?"

Mike McFadden, a KDWP wildlife biologist from Lawrence, answered this very

interesting question:

"I'm the district wildlife biologist for Douglas, Shawnee, and Wabaunsee counties. I live approximately 7 miles southwest of Lawrence, and I have also noticed fewer whip-poor-wills in my neighborhood in the past several years. I don't know specifically what has caused their absence or low numbers. There are some coincidental events though.

"As you are aware, we have gone through several years of drought. This bird and the chuck-will's-widow seem to prefer moist woodlands and meadows

close to woodlands. Those individuals may have moved to better habitat when migrating back from winter.

"While last year I don't believe I heard any, this year, I have heard a few individuals in my valley. In the past, I've heard as many as four or five at one time.

"The engineer I work with recently moved to the rural area northeast of Topeka, and he remarked to me that he has enjoyed the call of this bird. He had been entirely unfamiliar with them until now.

"The management of the land in your neighborhood may also be a factor. Activities such as haying or intensive grazing of woodland areas by domestic livestock may have altered the habitat so that it is undesirable for these birds. Rural residential development can also be a problem. Besides the direct loss of habitat, there may be increased predation by feral cats.

"In eastern Kansas, this is a bird that adds immensely to the outdoor experience of spring turkey hunting. If I don't hear whip-poor-wills and barred owls during the damp and sometimes foggy early morning hours of a turkey hunt, I don't feel like I'm in the hills of eastern Kansas."

—Michael T. McFadden



CHRISTMAS IN
AUGUST

The holiday spirit was kicked into high gear at Lovewell State Park on Saturday, Aug. 21, when the park hosted its second annual Campground Christmas. As all special events went last season at the park, this event drew more participants than in 2003. Twenty-three campsites were decked out in yuletide themes with lights, holiday cutouts, Christmas trees, and a variety of other traditional and non-traditional decorations.

Four judges circled the state park on Saturday evening to choose the winners. Winning first place were Tony and Renae Everson of Clay Center, Neb. Their campsite featured Santa riding in a boat pulled by a team of fish. Second place went to Mike Dunn of Superior, Neb. Dunn's site had a more traditional theme and included Dunn dressed as Santa. Dunn was also generous in handing out candy canes that "were picked fresh this morning."

Third place went to Amy Augustine of Hastings, Neb., with a pair of reindeer enjoying a ride on a brightly lit sail boat. Adding to the environment were two cheerleaders chanting "Jingle Bells" with a pep cadence.

The winners received various Lovewell camping permits as well as award plaques, and all other participants received a cedar reindeer made by park manager Rick Cleveland.

Several families also decided to celebrate the holidays with holiday dinners,



including turkey, dressing, and pumpkin pie. As the word spread throughout the park about what these folks were doing, several other campers said they are going to do the same thing next year by bringing together the groups they camp with all summer.

"Everyone who participated, and those who just enjoyed viewing the decorated campsites, had such a great time, I think the event will soon be one of our most popular. Some folks are already planning their decorations for next year", said Cleveland.

—Lisa Boyles, administrative assistant, Lovewell State Park

MEYER APPOINTED
TO COMMISSION

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has announced the appointment of Frank Meyer to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission. He will serve a four-year term.

"Kansas is fortunate to have great hunting and fish-

ing opportunities throughout the state. This is an important board with oversight of our beautiful parks and lands," said Sebelius. "We need Kansans with experience and appreciation for the opportunities and advantages of our public lands. Frank Meyer is well suited for this challenge. He led the effort to reorganize the Kansas Horseman's Association and take over the Flint Hills Trail. He is a strong supporter of public lands, has a good business sense, and is willing to roll up his sleeves."

Meyer, Herington, is the chairman and CEO of Custom Metal Fabricators, Inc. In 1992, he was named the Kansas Small Business Person of the Year, and in 1994, the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development named him Kansas Leader of the Year. He has a deep knowledge of Kansas lakes, streams, and rivers, as well as the state's wildlife. He is also an avid hiker and hunter.

—LeAnn Schmitt, special assistant, Topeka

GLEN ELDER 5TH
IN NATION

Last summer, *Field and Stream* magazine ranked the top state parks in the country. Guess what; our own Glen Elder ranked fifth in the nation.

"Glen Elder State Park, Kansas: Bring a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen because you won't find a shade tree at Glen Elder. What you will discover is the vast Kansas prairie, 12,500-acre Waconda Lake, and a long list of opportunities. Walleyes, white bass, stripers, smallmouths, crappies, and catfish are on the list. In the fall, you can add pheasants, doves, whitetails, and waterfowl to the mix.

"The Fishing: White bass top the list this month [August] with a furious shad bite, especially at night with a Shad Rap or soft jerkbaits. Fall brings better mixed-creel fishing. Spring is a spawning bonanza. Troll Rapalas below the dam for walleyes; hit the North and South forks of the Solomon River above the dam for whites; and dunk cut shad along the causeway riprap for big, hungry cats. Park Specs & Contacts: 13,200 acres, 420 campsites (120 with hookups), six boat ramps, marina, rental boats, (785) 545-3345, www.glenelder.com/ge_state_park.htm."

—*Field and Stream*, August 2004



The BIG SLEEP

Have you ever wished you could stay home in the morning and just sleep all day? Most of us have, but how about sleeping all winter? Just skip those cold winter months and enjoy spring, summer and fall.

Well, there are a number of animals that do just that. It's

Hibernating Woodchuck



called hibernation. Scientists don't really know how they do it, but it is pretty amazing.

During hibernation, animals hide somewhere, and their body temperature lowers dramatically. In this condition, they will remain "asleep" for weeks or

even months. In Kansas, woodchucks, gophers, turtles, frogs, snakes, bats, and many other animals hibernate. Some animals, such as squirrels, are only partial hibernators because even though they sleep most of the winter, they store up food and wake from

time to time to eat.

"Perfect hibernators" — those animals that store no food for winter — almost stop breathing. In fact, some actually do stop breathing altogether. The woodchuck wraps itself into such a tight ball

that its nose is stuffed under its belly so deeply that it can't possibly breathe. Frogs and turtles bury themselves in mud or under water, also making it impossible to breathe.

And the body temperatures of true hibernators drop so low — in some cases just a few degrees above freezing — that it seems impossible that they could stay alive. Remove a ground squirrel from its winter den, and it will be rigid, seemingly dead, until it warms up.

So if these critters are almost frozen, are barely or not breathing at all, and have no food, what keeps them alive? In most cases, it's a thick layer of fat underneath the skin. Their bodies slowly burn this fat through the long, cold winter, keeping their metabolism going.

What may be more amazing than hibernation itself, however, is the fact that some animals, such as the woodchuck, bear their young during hibernation. The young will nurse on the

Hibernating Toad



mother until she awakens.

One of the most common turtles in Kansas — the ornate box turtle — burrows under ground when the weather begins to cool and may not awaken until April or May. Frogs hibernate at the bottom of streams and ponds where the water does not freeze. Because they are already cold-blooded animals, frogs may actually freeze during winter, but they thaw out and wake up in the spring. Toads burrow underground, as well. Most Kansans have noticed toads emerging in late spring or early summer.

Snakes hibernate, too. They often slither into a hole, cave, or den beneath rocks and ravel themselves together. Dozens may hibernate in a ball to stay warm.

Believe it or not, bats hibernate, even while clinging upside down in an old barn or cave.

Huddled closely together in large group, they are able to stay relatively warm during their long sleep. This is true hibernation, and the bats don't wake until the weather is warm.

The most amazing thing about bat hibernation, however, is the fact that only one bat actually hooks itself to the ceiling of the shelter. All the other bats hook themselves to the first, or others hooked to

the first, until a cluster as large as 60 bats is formed, all held by the one for months. Now that is one strong bat. And it's doing this while not even breathing!

The flip side of all this behavior is that there are animals — some fish, reptiles, and insects — that never sleep. Pike, salmon, and goldfish never sleep. Many fly species never sleep, as well, and some snakes are suspected not to sleep. Humans, however, tend to get a little cranky if they don't get their sleep.

Although there are times when I'd rather not get out of bed in the morning, I sure wouldn't want to sleep all winter. I love snow, and winter provides some of the best hunting in Kansas. But hats off to those adaptable creatures that can survive winter simply by going to sleep.



Hibernating Snakes



Backlash

by Mike Miller

Natural Born Navy-Man's Savvy

Lennie doesn't own a boat anymore. And that's for the best. We were all relieved when he finally admitted he didn't possess what he referred to as "Navy-man's savvy."

I sold Lennie his first boat, and while I wasn't much of an expert, I felt obligated to give Lennie lessons. The boat and motor were sound, but there were some tricks to keeping it running. We met at the local lake.

"Be careful with the throttle control," I said while wiggling the lever back and forth. "If you push it too far forward, you'll pop the linkage gear out of position. If that happens . . ."

"Hey, that's a snowy plover on the rocks over there," Lennie interrupted rudely. "You don't see one of those every day."

"Lennie, if you're not going to pay attention, I'm wasting my time," I blurted.

"Sorry," Lennie said sheepishly. "But I have natural-born Navy-man's savvy. I could run this boat in my sleep." With that, Lennie shoved hard on the throttle lever and away we went.

Lennie was cavalier partly because he knew I'd be along on most of his upcoming trips. With each of us owning boats, we could lure other unsuspecting friends to accompany us. Lennie got along pretty well, initially. But his true lack of Navy-man's savvy was all too evident on a late-fall trip to Glen Elder.

Neither of us had done any winter fishing, but we'd heard the white bass hit best right before the lake iced over. One December, full of naive optimism, we headed for Glen. Lennie invited Ernie Tucker, whose name I had only recently learned. I'd known Ernie for years, but I'd never heard Lennie call him anything but Tuck. I coerced Jake Troutman to go. Jake had never caught a trout, so Lennie called him Carpmen just to irritate him.

To avoid cold waves on the main lake, we used a ramp in one of the creek arms. This required maneuvering downstream through flooded trees over a winding creek channel to reach the area we wanted to fish. Watching the depth finder, I quickly discovered the water was dangerously shallow just outside the channel.

When we finally hit the open water, I looked back for Lennie. He wasn't there.

"Look at that boat way over there going in circles," Jake said. "What in the world is he doing?"

I squinted in a direct line back toward the boat ramp, and Jake was right. There was a boat spinning around in circles. Funny thing was, one of the guys was

trying to run the boat with the trolling motor, while the other fished. Each time the boat spun around the guy fishing from the back of the boat had to raise his rod so the line passed over the fellow bent over the trolling motor in the front.

"That's Lennie and Tuck," I said disgustedly. "Lennie took a short cut rather than stay in the channel."

I went back to help. Tuck was still fishing contently, casting, cranking, and lifting the line over Lennie's head each time it came around.

"Why didn't you stay in the channel, Lennie?" I chided. "Your lower unit is stuck in the mud."

"This looked plenty deep," Lennie grumbled without looking up. "I can't steer my trolling motor. That's the problem."

I told Tuck to raise Lennie's big motor out of the water, and sure enough it was covered with mud. However, the boat still went in circles when Lennie pushed on the trolling motor foot pedal.

"Unplug it and plug it back in," Jake suggested. "That works with my computer."

"Yeah, right, Carpmen," Lennie huffed, giving Jake a sideways glance.

But he did it anyway — and it worked! The motor's power plug wasn't making full contact. Suddenly, Lennie could steer the boat in a straight line.

"If you would have stayed in the creek channel like I told you to, we'd be catching white bass now," I said.

"Lighten up, you grump," Lennie laughed. "Good thing I've got Navy-man's savvy, or we might have sunk her."

Tuck whipped a cast right by Lennie's ear, just to let him know he was ready to quit screwing around.

"Navy-man's savvy my eye," Tuck chuckled, only half kidding. "Let's go fishing."

Lennie knew when Tuck was serious. His raised his eyebrows at me and started his boat my direction.

"Lead the way," he yelled cheerfully. Then a little softer and with less cheer he whispered, "You could have taken my ear off with that thing, Tuck. It's not like I meant to get stuck."

"I'm beginning to think you are severely lacking in Navy-man's savvy," Tuck said crossing his arms.

And that was the beginning of the end for Lennie's boat-owning days. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the boat never sunk, although it came close a time or two. Tuck's words rang true to the end: Lennie severely lacked in Navy-man's savvy.

