

# KANSAS

*Wildlife & Parks*

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# KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

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Vol. 72, No. 2

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**Front Cover:** There's nothing quite as regal as a strutting wild turkey. The sights and sounds of the spring turkey woods inspire hunters and photographers alike. David Seibel photo. **Inside Front Cover:** Camoed up and sitting rock still, a turkey hunter uses his peg and slate call to imitate a hen turkey's yelps. If a gobbler responds, the apparent calm is sure to vanish, at least on the inside. Jon Blumb photo.

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magazine e-mail — [mike.miller@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:mike.miller@ksoutdoors.com)

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## Conservation Partners – Part Two

In the last issue, I wrote about how important our conservation partners are to everything the agency does. The focus of that column was on conservation organizations, friends groups and civic groups. However, many of those efforts would not be successful without our most important partners, the agriculture producers and landowners who live on and work the vast majority of land in Kansas.

When wildlife biologists look at improving or maintaining fish and wildlife populations, they focus on habitat, habitat and habitat. There are other factors that influence our wildlife populations, but most of them are out of our control, such as the weather. However, we can impact habitat conditions. Public land managers work year-round to improve and maintain habitat on public wildlife areas. Unfortunately, our public areas make up a tiny percent of the potential wildlife habitat and access in the state. To impact habitat conditions significantly enough to bolster wildlife populations, programs and projects must occur on private land. As hunters and anglers we also know how important private landowners are in providing the access so we can enjoy our outdoor pursuits.

Over the years, Kansas landowners who are interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land have participated in a variety of programs developed by KDWPT biologists. The basic biologist/landowner partnership involves technical assistance when a wildlife or fisheries biologist surveys a property and provides the landowner with a plan of action that will enhance habitat and improve wildlife and fish populations. All actions are voluntary and must be coordinated into the landowner's agribusiness plan.

KDWPT biologists also know that to have a significant impact on wildlife populations, habitat enhancements must be regional in size, as well as cost effective for operators. State programs that provide cost-share assistance have been developed, and include the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), the Pheasant Initiative, the Southeast Kansas Quail Initiative and the Landowner Incentive Program.

Many landowners also work with our biologists to help them identify federal programs, such as the Farm Bill, that offer income or cost-share incentives for cer-

tain land-use practices. The Farm Bill is anything but simple, and sorting through all the programs offered can be confusing and time-consuming. We've even placed some of our wildlife biologists in Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offices to help deliver wildlife-beneficial programs to landowners. These partnerships have the potential to impact wildlife habitat on a large scale and help farmers and ranchers conserve wildlife, provide opportunities for hunters and anglers and maintain profitable operations.

Other partnerships between KDWPT and landowners include our Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA) and Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) programs. These popular programs pay landowners to open their land to hunting and fishing access. Some agreements include long-term leases with bonus payments for habitat enhancements. Private farm ponds leased may be eligible for habitat improvements and fish stockings. In a state that is 97 percent privately owned, access can be an important part of hunter and angler retention and recruitment.

Through the fall WIHA program, landowners have provided hunters access to more than 1 million acres of land to hunt on. This program has more than doubled the amount of public land open to hunters, and has been extremely popular. There is also a Spring WIHA program that leases land primarily for turkey hunting. More than 200,000 acres were leased in 2014, and this program continues to grow in size and popularity.

Through the FISH program private landowners have provided anglers access to more than 1,900 acres of farm ponds and 72 miles of streams.

Partnerships with Kansas landowners are likely the most important and impactful partnerships we have, as they relate to wildlife conservation and hunting and fishing opportunities. Without them, we would not have the outstanding natural resource opportunities we enjoy. And when you think about it, every hunter and angler who hunts and fishes on private land, does so through a partnership with a private landowner.

Kansas has a long history of private-land partnerships, and the opportunities afforded as a result are a significant part of our outdoor heritage. ♡

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**MAGAZINE STAFF**

Editor Mike Miller  
Associate Editor Nadia Marji  
Graphic Designer Dustin Teasley  
Staff Writer Marc Murrell  
Circulation Teri Simpson

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

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327.

# Letters . . .

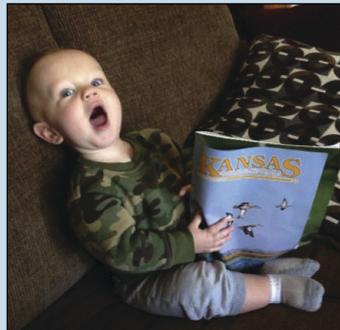
## AWESOME MAGAZINE

Editor:

Just want to let you know how much I enjoy the *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine. I look forward to its arrival and immediately read it cover to cover. The photo issue for Jan./Feb. is awesome. Thanks to you and your staff for a great magazine!

Randy L Henline  
Whitewater

## START 'EM YOUNG



Howdy Kansas. I just wanted to share with you a picture of my son. His name is Jace and he is 13 months old here. He was so thrilled to receive a copy of the *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine. He loves looking at the animals and smiles with joy as I point out birds. I look forward to the day my son and I can enjoy hunting and fishing together in our home state, Kansas. Thanks for sending the magazine to us.

Kevin Thompson  
Highland

## REMEMBERING HANK

Editor:

I had never felt so compelled to respond to an article until yours. My husband had read it and told me it's a must read. I cried the entire time but also felt so blessed. Thank you!

I couldn't help after reading your article about Creede in the September/October issue, telling you how much I can relate to your story. This past August we too lost our beloved Hank, a German Shorthair Pointer, after 12.5 years of the most incredible dog I have ever known. He was an outstanding hunting dog for my husband but more than that he was my buddy who hung out with me every day, everywhere. There hasn't been a day that goes by that he is not thought of and missed. One special person, whom had only known us for a short time, really helped with our grieving experience was our vet. She had a made generous contribution to the KU Vet school in honor of our Hank. How special that made us feel that our Hank had touch her heart like he had done with everyone who ever met him.

Rebecca Layton  
Leavenworth

## WHITE CARDINAL



Editor:

We enjoy feeding and watching backyard birds as much as we enjoy the *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine! This winter a albino female cardinal has been coming to our feeder quite frequently here in southeast Kansas. We thought we would share a couple photos with your readers. Keep up the good work.

Cris Goodbar  
Coffeyville

# BIRD BRAIN

with Mike Rader

## Reflections On Listing And A Pretty Big Year

I admit it - I am a Kansas birding lister and I love it. I maintain county lists for all Kansas counties I've been in (which is most of them). I maintain a state list, compiling all species I have seen within our borders. I also maintain a life list, where I keep track of all bird species I have seen in Kansas and my limited travels to other regions to see birds. I have made a few trips to other states to look for birds, with one-time trips to the famous birding destinations of southeast Arizona, the Texas Gulf Coast and Rio Grande Valley, Duluth, Minn. and surrounding areas in winter, and the Estes Park area of Colorado. However, most of my birding efforts are spent right here in Kansas. I'm lucky to live and work in a state with tremendous wildlife diversity, making for great outdoor opportunities.

We have just initiated year three of the Kansas Birding Big Year contest, the brainchild of KDWPT Secretary Robin Jennison, where birders keep track of the bird species they observe in Kansas during the calendar year. All information is logged on eBird through Cornell University. Prizes donated from various entities such as Acorn Naturalists, Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Coleman, Bushnell and others have been used to reward excellence in the fun and challenging competition the last two years and I hope to be able to do the same in 2015. The winners also received original artwork from my pal, Dr. Robert Penner of the Nature Conservancy. The idea is to give a little extra incentive for birders to get into the field and report what they are seeing. We had approximately 50 participants in the first two competitions, but I hope to get even more for 2015, especially in the youth category. It's always great to provide a way for youngsters to get excited about birds.

Since I am the administrator for the Kansas Birding Big Year, I disqualify myself from the competition, but I thought it would be fun to play along this year. I always keep lists anyway and have been more diligent about utilizing eBird, so keeping track is easy. I had a pretty average late winter and early spring in my birding efforts in 2014, but things kicked into high gear on a short trip I took with

friends to Morton County in early May. As a matter of fact, I don't remember a better two days in all my years of going out there. The Kansas Ornithological Society has met there a couple of times in the spring in recent years, with great birds seen, but this trip was special.

Our group had a great couple of days in the Elkhart area, but really hit the jackpot on the morning of Sunday, May 11 at the Elkhart City cemetery, water treatment plant and famous shelterbelt that splits the two areas. One checklist in eBird from that morning had 84 species on it! Lots of western species were seen, including rarities such as Hammond's flycatcher, Virginia's warbler, gray vireo, Cassin's vireo, hepatic tanager (I missed that one!), and dozens of MacGillivray's warblers. As it turned out, we were in the middle of a massive fallout of migrants, with the numbers of MacGillivray's unprecedented in Kansas. The gray vireo and hepatic tanager were both only the second reported records for Kansas, so we were really lucky to have been there at that particular moment in time.

I was able to spend quite a bit of time in the field this



year, travelling to several parts of the state for work and on personal time, but didn't make a lot of extra effort to build a big year list. Having the fantastic marshes of Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, plus Wilson Lake within easy reach, certainly added to my list. There were several birds observed in the state in 2014 that I did not see, including several residents, that could have bolstered my totals, but I didn't feel I had the extra time and money to chase those down. I

took the "come as they may" attitude and ended up surpassing my old best year total from 2003 of 344 species by two, ending 2014 with 346 species. As far as I can tell, this is the second highest year list ever recorded for Kansas, behind an incredible 358 seen by Chet Gresham several years ago. The amazing thing to me is that with the reports of birds seen in Kansas in 2014 that I either wasn't lucky enough to find or chose not to go after, my list total could have been over 360 species! This just shows how great Kansas can be for a wide diversity of species. I am not going to take the time and space here to chronicle my entire year of birding, but it will certainly be one I remember forever.

I encourage you to sign up for the Kansas Birding Big Year if that interests you, but I'd encourage you even more to get out into the natural areas our state has to offer and just enjoy it. You do not have to be competitive to relish and appreciate the wildlife we have in Kansas, so whatever your favorite things are (birds, snakes, frogs, butterflies, flowers, or others), take pride in knowing we still have some of the best things nature has to offer right here in our own backyard.

# IT'S THE LAW

with Marvin Jensen



## GAME WARDEN QUALIFICATIONS

“What’s it take to be a game warden?” The answer to that question has changed over the years as has the official job title and minimum qualifications.

Since the 1980s, the men and women who enforce wildlife-related laws in Kansas have been called game protectors, wildlife conservation officers, conservation officers and natural resource officers. Commonly, they’re referred to as game wardens.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) has two different natural resource officer classifications. Officers you see checking hunting licenses, fishing licenses, boat registrations, life jackets, bag limits, and big game permits in the field are game wardens. Game wardens work in the KDWP’s Law Enforcement Division.

Natural resource officers responsible for law enforcement and safety in our 26 state parks are referred to as park rangers and work in the Parks Division. They have full law enforcement creden-

tials and may also check things such as fishing licenses, boat registrations, and creel limits, although that is not their primary role.

Over the years, the minimum qualifications required to be a game warden have changed. In the late 1970s, all that was required for the job was a high school diploma. In the mid 1980s, a college degree in biology, fisheries or wildlife management, or a similar field was added to the minimum qualifications.

Currently, the minimum educational requirement for natural resource officer positions is a bachelor’s degree in natural resources, or a bachelor’s degree with a minimum of 24 hours in natural resource coursework. Natural resource coursework may include the following: fisheries management, fisheries science, ichthyology, limnology, aquaculture, mariculture, fish culture; aquatic ecology, ecology, biostatistics, population biology, game management, wildlife

management, wildlife conservation, wildlife statistics, wildlife science, animal ecology, plant ecology, ecology, zoology, mammalogy, ornithology, animal taxonomy, herpetology, plant taxonomy, range management, conservation biology, biostatistics, population biology, forestry, soils, geology, plant science, dendrology, watershed management, botany, environmental studies, field biology, microbiology, genetics, organismic biology, biometrics, evolution, entomology, remote sensing, environmental ethics/issues, and cellular biology.

After seven years of evaluating the current hiring program for game wardens, the Law Enforcement Division has reconsidered the minimum qualifications. KDWP is committed to hiring the best candidates for the job and because of this commitment, staff will continually assess the minimum requirements for the position, as well as the hiring process used in order to put the most qualified people in the field to serve as Kansas Game Wardens. In the next issue, we’ll outline the changes to the minimum qualifications currently under consideration for implementation, beginning with the next scheduled natural resource officer /game warden testing.

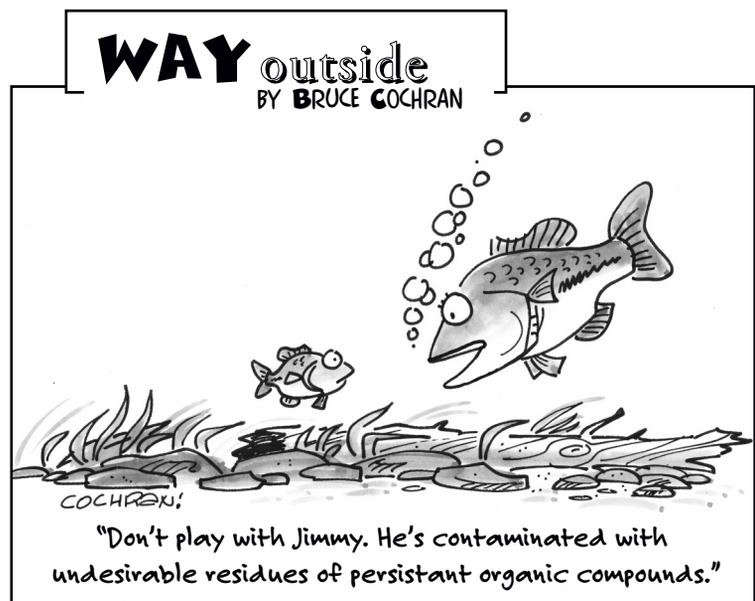
For more information on the KDWP Law Enforcement Division, visit [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com) and click “Services / Law Enforcement.”

## ELECTRONIC USE PERMITS

Fourteen Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism wildlife areas offer free electronic daily use permits through iSportsman. The electronic permit system, which is more convenient, efficient and economical than the paper system, is in use at the following wildlife areas: Jamestown, Lovewell, Clinton, Elwood, Kansas River, Milford, Cheyenne Bottoms, Texas Lake, Isabel, McPherson Wetlands, Slate Creek Wetlands, Neosho, Melvern and Lyon. A similar system has already been in use at Fort Riley.

Hunters are encouraged to register for a free iSportsman account by logging on to [kdwpt.isportsman.net](http://kdwpt.isportsman.net). Once registered, hunters will get a general access permit and can then log on or call in before they plan to hunt to “check in.” After the hunt, the hunter can log on or call in to report harvests and “check out” of the system from any computer, smart phone, cell phone or landline.

For more information on iSportsman, call (620) 672-5911 or visit [kdwpt.isportsman.net](http://kdwpt.isportsman.net).



# BOAT SAFE

with Erika Brooks

## BOATER EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE



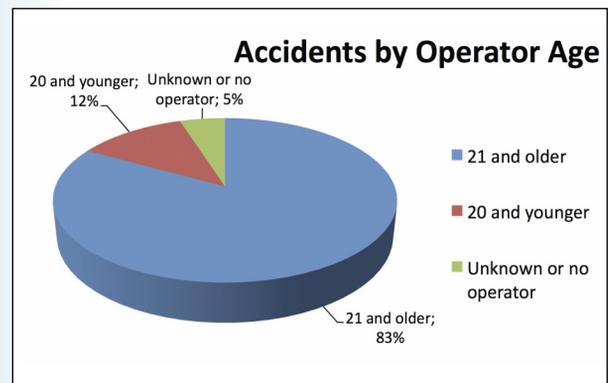
Boating education is an important tool for recreational boaters of all ages and skill levels. Current Kansas law requires anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 and under the age of 21 to complete an approved boater education course before operating a motorboat without direct adult supervision. Boaters 21 and older are not required to complete a boating course, which exempts the age group responsible for most boating accidents and fatalities. This also means the same day a person can operate a boat without boating education is the same day they can legally drink alcohol.

From 2005 to 2013, 368 boating accidents were reported in Kansas, resulting in 143 injuries and 47 fatalities. Vessel operators 21 and older were involved in 83 percent of the accidents, 87 percent of the injuries, and 92 percent of the fatalities. In almost 70 percent of the accidents, operators had no prior boater education.

The Kansas Safe Boater Course covers a range of topics, including required safety equipment, preparing to launch, navigation rules, and the importance of wearing a life jacket. The course is designed to prepare students for a variety of situations they might find themselves in while on the water.

A Boating Education Course can be completed in a classroom or online. Classroom courses are offered across the state and take eight hours to complete. Some even offer an on-water, hands-on experience.

While most courses are free of charge, some may charge a fee in order to receive certification. There is also a home-study course available, which can be completed utilizing the online course from Boat Ed. The exam packet can be downloaded from the boating education pages on the KDWP website, or if



internet access is not available, a study book and test can be mailed. Both online courses and traditional classes are available through these approved providers:

[www.boat-ed.com/kansas/](http://www.boat-ed.com/kansas/)

[www.boaterexam.com/usa/kansas/](http://www.boaterexam.com/usa/kansas/)

[www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Kansas.asp](http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/Kansas.asp)

Certification is recognized in most states, and Kansas will accept another state's National Association of Boating Law Administrators approved boating certification.

Even if you are exempt from the education requirement or consider yourself an experienced boater, consider taking a safe boating course as a refresher. You might even pick up a couple of safety tips that will make your boating experience better. If that's not incentive enough, many insurance companies will give a discount to people who complete a safe boating course, similar to a defensive driving course discount. Boat safe Kansas!

## BIG BIRDING YEAR 2014 RESULTS

The second annual Kansas Birding Big Year came to an end on December 31, 2014. Forty-eight participants signed up for the competition and competed in three age categories: youth (17 and under), adult (18-64), and senior (65+).

Prizes for the competition were donated from several organizations, including Bass Pro Shops of Olathe, Bushnell Optics of Overland Park, Coleman Company of Wichita and Acorn Naturalists of Tustin, Calif., a supplier of resources for the trail and classroom. The winners of each of the categories will also each receive matted and framed original pencil drawings of native Kansas

bird species, drawn and donated by Dr. Robert Penner of Ellinwood. Dr. Penner is the land steward and avian projects coordinator for the Nature Conservancy at Cheyenne Bottoms.

"Anything over 300 species in Kansas is considered a benchmark for a very good year," said Mike Rader, KDWP wildlife education coordinator. "Nick's total is really outstanding."

There is still plenty of time to sign up for the 2015 competition. For more information, visit [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com) and click "Services / Wildlife Diversity / 2015 Kansas Birding Big Year."

— KDWP news

### 2014 Results

**Adult:** 1st – Nick Varvel, Olathe, 302 species; 2nd – Jeff Calhoun, Dodge City, 291 species; 3rd – Glenn Caspers, Topeka, 286 species

**Youth:** 1st – Sam Schermerhorn, Wamego, 209 species; 2nd – Christian Becker, Marion, 202 species; 3rd – Joshua Keating, Milford, 103 species.

**Senior:** 1st – John Row, Manhattan, 214 species; 2nd – Judith Collins, Salina, 210 species; 3rd – Dan Larson, Berryton, 209 species.

# HUNTING HERITAGE with Kent Barrett

## Unintended Consequences

Last fall, Nadia had an idea to put a “safety tip of the day” on the department Facebook page during the firearm deer season. I thought it was a great idea. After all, it would only require a little bit of work to identify a few simple safety tips that, if followed, make the hunt safer for people.

As I pondered ideas for tips, I thought of the annual incident report I compile each year. Hunter education is the repository for the hunting incident reports and I look over every one to see what we can learn. Soon, I will compile my fifth report and I can say with certainty that this year will be no different. It will include what I call the “chain of events with unintended consequences.”

In 2014, we received a report of a youngster hunting under the supervision of an adult mentor. A covey of quail flushed, landing some distance away. The young hunter decided to take the shotgun off safety and approach the covey with finger on the trigger. The chain of events resulted in the mentor being shot in the back from approximately 9 feet. Not following a single basic firearms safety rule started a chain of events that ended with unintended and tragic consequences.

We received a report of a hunter who was hunting from a ladder-style treestand. This is perhaps the most secure tree stand available, which may have led the hunter to not use his full body harness/fall arrest system while in it. The chain of events was set in motion. Add a little alcohol, some waiting with no action, the right weather conditions, and the hunter went to sleep and fell forward to the ground.

**Not following a single basic firearms safety rule started a chain of events that ended with unintended and tragic consequences.**

In 2011, we received a report of a hunter who, in preparing for the hunt, loaded his shotgun and propped it against the vehicle. The gun fell to the ground and upon impact fired, striking the victim’s feet at close range. Another chain of events resulting in a hunting incident.

Hunting is a safe activity, and because of hunter education and the thousands of dedicated hunter education volunteer instructors, it is getting safer. No one goes hunting with the intention of becoming the subject of an incident reported to my office. However, when we are not vigilant in following basic firearm and hunting safety rules, we can put into motion a chain of events with unintended consequences, often resulting in tragedy and suffering. Whether hunting or target shooting, always remember the four firearm safety rules:

1. **Treat every gun as if it is real and as if it is loaded.**
2. **Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.**
3. **Keep the finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until the gun is on target and the decision has been made to fire.**
4. **Know your target and what is behind, beside and in front of it.**

Whenever we are around firearms, we must be completely involved and never allow ourselves to become casual. By following these simple rules, we will help to keep from putting into motion a chain of events that could bring about unintended consequences that are neither expected, nor desired.

## Lanterman, Park Staff Recognized

In January, the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA) recognized Parks Division director Linda Lanterman as its 2015 Distinguished Fellow. Presenting the award was Lanterman’s mentor and former Parks Division director, Jerry Hover. Lanterman has worked for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for more than 20 years, serving as assistant chief of the Licensing Section, Parks Division assistant director and now director. She also serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD), is on the Board of Regents and an instructor for the NASPD State Park Leadership School, and is a member of the KRPA board. She is also a member of National Recreation and Park Association, and National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers.

Other Parks Division staff recognized this year include Lake Scott State Park manager Greg Mills and ranger Tad Eubanks who were given the Award of Valor. In August 2014, the two, along with the Scott County Sheriff, took an armed suspect barricaded in the chapel at Camp Lakeside into custody without injury to anyone.

Also, maintenance supervisor Larry Eberle and ranger Steve Seibel of Cedar Bluff State Park received the Special Project Design Award for their design and construction of the “Fishing Pole Security Light” at Cedar Bluff State Park. The functioning security light looks like a giant rod and reel. Visitors make a special effort to come to the park to view the pole and fish at the pond that was developed for youth and anglers with disabilities.

– Kathy Pritchett



# Fish Squeezer *Retired but not yet fired*

with Tommie Berger

## It's All About the Youth

Most conservation organizations today have some sort of youth education or youth activity program with the hope that we continue to pass on our love of the outdoors to youngsters. KDWPT has Pass It On, Big Brothers/Big Sisters has Pass It On/Outdoor Mentors, the National Wild Turkey Federation has JAKES, Pheasants Forever has No Child Left Indoors, 4-H has both shooting sports and sportfishing programs, the Bass Federation has High School Fishing, and the Kansas Wildlife Federation has the Outdoor Adventure Camp. KDWPT also has Becoming An Outdoors-Woman (BOW) that caters to women 18 and older, Archery In the Schools, Hunter Education, and even Aquatic Education. How many of you folks out there are involved with any of these programs?

I am happy to say that I was involved with a number of these programs was when I was working as a fisheries biologist and have continued to stay involved since I've retired.

I recently read an article in *Outdoor Life* magazine about the "No-Name Gang," a group of trapping youngsters in

Wisconsin who get together several times a year to learn about trapping. If we look around, we can certainly find plenty of opportunities to get Kansas youth outdoors. And, dare I say, it's the duty of every sportsman and woman to somehow be involved with one of these youth education programs.

In the upcoming months, I'll be organizing the 4-H Sportfishing Statewide Fishing tournament. I am just now getting the rules together for all the 4-H county agents statewide. This annual contest is only open to youngsters who belong to a 4-H club. The young anglers are challenged to catch fish and enter them in one of six categories: catfish, sunfish, crappie, black bass, carp/drum, and new this year, other game fish. The other game fish category will include walleye, saugeye, white bass, wiper, and striped bass. Kids must fill out an entry form, weigh each fish on a digital scale with a witness, and send in a photo of the fish along with their entry form. The contest runs from March through September. The winner in each category receives a \$25 gift certificate to Walmart (hopefully for more fishing equip-

ment) and all entries receive a 4-H Sportfishing cap. For more information, contact me at [bergkwf@wtciweb.com](mailto:bergkwf@wtciweb.com) or (785) 524-6112.

The spring BOW program is now taking applications and will be held May 15-17 at the Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City. Until recently, the BOW program was held once a year on or near the last weekend of September. Several years ago, due to the popularity of the fall workshop, a spring BOW was started. During the spring event, each participant can select four classes from the 31 offered. I have been teaching fishing classes since the first BOW (22 to 23 years ago) and will be teaching four classes this spring.

My classes are Introduction to Fishing, What Baits Catch What Fish, Bass Fishing, and Fish Cleaning and Cooking. Jessica Mounts, the fisheries biologist from Wichita, will be teaching Flat Water Kayaking and assisting with the other three fishing classes the rest of the weekend. For more information on the BOW program, visit [ksoutdoors.com/bow](http://ksoutdoors.com/bow), e-mail [kansasbow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kansasbow@sbcglobal.net), or call (785) 845-5052.

## Outdoor Adventure Camp Celebrates 27th Year

Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC), a youth project of the Kansas Wildlife Federation, is now celebrating 27 years. Designed to introduce youngsters to all aspects of the outdoors, OAC is a fun and inviting atmosphere for children age 10 to 12. The next OAC will be held at the WaShunGa area of the Rock Springs 4-H Center, June 7-12. Participation will be limited to 50 spots.

OAC's success is a result of many efforts, but none more so than the efforts of camp volunteers. Camp coordinator, Theresa Berger, and camp counselors Clay Mrkonic, Victoria

Feldcamp, Heath Tieben, and Morgan Gerstmann are a few of those volunteers. Their donation of time, dedication to the program, and ability to work with children are the reason this camp is what it is today.



The cost for the week-long camp is \$325, making it one of the most economic camps around. But don't let price be a deterrent for having your child attend - scholarships are available.

For more information, e-mail [bergkwf@wtciweb.com](mailto:bergkwf@wtciweb.com) or call (785) 526-7466 for more information.

— Tommie Berger

Kansas winters can be long and drawn out. With ice often covering lakes and streams, anglers have no choice but to wait until spring. And the wait isn't any easier knowing there's no better time to get into some fast fishing action than the next few months to come. It's also a time when anglers have their best shot at catching a state record fish in the Sunflower State.

Taking a quick look at the Kansas state record fish list, one can see the smallmouth bass, spotted bass, white bass, warmouth bass, walleye, white crappie and brown trout records were all set in the months of March or April. May is the most popular month for state record fish and the largemouth bass, striped bass, yellow perch, flathead catfish, bluegill, smallmouth buffalo, spotted and longnose gar and paddlefish records were all set in this month. Those statistics should remove all doubt about which months are best for fishing in Kansas.

So if you catch a potential state record fish, what should you do? First, keep it in water and alive as long as possible. Get it weighed on certified scales with witnesses soon after it is caught (it must be officially weighed before it is frozen). You can find certified scales at businesses such as lumberyards, hardware stores, and meat locker plants. Once you have a weight, you can compare it to the list of state records on Page 38 of the *2015 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary*, or online at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com).

Next, the fish must be identified by a Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) fisheries biologist. You'll find numbers for all biologists on Page 38 of the regulations summary. If you don't get an answer, call the nearest KDWPT



regional, district or state park office, listed on Page 3. A tissue sample may be taken from the fish to confirm the species, and a color photograph must accompany the application. Fisheries biologists may have state record fish applications or they can be downloaded from [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com). All applications for state records require a 30-day waiting period before being certified.

If your catch isn't of state record proportions, you might still be eligible for Master Angler Award recognition. Master Angler Awards are certificates of accomplishment for fish caught in Kansas, by any legal means, that meet a minimum length limit. For example, a walleye measuring 27 inches or longer or a crappie (either black or white) 15 inches or longer are eligible for Master Angler Awards. Minimum lengths for all species of fish and an award application are also found on Page 38 of the regulations sum-

mary. The completed application and color photograph must be submitted to the KDWPT Pratt office, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS 67124.

Anglers wanting to get the inside and latest scoop on their favorite fishing waters are encouraged to check out the district fishing newsletters compiled by KDWPT fisheries biologists. In these e-mailed and online newsletters, fisheries biologists publish information about the lakes they manage, including information on sampling results, new projects, stocking data and more. Simply go to [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), click the "Fishing" link at the top of the page, then "Newsletter Request Forms" in the Fishing Quick Links box on the right side of the page. Each newsletter you sign up for will be e-mailed to you.

So with the warmer days of spring popping up like buds on a tree, there's no better time to go fishing than right now. Kansas waters are home to some of the best fish populations in the Midwest and anglers will soon be reaping the rewards of excellent fishing for species like walleye, crappie, white bass, smallmouth and largemouth bass, channel catfish and numerous others.





# Accidental HUNTRESS

WITH NADIA MARJI

## A Letter To My First Doe

Before Nov. 27, 2014, I had never taken the life of a deer. I assumed it would feel similar to taking other wild game, but the truth is, it didn't. It was much more profound. I'm familiar with the emotion that can accompany the decision to end an animal's life, but that day I learned something – you taught me that there is nothing shameful in an honorable death.

The day our paths crossed, I passed on the opportunity to harvest a smaller doe that showed up just minutes prior to your arrival. I made this decision because I hunt for meat and the first doe, in my mind, couldn't provide enough. So I waited. As I sat in my favorite tree stand, chilled from the wind, I began to doubt that another opportunity would come my way. I didn't regret my decision; nothing is guaranteed in the wild, but I also knew that my decision meant that I might go home without meat. As much as I hoped for your arrival, I was still surprised when you showed.

It was an unforgettable moment watching you walk up with your grown fawn. I remember remaining motionless as I watched in awe as the two of you walked calmly along the well-worn path in front of me – a path you had probably taken a hundred times before. I knew I would have to move eventually to make the shot, but for a few fleeting moments, I couldn't bring myself to interrupt just yet.

As you came closer, your fawn tagging behind your hooves, I remember thinking how it was one of the biggest, healthiest fawns I had seen all season. You did a wonderful job. I know this not just because of the fawn's physical appearance, but because shortly after I made the decision to release my arrow, your fawn went on high alert, immediately cautious of its surroundings, and fled the area – just as you had taught it. It

was a response that gave me assurance your fawn had been given the skills necessary to survive.

When you came into my shooting range, I took everything I could into consideration. I double-checked my sights, steadied my aim, took several deep breaths, made sure your fawn was clear of my arrow, waited until both of your front legs were parallel to each other, and it wasn't until you stood completely broadside that I finally let my arrow fly. It zipped through the air seamlessly and in a heartbeat, it was done. I can write this today with pride because your life ended just as it should have – quickly. As I watched you quarter away and head toward a nearby tree where you laid down to take your last few breaths, I knew my hard work had paid off.

The months prior to that moment, I worked relentlessly to perfect my shot. I did this for lots of reasons, but none more so than you. I shot, and shot, and shot at targets and missed, and broke arrows, and had days where all I could do was set my bow down and cry in frustration, wondering if I could make this happen the way I thought it should. I also had days where I shot like I had been doing it for years, but those fleeting moments of hitting spot-on weren't enough for me. You deserved more than a decent shot – you deserved my very best. So despite my setbacks, I continued to press on and I'm thankful I did.

Once I knew you had passed, I wondered of your fawn's fate. It wasn't long before a group of five deer came by. Your fawn let out a few bleats and then



quickly joined the others. I wondered if they, too, were now on their own, or if they were simply passing the time until their mothers returned. When the group decided to leave the area, knowing something had occurred that was out of the ordinary, it was almost as if your fawn knew it was time to continue on the path. And without hesitation, it left in the safety of the group.

With a few minutes to spare before the truck would arrive, I came and sat with you. I did this not out of remorse, but out of respect. It was a moment that I knew wouldn't last long, so I cherished every second. I noticed every whisker on your face, the shimmer in your eyes, the hardness of your hooves, and your thick coat. I ran my palm down your fur and it was the last link in the connection I had been looking for. It's a moment that I will keep in my heart forever.

You were born into a beautiful place and you died in an equally beautiful place – underneath the shade of a tree, along the bank of a flowing creek, in the quiet of nature, just as you should have.

Thank you for what you provided me. I will never forget it.

Inspired to improve your health? Ask your doctor to write a “play prescription.” According to Parks Division director Linda Lanterman, who recently presented a session at the U.S. Play Coalition at Clemson University, studies show that play is key to good health. Time spent in nature calms our minds, our bodies and our stress response. Exercise outdoors generally brings more relaxation than that practiced indoors due to the slower pace of the focus required. Such relaxation encourages creativity and a lifetime of healthy activity.

Insurance companies and health agencies now encourage getting outside to play. They have developed a “play prescription” they can give to patients, encouraging healthy outdoor activities. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends children get an hour of physical activity per day. Play among a group or family, such as shooting hoops in the park or a game of football in an open field, also encour-

ages social bonding. For more information, check out [usplaycoalition.clemson.edu](http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu).

When looking for a place to fill your “play prescription,” try out a Kansas state park. We offer hiking, biking and equestrian trails, playgrounds, athletic fields, and swimming beaches ideal for a relaxing day trip. For a bigger impact, try a weekend camping trip. Camping allows the entire family to unplug and bond, and it’s cheaper and more fun than joining a health club.

Daily vehicle entrance permits cost just \$5. To further reduce your costs, consider purchasing a State Park Passport, which can be purchased for \$15.50 when you register your vehicle. Passports are valid until your vehicle registration expires. If you missed that opportunity, you can purchase an annual vehicle permit at any time from most Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism offices for \$25.00. Annual vehicle permits for residents 65 or older or those with a permanent handicapped tag or placard are just

\$13.75. If you anticipate visiting a park more than five times in a year, either permit is a good buy.

If you intend to camp more than 19 nights a year, the annual or 14-day camping permit is something to consider. Annual camping permits are just \$152.50 if purchased before April 1 of each year, when the price increases to \$202.50. Fourteen-day camping permits are \$87.50 before April 1; on and after April 1, they go to \$101.50. These permits eliminate the \$8 per day camping fee, though payment of utility and prime site fees are still required.

Kansas State Parks are hosting an open house on April 25 this year, when the \$5 per day entrance fee is waived. Each park has a menu of special events planned, so check with your favorite park or our website, [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) for details. Don’t wait for your doctor to write you a “play prescription.” Write your own.

## PF/QF Youth Outreach Update

Since June of 2013, I have been working as Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever’s outreach coordinator. My responsibilities have been to work with the 37 Pheasants Forever and nine Quail Forever chapters in Kansas, as well as other conservation organizations to recruit and increase participation in Kansas’ rich hunting, shooting and conservation heritage. Funding for the position is made possible by a collective effort of Kansas Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Since the creation of the position in 2013, Kansas Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever chapters have hosted 108 youth events that shared our outdoor traditions with more than 4,000 youth and their families. Events included instructional shooting clinics, mentored hunts, trapping clinics, family fishing events, and youth pollinator habitat projects.

In addition to youth events, a priority of the position is to train chapter leaders to organize and deliver high-quality youth programs. Training opportunities have included a

National Sporting Clays Association Level I Instructor course and a “Focus on Forever” conference at Ringneck Ranch in Tipton. During the Focus on Forever conference, volunteers attended seminars on “Mentored Hunt Basics,” “Youth Safety Guidelines,” “Youth Pollinator Habitat Projects,” and “Forever Shooting Sports in Your Community.”

As I sit at my desk and reflect on the last year and a half, I remember a lot of smiles associated with a youth’s first broken clay target, first pheasant, first dove, and first white-tailed deer. I sincerely want to thank KDWPT employees, and volunteers from Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever and the National Wild Turkey Federation for their unwavering dedication to help foster the next generation of land stewards and hunting conservationists in Kansas I look forward to working with all of you in 2015 to “Pass It On!”

If you have any questions on Outreach Programs in Kansas or want to know how you can get involved, contact me at [bschaffer@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:bschaffer@pheasantsforever.org) or (570) 994-7197.

– Brian Schaffer

# Go With The Flow

with Mark VanScoyoc

## Aquatic Education — A different type of classroom

As the days begin to lengthen and temperatures rise, we start to migrate outside. Whether this involves wetting a line, sporting a pair of binoculars, or just taking a walk along a stream or around a lake, it's apparent that time outside is long overdue. Some of us have pleasant memories of a younger age when we waded through streams or hiked through the countryside collecting bugs, fish, snakes, frogs, toads or other critters, then gave our mothers fits when they found them in jars under our beds. Some of us continue those activities into our adult lives and some even make a living out of these childhood passions. It's because of the outdoor excursions I had when I was young that I currently work as a stream biologist and that you're reading this article. One of the best things about being a stream biologist is that I'm able to continue having these outdoor adventures and am able to pass these experiences on to students of all ages through aquatic education.

Typically when someone hears the term "education," they think of a classroom with books, pencils and papers. However, imagine a group of 20 kids knee-deep in a stream, excited, chattering, and in constant motion. Now imagine it's your job to keep their attention and educate them about Kansas streams and rivers. First, grab some seines, buckets, nets, tweezers, and plastic trays. Second, put these things in the hands of the kids, and show them how to use them.

Next, let the education begin. Of course, it's good to have some knowledge about aquatic organisms, but you don't need a college degree to start developing a knowledge and appreciation of what you will find in Kansas' waterways. There are lots of great field guides and books related to the fishes of Kansas, as well as mussels and other invertebrates. But if you are in the company of an aquatic biologist, I recommend taking advantage of the information they have to share.

Once the buckets and nets are full of wriggling and squirming creatures, it's time to talk about them. No matter if the students are age 8 or 80, inevitably there will be a few squeals or shrieks as they start to learn. Tell them that the most common fish in the state of Kansas is a minnow called the red shiner, and that giant water bugs inject a powerful digestive saliva into their prey and suck out the liquefied remains. That stick they passed over in the net is actually a water scorpion and that long siphon tube coming out of its hind end is how it gets oxygen, basically breathing out of its butt (this will elicit lots of giggles from your audience). This is where you can start talking science with your students, explaining the importance of clean water for all aquatic organisms and how that affects us; why non-native and invasive species can be such a detriment to our native aquatic species. We're not trying to train the students to be stream biologists, but rather we're exposing them to things they never knew existed and explaining why those things are important. Once in a while you will see one or two students who can't seem to get enough of picking through the nets or will want to know about everything they've caught. As exhausting as it can be at times, it's a good feeling.

Along the way you will hear countless stories of the time Mom and/or Dad caught a fish and we took it home, or the crayfish they caught with a net down by the river. It's these times that remind me why I worked so hard to get this job and why I still do it. No matter how much I may think I know, I still find myself standing next to these students in awe of what I find in our Kansas streams and realize how much more there is to learn.



# Venison Taco Bake



My family eats plenty of deer throughout the year. We enjoy it in various types of sausages, steaks and of course, jerky. My eight-year-old daughter Anastin harvested her first deer this year, a young doe. We butchered the deer and placed the meat in the fridge a couple of days to age before packaging. On packaging day, my wife Heather wrapped the backstraps and a couple of large roasts to put in the freezer, and ground the rest into burger. When she was finished, it was almost supertime, so she decided to use the fresh ground venison in tacos that evening.

Spicy meat dishes are a great way to use deer meat, especially for eaters who may be leery of wild game. Venison works great for tacos, goulash, sloppy joes, and spaghetti sauces. The tacos were a hit with our kids and Anastin was proud she helped provide the meat for our supper.

I am not fond of leftovers, and even less fond of casseroles, so when I got home from work the next day and my wife revealed she was using the left over taco meat in a dish called a "taco bake," I cringed just a little (inside, of course). After all, I could be making supper. But to my surprise, it was neither a leftover nor a casserole. In fact it was so good, I asked her if I could share it in my column.

## TACO BAKE

- 2 pounds ground venison
- 2 packets taco seasoning or homemade equivalent
- 1 can black beans or chili beans, drained
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 boxes Jiffy corn muffin mix
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup milk

Preheat oven to 375 and brown the venison. Add the seasoning and 1/4 cup of water. Cover with a lid and cook over low heat until water is cooked in. Spray a 9 x 13 pan with cooking spray. Spread taco meat in the bottom of the pan and top with beans. Cover with cheese. In a separate bowl, mix the corn muffin mix, eggs and milk. Allow the cornbread mix to rest for a couple of minutes, then spoon it evenly over the cheese. Bake at 375 for 30 minutes. Serve with taco fixings like sour cream, salsa, black olives, shredded cheese, and lettuce.



## FISHIN' with Mike Miller

### NEVER STOP LEARNING

I admit, I'm as guilty as the next angler of staying in my comfort zone and using the same favorite methods and lures to catch fish. On a percentage basis, my favorites will catch fish most of the time if I make the right decisions on location and depth. However, I'll also admit that there are days when I would have caught fish when I didn't or caught more fish if I would have tried something different.

To grow as an angler, you need to learn about different techniques and then put in the time to learn how to catch fish with them. I was recently watching a bass fishing competition show when one of the world's best bass anglers admitted that he'd lost because he didn't react to changes in the environment and switch techniques soon enough. He'd

stayed with his standby that usually put him in the money, but it failed this time.

While I don't have any desire to fish competitively, I watch some of these shows to learn. Once a lure or technique piques my interest, I have to make the commitment to buy new equipment and then put in the time to learn how to catch fish with it. Having a new "go-to" method and lure is like having another hotspot to try - it will only increase your odds of catching fish.

This year, I've decided that I'll learn to catch walleye using bottom bouncers and bass using a dropshot rig. I've already bought the equipment, now I need to learn more about the technique and put in time on the water. I've caught fish using both methods, but I haven't used them enough to be proficient. This is the year. What technique will you learn this year? It can be as easy as typing in the name on YouTube, then watching some videos. Fishing is fun, but like anything, it's more fun when you're learning, improving your skills, and catching fish.



## TWO GUYS "DUCK HUNTING" SERVICE

I was listening to two guys in my office last fall as they planned a duck hunt. I refer to them as "two guys" because their titles have been downgraded since the "episode." I would like to include the term "late" to that description, but the opportunity has yet to present itself.

"Todd," said Chad, who I now refer to as First Guy, "This is Baron. He and I are going to hunt ducks at Benedictine Bottoms this weekend and you're welcome to join us. I know you said you wanted to see someone calling in ducks."

"How do you do, Baron," I said to Second Guy. "I have never seen anybody call in a duck. Are either of you good at duck calling?"

"Oh yeah," replied First Guy with a worldly, faraway look in his eyes, "I'm pretty good."

I'm not an expert at interpreting worldly, faraway looks, so I figured First Guy either had vast knowledge and experience he wished to share, or he was just full of it. I should have gone with my gut feeling and stayed home to watch football, but I decided this was a chance to try out my "new" waders. They'd been gathering dust in the garage since I bought them 11 years ago and I figured I could finally break them in and learn about calling ducks.

"What the heck," I said. "I'll go."

At five the next morning, Two Guys picked me up and we headed to the marsh. It was bitter-cold with a stiff north breeze - a miserable day to be outside. It was still pitch dark as we geared up in the wildlife area parking lot, and I discovered that more than my horizons had expanded in the last 11 years. I was trying unsuccessfully to shimmy, I mean cram, into my waders.

"That dang salesman sold me the wrong size waders," I huffed as I struggled to get them over my waistline. Five minutes into the struggle "pop, pop" signaled that my feet were chambered into the boot slots. I was encased like a camouflaged, neoprene cocoon. Despite the cold, I was sweating.

"They feel a little snug," I gasped. My stomach was pressing into my lungs making it hard to breathe. I told the guys I could imagine what an anaconda felt like after swallowing a large goat, only to hear, "You look more like the goat inside the anaconda!" from First Guy.

I gauged the distance to First Guy's throat, but because I couldn't bend my knees, my ninja neck choke move was out of the question.

"Let's get going," chuckled Second Guy. "We can laugh about him once we are set up."

Off we traipsed through cattails and beet fields looking for what turned out to be elusive water. With every fruitless plunge into the weeds, the duck hunting guides became more panicky. They couldn't find water! I, on the other hand, had problems of my own. I had an itch on the back of my leg

that I imagined was some swamp spider sinking its fangs into me. I flailed unsuccessfully to squash the meat-eating parasite, but the sudden, vigorous exercise caused my muscles to bunch.

"What in the world is your problem," hissed Second Guy.

"Leg cramp," I screamed. A cramped calve needs to be rubbed but I couldn't reach it. I banged my leg against the decoy bag I was carrying in a vain attempt to relieve it, but no such luck.

"You're squashing the decoys," Second Guy complained.

"What good are decoys if you can't even find a puddle to float them in?" I snarled as the cramp subsided. "Something is still biting me on my lower back."

Second Guy humored me with a good whack in that general vicinity.

"Thanks," I grimaced, thinking he'd gone overboard on the power necessary to kill a swamp spider. "My bruised kidney thanks you, too."

My guides (who commandeered the only flashlights) grew anxious as the sky began to grow pink. Stung by my remarks questioning their duck hunting ability, they walked faster, leaving me behind, sweaty and alone.

I tried to walk faster, but stumbled over a particularly large beet and crumpled to the ground. Like a fainting goat, I fell in slow motion, legs rigid and sticking absurdly in the air. Box turtles get out of this predicament, I reasoned. They just use the ole neck crane to push themselves up. I tried this and now have a greater respect for the athleticism of a box turtle. Then I felt a pop in my neck and my eyes bugged out. I would have screamed, but I couldn't catch enough breath. I writhed on the ground like a camouflaged slug in salt. Not wanting to damage any more vertebrae, I rolled toward the black silhouette trunk of a tree, heaving for air. There was no sign of the Two Guys.

I had to get out of that rubber prison. In a panic, I used a sharp twig to poke a hole in my tomb and succeeded in breaking the vacuum seal. I then gouged, stabbed and shredded the waders, leaving only the boots, which I left on hoping I might be able to find my way out. Freed of the constriction, a feeling of relief washed over me. I realized the pile of rubber that was once my waders was not the problem at all - the baffleheads who led me into the wilderness and left me for dead were the problem. I sat, leaning against the tree, my gun rested on my lap as the sun came up, drying my sweat-soaked clothing. I watched a beautiful sunrise, listened to pheasants cackle, and thought of the awful things I was going to do to the Two Guys. Then a smile came to my face when I was struck with a lightning bolt of realization: I had the truck keys! I lunged to my feet with renewed vigor, a worldly, faraway look on my face . . .

# KRIS KOBACH

## KANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE



*This is the seventh article in a series featuring elected officials and their views on wildlife resources and outdoor recreation.*

**by Mike Miller**  
*editor, Pratt*

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach is well-known through his work in public office, but Kansans may not know he is an avid hunter.

Kobach was born in Wisconsin, where his father was an avid deer and ruffed grouse hunter, but the family moved to Topeka when he was seven. When Kobach was 11, his father began taking him quail hunting every weekend during the season. He enjoyed the glory days of Kansas quail hunting during the 1970s and 1980s, hunting behind German shorthairs and English setters.

"I just became a fanatic quail hunter by the time I was a teenager," Kobach remembered. "The bug bit and bit hard and I've been addicted to hunting ever since."

Kobach spoke reverently about how fortunate he is to live in Kansas because of the outdoor opportunities available here. He continues the quail hunting tradition, hunting behind his own German shorthair and Visla.

"I'm so proud of our state and what we have; how our wildlife have been managed," Kobach said. "There's no other state I would rather live in. I've been blessed with opportunities to hunt in a lot of other states, but if you like to hunt birds and big game, Kansas is the only place to be. I really think Kansas is a hunter's paradise."

Kobach also enjoys deer hunting and started hunting with a rifle or handgun, but he now hunts almost exclusively with archery equipment.

"Archery hunting during the rut in Kansas can be an awesome experience," Kobach said. "This year I took the best buck of my life, so far. I got it on Nov. 22 using a doe decoy. I had phenomenal results and decoyed the buck to within 17 yards of my stand."

Kobach's passion for the outdoors naturally extends to passing on the hunting heritage. He and his wife, Heather, have four daughters with another due this spring, and his two oldest took their first deer at age 7. Reagan (pictured above), who is nine, took her second deer in January.

"My 11-year-old is now getting into wingshooting and is going with me quail and pheasant hunting," he said. "I think my 11-year-old likes to bird hunt best and the 9-year-old would rather deer hunt. But as long they enjoy hunting, it's all good to me."

Kobach went on to say that he is pleased to see more young girls and women getting involved in hunting. Cultural barriers that prevented women from even considering hunting just 30 years ago are fading.

"There's no reason why hunting should be limited to boys," he said. "A couple generations ago, not enough parents introduced their daughters to the sport," Kobach said. "And you do need parents to do it. If my dad had not started me quail hunting when I was 11, I don't think I would be the fanatic hunter I am today."

Kobach's desire to pass on the hunting heritage doesn't end with his own daughters. In 2011 he organized the Ad Astra Archery



Tournament, which attracted 24 kids to Topeka's MacClennan Park near Cedar Crest for an archery competition. The event became popular with area youngsters.

"It's been exciting to see the program grow," Kobach said. "The last two years, we've had about 150 youngsters compete. This year, the fifth annual event will take place on April 25."

Winners take home plaques and cash prizes, competing in categories divided by age rather than gender. That distinction is important to Kobach because he sees girls competing with boys and winning their share of events, further dispelling the myth that boys are better suited for shooting sports and hunting.

Kobach finds time to hunt in his busy schedule by devoting weekends in November, December and January to hunting, unless something very important comes up. He also enjoys spring turkey hunting and is already planning hunts with his daughters, believing that turkey hunting is perfect for introducing youngsters to hunting.

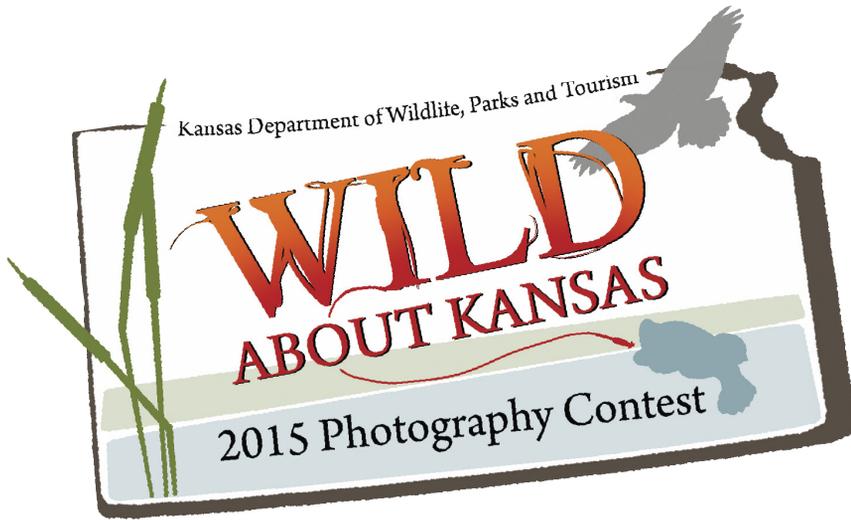
When asked about issues facing sportsmen and our hunting heritage, Kobach said he is concerned that Kansans may not recognize and fully appreciate what we have.

"The good thing about Kansas is we have such diverse opportunities. When the pheasant hunting was down a couple of years ago because of the drought, the turkey hunting was still good as ever and the deer hunting was awesome," Kobach said. "Kansas is an amazing place to come visit for hunters, and that's our strong suite. We do have, arguably, the best hunting in America and we need to get the word out."

Kobach is also concerned about funding for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the Farm Bill. He understands how important CRP is to Kansas wildlife and hunting opportunities.

"We had a scare in 2013 when it looked like the CRP program might be under threat," he said. "We need to recognize how important CRP is to our wildlife and be ready if the federal program comes under threat again to step up in whatever fashion to preserve the hunting opportunities we have here."

Kobach concluded with sincere feelings about his home state, "As a hunter, I feel incredibly blessed that I get to live in Kansas, and I feel it's an even greater blessing to represent Kansas as Secretary of State."



# Show us what makes YOU wild about Kansas!

Photo submissions for the 3rd annual “Wild About Kansas” photo contest are being accepted now through Oct. 23, 2015, and new for 2015, photographers of ALL ages and skill levels can participate.

Participants can submit photos in three categories: wildlife, outdoor recreation or landscapes. There is no fee to enter, and the contest is open to both residents and nonresidents.

“Kansas is a state filled with a plethora of diverse and awe-inspiring natural resources and this contest is just one more way we can continue to appreciate and enjoy them,” said associate editor, Nadia Marji.

## RULES

Photographers can submit up to three photos. Photos must be taken within the state of Kansas and must be the entrant’s original work.

## JUDGING

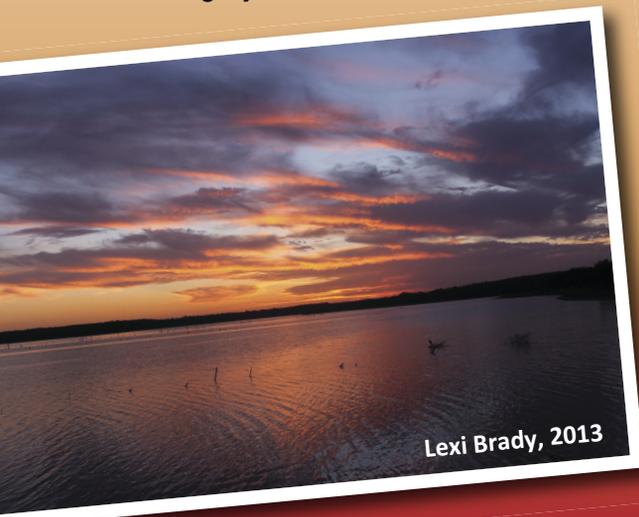
Each photo will be judged on creativity, composition, subject matter, lighting, and the overall sharpness. First, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded in each category, as well as one

honorable mention per category. Winners will be featured in the 2016 *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* January/February photo issue.

## DEADLINE

Entries must be received no later than **5 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2015**. An entry form must be submitted for each participant. Photo format should be JPEG or TIFF and file size should be not less than 1mb and not more than 5mb.

For more information and entry forms, visit [ksoutdoors.com/services](http://ksoutdoors.com/services), or contact Nadia Marji at [nadia.marji@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:nadia.marji@ksoutdoors.com).



Lexi Brady, 2013



Christina Craig, 2014



Christina Craig, 2013



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# Flat Tire Toms

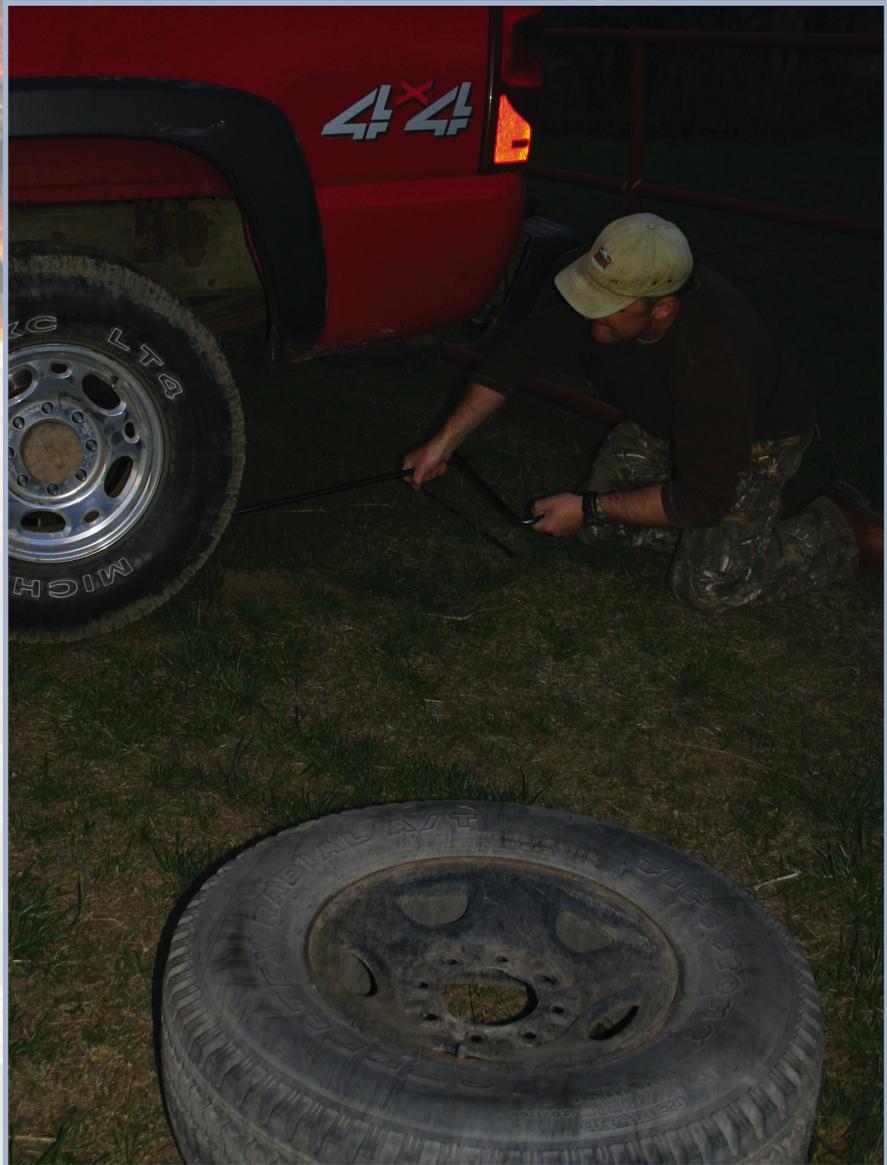
text and photos by Marc Murrell  
manager, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

Sometimes the best memories we make while outdoors are the ones we never planned on. Trips planned months in advance are often anticipated to the point they sometimes fail to meet expectations. By the same token, spontaneous trips are often wrought with problems from lack of planning. Regardless of whether the trip is well-planned or spur-of-the-moment, problems aren't usually beneficial. However, on an impromptu turkey hunting trip last April, my bad luck turned into great luck.

For several years Charlie Black, a good friend of mine and director of the Kansas Wildscape Foundation, offered to take me to a special place he has access to in Greenwood County. The invitation was always intriguing as the outdoor getaway has a small cabin overlooking a scenic watershed pond and more than a section of ground. However, busy lives hadn't allowed our schedules to mesh until last spring.

"We can hunt morels and turkeys and fish, too," Black said. "I haven't hunted turkeys down there this spring, but my boys and I did find some morels there last weekend."

The Kansas weather actually cooperated and the first afternoon was a success. We hit some of Black's morel spots and found a nice little sack of the tasty fungi in a few hours of looking. Black's eyes were much



The short trip got off to a rocky start, so to speak, when a sharp rock pierced the sidewall of the author's truck tire. Changing the tire was a tough job in the dark.

more in tune to locating the sometimes nearly-invisible morsels among the leaf litter, but I managed to find a few. Knowing what these would taste like, I already considered the trip a success as last spring morels were tough to come by, at least in my world. Throw in a bonus deer antler shed and the trip was off to a good start.

We had about an hour of daylight left and decided to head back to the cabin to try our luck fishing. The wind had died and it promised to be a gorgeous

evening. Black was sure we could catch a boat load of bass and crappie. He admitted those two species were in dire need of "management" and we needed to keep a bunch to thin them out as most were stunted. I was good with that as a 12-inch largemouth bass fillet has the same taste of a giant bluegill in my book. I've got friends that cringe at the thought of eating a largemouth bass, but in this case, it was long overdue and warranted.

As we exited my truck, fishing



gear in hand, I heard the unmistakable sound of leaking air and it was coming from my driver's side back tire. Apparently while driving around the rocky hills in search of morels, I'd cut a tire and it was losing air fast. In an effort to fix the flat while we still had light, we abandoned our fishing plans and got to work swapping my spare for the quickly-deflating tire.

The swap was difficult and

many words not suitable for print were uttered, mostly by me. My spare tire had not been down in quite some time and the flat was stuck on the hub. We started kicking at both, cursing more, and finally got them broke loose. Frustrated, we anxiously scrambled to beat the descending darkness.

We were just about finished

changing the flat when we heard a turkey gobble. We both looked at each other with eyes wide, wondering if all the commotion had us hearing things. The big tom thundered again and was quickly



The turkey hunting trip turned into a morel mushroom/turkey hunt/fishing trip/shed antler trip, with the two friends cramming three days worth of fun into a day-and-a-half. With good weather, everything fell into place for a trip filled with good memories.



joined by another couple of booming gobbles from just behind the cabin. We eased around the corner and watched with binoculars as four longbeards made their way across the dam and into the drainage below to roost for the night.

"I think I know where we're going to set up in the morning," Black laughed.

The night grew quiet and we could hear the noisy, clumsy birds fly up to their evening roosts. As it got darker, several packs of coyotes lit up the evening with their howls and the turkeys shock-gobbled back, time after time. We were content to sit there and listen to the nighttime serenade for another 15 minutes.

"You know if we had been fishing, those turkeys would have heard or seen us and never came down that hill, don't you?" Black said.

"Yep, and I don't know that I've ever been happy to have had a flat tire, but in this situation, it might just pay off!" I added.

We headed to the cabin to call it a night, but with resonating gobbles lingering in my head, and knowing what might be in store for us in the morning, I grew restless. After all, we were already ahead of the game since we knew exactly where the turkeys roosted and it was within a stone's throw of our front door.

When morning finally came, it broke clear and crisp as we eased out the front door and walked right past my truck, down the lane. We stopped just behind the



Charlie Black shows off a beautiful Rio Grande tom that roosted nearby the night before while the hunters were busy changing the flat tire.

pond dam and listened, but it didn't take long to know we were close as the woods started waking up. We heard our group of gobblers from the night prior, plus a couple others way off in the distance, as we settled in

against two big trees sitting side by side. We placed a couple decoys just 15 yards away and waited.

"If two come in, let's do the 1, 2, 3 Boom!" I said.

This led to a debate about who



would shoot if only one bird came in as we both wanted to defer to the other out of courtesy. I think I won that battle with the justification that I'd already killed one bird and Black had yet to even hunt a turkey, so he was up first.

It started to get light and the birds were extremely vocal, gobbling at most any sound, including the soft yelps and purrs from my slate call. It was obvious they knew we were there and I felt good about our chances. I kept checking my watch knowing

they'd be flying down soon, and if they happened to sail right into the decoys, I wanted to make sure we were legal.

The birds flew down in front of us and we could just make out their silhouettes as they strutted about 75 yards away. We were good on time as the birds moved toward us, in plain view, strutting and gobbling as they came in. It was a spectacle to see.

Two big toms approached first and went beak-to-beak with our strutting, plastic imposter placed near an equally-fake squatted

hen. We nearly laughed out loud as they were persistent, and the two-on-one battle had our guy losing badly.

"You ready?" I asked, trying to control my excitement.

"Yep!" he whispered voice.

At the count of three, both of our 12 gauges roared and the birds hit the dirt in unison. We looked at each other again, wide-eyed, and slapped a quick high five only minutes into legal shooting time.

"That was awesome!" Black exclaimed.



After arguing about who would shoot first, the duo decided on a "one, two, three: boom," count. The simultaneous shots worked like a charm and the hunters had two longbeards in the bag not long after sunrise.



"Indeed it was," I replied.

After a quick peek at our birds, we sat back down to wait for sunrise and better light for my photos. As we waited, we heard more birds in the distance, several of which came out into the opening, too. It was truly a magical morning.

"It's a good thing you had that flat tire!" Black laughed. I couldn't help but chuckle in agreement.

Once the sun was up, we were able to shoot photos. After too many photos to count, we started back towards the cabin. Just as we rounded the corner, we hit the brakes. It was the sound of another turkey gobbling and coming fast down the fence line. More birds gobbled behind us and I knew we were going to see a rumble.

The charging bird passed within 20 yards of us and was met by a couple more toms. We couldn't help but stay and watch the gobbler fight of MMA-title proportions. Wings and beaks and feet were flying everywhere and the resulting, noisy squabble was incredible as they battled for dominance. They were still fighting when we decided to go get our fishing gear and hit the pond.

We spent the next couple hours catching fish at a steady pace, many of which were dumped into my 48-quart cooler for a date with an electric knife later. Nearly all of the bass were 9-12 inches long, and every crappie was just about 10 and

one-half inches long and skinny.

After a quick bite for lunch, we decided to go back out and row around to see if we could find any bigger fish before we had to leave. Hitting the outlet near the dam, Black set the hook on something that didn't act like anything we'd caught yet. We quickly found out why when the 6-pound largemouth leaped from the water in its attempt to throw the hook. But Black won that battle and after a few photos, he released it back into the water. Another high-five, albeit a bit slimy this time, was exchanged.

On a whim, I cast out into the middle of the pond. Letting my jig sink, I felt the familiar "tick" of a crappie. For the next 45 minutes, we caught crappie from this school on nearly every cast and they, too, got chucked into my cooler.

We didn't want to leave and talked about how great everything had been for a trip planned just a few days prior. Despite the flat tire, everything worked out better than we could have ever hoped.

"We might have to do this again next year," Black said



After taking some photos and dressing the birds, crappie and bass waited in the pond. Does the phrase "It doesn't get any better than this" come to mind?

before we even reached the gate. I couldn't argue. It was a couple of the most enjoyable days outdoors I've had.

That flat tire ended up costing me nearly \$200 because it couldn't be fixed. But considering the amount of fun and memories created in just two short days in the great outdoors, it was a bargain. In fact, I'd trade another flat tire for a trip just like it this spring. ♡

# 2015



## Fishing Forecast

Use the following pages to find high-quality fishing for the sport fish you prefer. The forecast lists reservoirs (water bodies larger than 1,200 acres), lakes (waters from 10 to 1,200 acres), and ponds (waters less than 10 acres) for each species of sport fish. Ratings include the Density Rating, which is the number of high-quality fish captured per unit of effort by fisheries biologists; Preferred Rating, which is the number of fish at a preferred length for that species; Lunker Rating, which is the number of fish sampled at a length most anglers consider a trophy; and Biggest Fish, which is simply the largest fish caught during sampling. The Biologist's Rating is a rating of E - excellent, G - good, F - fair or P - poor given by the biologist who considers other factors in addition to sampling. In theory, a lake with a Density Rating of 24 will have twice as many high-quality fish per acre as a lake with a Density Rating of 12.

The 3-Year Average figure represents a three-year average in density ratings of a particular species. This column provides a history, allowing the angler

to compare past fishing outings at the lake with the ratings.

Lengths for high-quality, preferred- and lunker-sized fish are different for each species and are listed in parenthesis at the top of each column. This information will help you find lakes with high populations, as well as those which have larger fish. You may view these tables at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) or a brochure can be mailed or picked up at a KDWPT office.

Combined with the *2015 Fishing Regulations Summary*, the *2015 Fish Atlas* and the *Weekly Fishing Reports*, the *2015 Fishing Forecast* is a tool that will help you catch more fish, and it will help you select lakes that provide the kind of fish and type of fishing you desire. Kansas anglers can choose from 24 federal reservoirs, 258 community lakes, 58 state fishing lakes, as well as 150,000 privately-owned farm ponds and 10,000 miles of fishable streams. Better get busy – as the old saying goes — so much water, so little time.

BLUE CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WOLF CREEK	2.19	0.31	0.25	27.34	G	2.36
MILFORD	1.05	0.00	0.00	10.63	G	1.53
EL DORADO	0.67	0.00	0.00	10.03	F	1.07
WILSON	0.43	0.00	0.00	8.45	F	0.36
CHENEY	0.33	0.00	0.00	4.52	F	0.11
TUTTLE CREEK	0.25	0.00	0.00	3.56	F	0.12
MELVERN	0.13	0.13	0.00	21.02	F	0.19
LOVEWELL	0.12	0.00	0.00	3.41	P	0.23
GLEN ELDER	0.08	0.00	0.00	5.99	P	0.03
<b>LAKES</b>						
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	1.25	0.00	0.00	5.58	P	0.88
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	4.21	P	0.33
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.88	P	0.61
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.32	P	0.00
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.56	P	0.06
<b>PONDS</b>						
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	0.67	0.00	0.00	8.93	P	0.67
TUTTLE CREEK RIVER POND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92	F	0.00

CHANNEL CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
MARION	6.25	1.25	0.25	10.41	E	4.75
BIG HILL	5.11	0.00	0.00	4.78	G	5.24
CLINTON	3.69	0.19	0.00	8.33	G	4.48
KANOPOLIS	3.67	0.00	0.00	4.37	G	5.56
WOLF CREEK	3.63	0.00	0.00	5.07	G	2.13
HILLSDALE	3.17	0.50	0.17	10.26	G	2.28
WILSON	3.07	0.33	0.07	12.33	G	3.04
POMONA	2.63	0.19	0.06	9.81	G	2.28
PERRY	2.60	0.20	0.05	8.49	G	3.45
MELVERN	2.50	0.06	0.00	5.18	F	3.15
FALL RIVER	2.00	0.67	0.00	8.51	G	1.47
GLEN ELDER	1.83	0.46	0.04	9.61	G	2.32
KIRWIN	1.33	0.25	0.00	8.26	F	1.06
CHENEY	1.27	0.20	0.00	7.54	G	1.69
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	1.20	0.50	0.20	13.49	F	0.80
TORONTO	1.17	0.17	0.00	5.95	G	1.61
LOVEWELL	1.12	0.24	0.06	7.70	G	2.11
COUNCIL GROVE	1.08	0.08	0.00	5.14	G	1.14
MILFORD	1.05	0.05	0.00	5.30	F	1.48
<b>LAKES</b>						
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	12.33	0.67	0.33	8.10	E	8.89
BOURBON CO. LAKE	11.33	1.33	0.00	5.95	E	9.08
DOUGLAS SFL	9.50	0.00	0.00	3.96	G	9.28
ATCHISON CL #23 (WARNOCK)	9.25	2.00	0.75	14.75	G	9.25
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	8.13	1.38	0.13	8.59	E	6.04
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	8.00	0.00	0.00	5.36	G	6.11
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	7.50	1.25	0.75	12.84	G	6.83
EUREKA CITY LAKE	6.17	0.67	0.33	24.25	G	5.17
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	5.75	1.25	0.00	7.05	G	5.83
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	5.63	0.25	0.00	7.05	G	7.58
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	5.63	0.63	0.00	6.11	G	7.67
ATCHISON SFL	5.50	0.00	0.00	3.46	G	4.25
BROWN SFL	5.50	0.50	0.00	7.72	G	5.92
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	5.33	0.00	0.00	2.82	G	4.75
JEWELL SFL	5.33	0.33	0.00	5.39	G	4.78
KINGMAN SFL	5.00	2.50	0.00	7.45	G	9.08
MIAMI SFL	4.83	0.17	0.00	9.47	G	2.94
SABETHA CITY LAKE	4.50	0.50	0.00	5.68	G	6.75
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	4.38	0.25	0.00	6.27	G	4.81
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	4.33	2.50	1.50	14.66	G	3.67
SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	4.33	0.17	0.00	5.38	G	3.22
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	4.25	0.25	0.00	6.17	G	3.08
NEOSHO SFL	4.25	0.00	0.00	4.56	G	5.17
BOURBON SFL	4.00	1.00	0.00	7.07	G	2.97
BUTLER SFL	4.00	0.50	0.25	19.75	G	4.25
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	4.00	1.00	0.00	6.77	G	4.44
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	3.33	1.00	0.33	10.01	G	3.83
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	3.33	0.67	0.00	6.44	G	4.11

CHANNEL CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>LAKES</b>						
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	3.25	1.00	0.25	11.22	G	3.75
CRITZER LAKE	3.17	0.33	0.00	6.36	G	4.83
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	3.13	0.13	0.00	5.51	F	2.75
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	3.00	0.00	0.00	2.59	F	2.89
WOODSON SFL	3.00	0.67	0.00	7.74	G	2.06
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	3.00	0.67	0.00	7.79	F	5.94
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #8	3.00	0.00	0.00	4.94	F	3.00
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-WEST	3.00	0.00	0.00	5.18	F	3.00
MONTGOMERY SFL	2.83	0.33	0.00	5.76	G	4.25
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	2.75	0.25	0.00	7.14	G	4.03
CLARK SFL	2.75	0.13	0.00	4.45	G	4.86
SHAWNEE SFL	2.67	0.00	0.00	2.15	G	2.94
CRAWFORD SFL	2.67	0.00	0.00	4.65	G	2.44
MADISON CITY LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	4.63	G	2.33
OSAGE SFL	2.50	0.17	0.00	4.71	F	2.33
LYON SFL	2.33	0.17	0.00	8.60	G	2.50
LEAVENWORTH SFL	2.33	0.17	0.17	13.23	F	1.78
NEBO SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	4.93	F	4.97
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	2.17	0.17	0.17	15.70	G	1.58
MELVERN RIVER POND	2.00	1.25	0.00	8.73	G	2.75
MEADE STATE LAKE	2.00	0.33	0.00	7.87	F	1.50
MARION CO. LAKE	2.00	0.33	0.00	6.13	G	3.75
WILSON SFL	2.00	0.25	0.00	6.99	G	2.92
WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	3.09	F	2.00
HORTON-MISSION LAKE	1.83	0.00	0.00	4.62	F	9.33
BONE CREEK LAKE	1.75	0.25	0.13	13.01	G	2.92
CHASE SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	2.43	G	2.33
MCPHERSON SFL	1.67	0.33	0.33	9.08	G	2.56
COLDWATER LAKE	1.60	0.40	0.00	7.34	F	1.60
HARVEY CO. LAKE - WEST	1.50	0.00	0.00	2.60	F	1.50
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	1.33	0.00	0.00	2.67	F	1.17
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.33	0.00	0.00	4.94	F	1.78
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	1.20	0.40	0.00	7.41	G	1.63
GARDNER CITY LAKE	1.17	0.50	0.33	11.25	F	0.89
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.17	0.33	0.00	5.89	F	2.56
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.17	0.17	0.00	7.83	F	0.72
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	1.13	0.13	0.13	15.00	F	2.92
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.41	F	0.67
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.00	0.25	0.00	7.12	F	1.00
COWLEY SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.07	G	2.17
SHERIDAN SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.55	F	0.56
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	1.00	0.25	0.25	9.56	F	1.50
OLPE CITY LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	4.85	F	1.00
<b>PONDS</b>						
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	5.00	0.33	0.33	11.13	F	3.33
TROY 4-H LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	3.03	F	2.50
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #7	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.94	F	1.00
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	0.33	0.00	0.00	4.76	F	0.33

FLATHEAD CATFISH						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>28")	Lunker Rating (>34")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
EL DORADO	0.33	0.00	0.00	5.67	G	0.16
TORONTO	0.33	0.08	0.00	6.21	G	0.17
WEBSTER	0.30	0.20	0.10	46.63	F	0.26
GLEN ELDER	0.17	0.04	0.00	7.05	G	0.13
COUNCIL GROVE	0.17	0.08	0.08	14.66	G	0.17
FALL RIVER	0.17	0.00	0.00	5.03	G	0.16
LOVEWELL	0.12	0.00	0.00	3.76	G	0.13
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	0.50	0.00	0.00	4.43	G	0.38
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.09	P	0.39
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	0.25	0.00	0.00	5.00	F	0.42
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	2.03	P	0.25
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.12	P	0.25
WOODSON SFL	0.17	0.17	0.17	10.21	P	0.17
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	0.17	0.00	0.00	4.78	P	0.17
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	0.13	0.00	0.00	3.86	F	0.25
<b>PONDS</b>						
SEVERY CITY LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	4.62	P	0.33

<b>BLUEGILL</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>6")	Preferred Rating (>8")	Lunker Rating (>10")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>6")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	11.50	3.63	0.00	0.64	G	17.29
BIG HILL	5.00	0.10	0.00	0.35	G	4.97
PERRY	4.24	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	2.22
HILLSDALE	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	8.02
JOHN REDMOND	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	P	1.25
CLINTON	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.34	P	1.96
MILFORD	1.44	0.19	0.00	0.50	F	2.98
WOLF CREEK	1.38	0.06	0.00	0.53	F	2.01
LACYGNE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	1.67
<b>LAKES</b>						
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	38.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	G	79.33
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #8	34.00	0.50	0.00	0.43	G	34.00
GARDNER CITY LAKE	33.75	0.00	0.00	0.33	G	19.67
ALAMONT CITY LAKE-WEST	33.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	G	33.50
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	31.50	1.00	0.00	0.33	G	16.33
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	23.00	0.50	0.00	0.34	G	11.56
WILSON SFL	19.00	0.33	0.00	0.35	G	13.75
ATCHISON SFL	18.75	0.50	0.00	0.50	G	8.67
DOUGLAS SFL	18.25	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	9.08
MIAMI SFL	17.50	1.50	0.00	0.37	G	14.42
EUREKA CITY LAKE	15.25	0.50	0.00	0.40	G	55.33
SABETHA CITY LAKE	14.75	0.00	0.00	0.28	G	9.13
ATCHISON CL #23 (WARNOCK)	14.50	4.25	0.25	0.51	G	14.50
SCOTT STATE LAKE	13.33	0.00	0.00	0.33	G	18.24
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	13.25	0.25	0.00	0.41	G	6.50
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	13.25	2.25	0.00	0.50	G	6.92
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	13.00	1.00	0.00	0.46	G	48.17
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	12.75	0.00	0.00	0.25	F	9.33
BUTLER SFL	11.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	F	5.25
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	11.00	0.25	0.00	0.36	G	6.08
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	11.00	1.83	0.00	0.37	G	13.00
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	10.75	0.25	0.00	0.38	G	11.92
BROWN SFL	9.50	0.25	0.00	0.46	F	5.92
WASHINGTON SFL	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	17.83
COWLEY SFL	8.25	0.75	0.00	0.35	G	10.42
LEBO CITY LAKE	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	F	5.17
BOURBON SFL	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	G	3.75
LEAVENWORTH SFL	7.75	1.50	0.00	0.44	F	3.92
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	6.75	0.25	0.00	0.31	G	3.50
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.23	F	5.00
CHASE SFL	6.25	0.25	0.00	0.35	G	5.92
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	5.00
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	F	6.83
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.38	F	6.42
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	5.25	0.13	0.00	0.41	F	19.67
GEARY SFL	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.25	F	11.42
PRATT CO. LAKE	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	G	10.83
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.20	F	10.33
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	2.58
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	5.63
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	2.53
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	G	5.63
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	3.63	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	10.63
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	3.63	0.75	0.00	0.50	F	2.38
MADISON CITY LAKE	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.37	G	2.00
MONTGOMERY SFL	3.25	0.75	0.00	0.42	G	3.85
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	3.00	0.25	0.00	0.49	F	1.63
PRESCOTT CITY LAKE	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.35	G	1.75
BONE CREEK LAKE	3.00	0.38	0.00	0.49	G	2.46
LOUISBURG CITY LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	P	2.50
SHERIDAN SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	1.07
NEOSHO SFL	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	G	8.89
NEBO SFL	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	2.06
MELVERN RIVER POND	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	G	21.50
MARION CO. LAKE	2.00	0.75	0.00	0.46	G	1.50
<b>PONDS</b>						
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	4.00
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #7	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	F	5.00
SEVERY CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.19	G	11.00
JEWELL CITY LAKE	4.33	0.00	0.00	0.33	G	48.78
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	P	4.00
LAWRENCE-P. DAWSON BILLINGS-S	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	P	3.00
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	5.75
LAWRENCE-P. DAWSON BILLINGS-N	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.16	P	2.50

<b>REDEAR</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>7")	Preferred Rating (>9")	Lunker Rating (>11")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>7")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
BIG HILL	0.20	0.10	0.00	0.51	F	0.50
JOHN REDMOND	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.26	P	0.08
MELVERN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	P	0.00
<b>LAKES</b>						
DOUGLAS SFL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.47	G	16.92
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	8.50	0.75	0.00	0.56	G	9.00
LEAVENWORTH SFL	8.50	1.25	0.00	0.61	G	6.25
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	G	4.88
ATCHISON SFL	6.25	1.00	0.00	1.13	G	6.25
JEWELL SFL	3.75	1.75	0.00	0.88	G	3.50
LYON SFL	3.50	1.75	0.00	0.71	G	2.92
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	3.50	2.25	0.00	0.60	G	3.17
BONE CREEK LAKE	3.50	0.38	0.00	0.64	G	6.29
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	3.25	0.75	0.00	0.75	G	5.61
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	F	1.83
COWLEY SFL	1.75	0.25	0.00	0.66	F	4.42
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.75	0.75	0.00	0.73	F	0.88
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.75	0.50	0.00	0.66	G	1.50
WILSON SFL	1.67	0.33	0.00	0.47	G	3.97
MONTGOMERY SFL	1.50	1.00	0.00	0.79	G	2.16
BROWN SFL	1.25	0.25	0.00	0.53	F	0.75
MIAMI SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	F	1.50
BUTLER SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	P	1.17
ATCHISON CL #23 (WARNOCK)	1.00	0.75	0.00	0.69	F	1.00
OSAGE SFL	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.31	P	3.33
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.44	P	0.63
NEOSHO SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	3.61
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.64	F	0.50
MELVERN RIVER POND	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.60	P	2.17
LEBO CITY LAKE	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.73	F	0.83
BOURBON SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.41	F	1.92
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.44	P	0.25
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	0.31
<b>PONDS</b>						
JEWELL CITY LAKE	1.67	0.33	0.00	0.79	F	1.06
LAWRENCE-P. DAWSON BILLINGS-N	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.56	P	0.50
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #7	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.53	P	0.50
SEVERY CITY LAKE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	P	4.83



# WHITE CRAPPIE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
JOHN REDMOND	32.00	22.17	2.92	1.61	E	33.75
PERRY	26.00	6.88	0.06	0.88	G	22.08
HILLSDALE	16.94	5.69	0.13	1.09	G	29.69
TORONTO	8.13	4.69	1.25	1.98	G	8.82
CLINTON	7.31	3.94	0.19	1.29	F	11.19
LACYGNE	6.06	4.81	0.25	2.98	E	8.46
EL DORADO	5.75	3.38	0.31	1.59	G	5.71
BIG HILL	4.50	3.00	0.20	0.82	G	6.43
MILFORD	4.13	2.44	0.69	1.12	F	5.46
FALL RIVER	3.75	1.81	0.56	1.73	G	5.79
WOLF CREEK	3.50	2.63	2.13	1.46	G	4.17
LOVEWELL	2.67	2.53	0.33	1.01	F	23.47
KIRWIN	2.56	2.19	1.88	1.81	G	2.63
POMONA	1.44	0.81	0.00	0.77	G	8.77
KANOPOLIS	1.13	0.50	0.13	0.90	F	0.65
<b>LAKES</b>						
SABETHA CITY LAKE	70.25	46.25	9.50	2.00	G	58.13
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	50.25	5.75	2.50	1.47	E	20.67
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	38.50	0.50	0.25	0.93	G	31.04
WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE	36.25	18.25	1.25	1.08	G	36.25
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	34.75	27.75	0.25	0.87	E	27.67
ALMA CITY LAKE	32.33	3.67	0.33	0.91	G	28.92
SCOTT STATE LAKE	25.11	3.44	1.00	1.25	F	36.83
MELVERN RIVER POND	23.50	2.50	0.50	1.15	G	20.50
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	22.00	3.50	1.00	0.90	G	23.83
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #8	20.00	5.50	0.00	0.87	G	20.00
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	19.50	4.50	0.00	0.53	F	32.00
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	17.50	2.75	0.00	0.60	G	24.25
NEOSHO SFL	17.00	3.00	0.00	0.79	G	16.61
OTTAWA SFL	15.25	7.50	0.75	1.11	G	8.58
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	14.63	0.88	0.25	1.32	F	18.75
ATCHISON SFL	13.50	5.75	0.75	1.01	F	6.75
ATCHISON CL #23 (WARNOCK)	13.00	10.25	0.00	0.92	F	13.00
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	13.00	12.00	10.25	1.43	E	12.50
PAOLA CITY LAKE	12.75	6.25	0.00	0.78	F	6.83
CHASE SFL	12.50	3.00	0.00	0.73	F	9.25
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	12.00	7.50	0.50	0.86	G	22.00
SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	11.80	2.80	0.00	0.86	F	6.65
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	11.50	0.00	0.00	0.33	G	9.61
EUREKA CITY LAKE	10.25	3.00	0.25	1.04	G	24.25
PRATT CO. LAKE	10.00	2.00	0.00	0.71	F	6.64
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	9.50	4.25	0.50	1.00	F	4.00
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	9.50	2.50	0.10	0.95	F	19.31
WASHINGTON SFL	9.50	0.50	0.00	0.58	F	6.33
BOURBON CO. LAKE	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	F	16.38
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	8.50	4.25	0.50	1.04	G	6.50
MIAMI SFL	8.25	2.25	0.00	0.63	G	3.00
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	7.75	0.00	0.00	0.41	G	7.75
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	P	5.17
WOODSON SFL	6.75	0.25	0.00	0.40	F	7.92
BOURBON SFL	6.50	5.50	1.00	1.08	F	3.50
GEARY SFL	6.00	0.75	0.25	0.74	F	8.00
BOURBON CO. CEDAR CREEK LAKE	6.00	5.75	1.25	1.21	G	4.50
OSAGE SFL	5.25	3.50	1.50	1.08	F	4.08
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	5.25	2.00	1.25	0.89	G	5.25
BROWN SFL	5.00	0.75	0.50	1.10	F	2.75
MONTGOMERY SFL	4.50	2.25	0.75	0.84	F	5.74
MARION CO. LAKE	4.50	4.25	1.00	0.88	G	5.50
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	4.25	3.00	0.75	1.05	F	4.06
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	4.25	1.25	0.50	0.87	F	4.08
MCPHERSON SFL	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	7.83
LYON SFL	4.00	3.25	2.25	1.72	G	4.50
OLPE CITY LAKE	3.75	1.50	0.50	1.26	F	3.75
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-WEST	3.50	3.00	1.50	1.27	P	3.50
BUTLER SFL	3.25	0.50	0.25	0.00	P	2.08
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	3.25	1.25	0.00	0.60	F	5.71
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	3.25	2.00	0.50	0.83	G	3.25
<b>PONDS</b>						
TUTTLE CREEK RIVER POND	24.00	6.00	0.33	1.62	G	24.00
LAWRENCE-P. DAWSON BILLINGS-S	21.00	16.50	0.50	0.73	G	21.00
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	19.50	0.50	0.00	0.53	F	10.33
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	14.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	P	14.00
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	13.00	8.50	4.50	2.35	G	21.25
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #7	6.50	2.50	0.00	0.55	F	6.50



# BLACK CRAPPIE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
JOHN REDMOND	4.25	0.42	0.00	1.04	F	4.13
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	2.25	1.63	1.00	1.69	G	3.38
KIRWIN	1.56	1.56	0.50	1.25	G	2.88
CEDAR BLUFF	1.39	1.28	0.61	1.47	F	2.34
LOVEWELL	1.20	1.13	0.00	1.00	F	3.44
<b>LAKES</b>						
ATCHISON CL #23 (WARNOCK)	15.50	6.00	0.25	0.94	G	15.50
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	13.63	9.38	0.00	0.86	G	18.46
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	F	12.00
ALMA CITY LAKE	11.33	0.33	0.00	0.44	G	7.79
BROWN SFL	10.50	2.75	0.25	1.27	G	23.83
GARDNER CITY LAKE	9.25	2.00	0.00	0.67	G	3.58
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	8.25	0.00	0.00	0.52	F	4.33
ATCHISON SFL	8.00	3.00	0.00	0.71	F	6.13
MELVERN RIVER POND	7.50	5.50	0.00	0.64	G	8.33
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	7.25	2.25	0.00	0.78	G	5.64
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	6.50	1.75	0.75	1.72	G	6.50
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	6.00	0.50	0.00	0.49	F	10.67
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	5.50	3.50	0.00	0.90	G	3.00
OSAGE SFL	5.00	2.75	0.00	0.69	F	7.08
NEOSHO SFL	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	11.94
PRATT CO. LAKE	4.67	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	4.75
MONTGOMERY SFL	4.50	1.25	0.50	1.06	F	2.80
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	4.25	0.38	0.00	0.55	F	5.67
SABETHA CITY LAKE	4.00	2.00	0.25	1.04	F	3.88
COWLEY SFL	4.00	1.25	0.00	0.60	F	6.00
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	3.75	2.50	0.00	0.81	G	3.00
DOUGLAS SFL	3.75	0.75	0.25	0.90	F	3.58
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	3.25	3.25	1.00	1.50	F	2.50
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #8	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.92	F	3.00
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	3.00	2.75	2.00	1.17	G	12.00
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.73	F	3.25
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	2.75	2.00	0.25	0.95	F	3.42
MIAMI SFL	2.75	0.50	0.50	1.28	G	3.00
WILSON SFL	2.33	2.00	0.67	1.60	F	2.94
SHERIDAN SFL	2.25	2.00	0.25	0.91	G	2.54
MCPHERSON SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	2.42
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	1.50
WOODSON SFL	1.50	0.75	0.00	0.60	F	0.92
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	1.50	1.25	0.50	1.32	F	2.13
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	1.50	1.00	0.25	0.88	F	1.25
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	1.33	1.33	0.33	1.30	P	1.67
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	1.25	0.50	0.00	0.53	P	1.25
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.25	0.50	0.00	0.55	G	1.50
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	P	2.00
BUTLER SFL	1.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	P	0.83
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	0.88	0.38	0.00	0.86	P	2.17
<b>PONDS</b>						
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	P	1.50
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	F	4.75
LAWRENCE-P. DAWSON BILLINGS-N	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	P	0.50
TUTTLE CREEK RIVER POND	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.23	P	0.33



LARGEMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	158.90	14.41	0.00	4.41	E	158.58
LACYGNE	77.06	44.12	4.71	7.28	E	73.41
BIG HILL	20.96	5.09	0.00	3.95	E	23.65
PERRY	15.10	8.24	0.23	5.66	G	18.89
WOLF CREEK	12.00	3.00	0.00	2.60	F	7.50
MILFORD	9.50	3.17	0.00	4.81	G	12.75
WILSON	8.24	3.24	0.00	2.24	G	20.39
CEDAR BLUFF	8.22	4.93	0.00	4.28	F	6.80
CLINTON	5.17	3.99	0.15	4.86	P	11.40
WEBSTER	4.90	2.94	0.00	1.76	P	26.34
HILLSDALE	3.42	1.55	0.00	3.07	P	10.39
MELVERN	3.33	2.35	0.00	4.10	P	3.67
LOVEWELL	2.35	0.59	0.00	3.22	P	2.35
EL DORADO	1.76	0.00	0.00	1.04	P	6.08
<b>LAKES</b>						
BUTLER SFL	159.80	60.78	1.96	5.29	E	137.58
BROWN SFL	158.82	21.57	0.98	4.31	G	115.18
MOUND CITY LAKE	133.01	50.49	3.88	5.62	E	133.01
ATCHISON CL #23 (WARNOCK)	123.53	7.06	0.00	4.30	G	123.53
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	121.09	38.28	0.00	3.89	E	99.32
COWLEY SFL	111.11	20.20	1.01	4.54	G	80.59
MCPHERSON SFL	110.46	63.40	9.15	6.99	E	111.99
JEWELL SFL	109.82	4.91	0.00	4.02	G	61.96
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	107.79	27.86	0.00	3.77	E	103.28
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	98.50	12.78	0.00	2.98	E	92.33
LYON SFL	98.04	3.92	0.00	1.64	G	85.43
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	92.16	56.86	9.80	5.91	E	82.33
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	88.00	56.00	1.33	4.83	E	110.00
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	87.50	42.19	0.00	4.65	G	50.00
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	81.62	40.44	0.74	5.65	G	76.14
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	80.30	0.00	0.00	1.85	G	43.94
SHAWNEE SFL	78.84	51.90	0.00	4.22	E	68.84
NEBO SFL	78.82	63.53	11.76	8.47	G	71.11
PRATT CO. LAKE	72.73	39.39	1.52	5.60	G	67.37
MADISON CITY LAKE	72.55	30.39	3.92	4.95	G	72.56
BOURBON SFL	71.57	2.94	0.98	4.34	G	42.66
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	69.12	7.35	1.47	4.12	G	61.92
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	68.07	40.34	1.68	5.40	G	67.82
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #8	62.75	31.37	0.00	4.40	G	62.75
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	62.50	4.69	0.00	1.72	G	91.15
BONE CREEK LAKE	61.96	29.02	0.78	5.93	G	50.30
GARDNER CITY LAKE	60.80	17.05	1.70	5.08	G	64.24

LARGEMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>LAKES</b>						
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	60.00	27.06	1.18	3.82	G	44.84
SABETHA CITY LAKE	59.80	47.06	1.96	5.86	G	67.30
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	59.39	32.99	6.60	5.60	F	56.55
PAOLA CITY LAKE	58.75	10.00	0.63	5.82	G	44.58
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	57.69	20.19	0.00	2.54	G	39.53
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	56.49	12.21	0.00	3.02	G	55.97
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	55.88	14.71	0.00	3.37	G	58.59
KIOWA SFL	55.56	16.67	0.00	3.89	F	36.28
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	53.01	13.61	1.43	5.87	G	55.88
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	52.94	17.65	3.92	5.66	G	51.36
HORTON-MISSION LAKE	50.00	30.88	0.00	4.19	F	50.00
HORSETHIEF	49.21	44.44	0.00	4.58	F	39.92
NEOSHO SFL	48.04	18.63	0.00	5.29	G	49.59
SHERIDAN SFL	47.89	2.11	0.00	2.08	F	34.26
WILSON SFL	44.91	14.97	0.00	3.73	G	50.72
ATCHISON SFL	44.54	7.56	0.84	4.32	F	38.84
SCOTT STATE LAKE	44.17	13.11	0.97	5.83	G	33.46
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	43.79	15.69	0.65	5.29	F	25.77
LEBO CITY LAKE	41.56	14.29	0.00	2.56	G	33.02
LEAVENWORTH SFL	41.18	6.72	0.00	3.12	F	40.86
EUREKA CITY LAKE	38.24	7.84	0.00	4.16	G	50.71
BOURBON CO. LAKE	37.91	20.26	0.00	4.56	G	41.90
MEADE STATE LAKE	37.68	31.88	5.80	5.96	F	36.97
LOUISBURG CITY LAKE	37.50	8.33	4.17	4.86	G	37.50
CLARK SFL	35.46	17.73	2.13	6.52	G	36.25
MELVERN RIVER POND	34.34	15.15	0.00	3.13	F	50.54
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	32.35	8.82	0.00	4.41	F	28.04
KINGMAN SFL	30.39	0.00	0.00	1.79	F	22.14
MIAMI SFL	29.69	1.56	0.00	1.75	F	82.48
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	29.41	11.76	0.00	2.51	G	45.02
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	28.77	20.55	4.11	6.08	G	25.45
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	28.43	3.92	0.98	5.69	G	28.43
WASHINGTON SFL	27.94	3.99	0.00	3.81	F	13.50
GEARY SFL	26.89	5.04	0.00	2.17	G	23.72
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	26.47	9.80	0.00	4.22	F	23.53
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	24.37	2.52	0.00	4.01	F	24.32
CRAWFORD SFL	22.06	14.22	0.98	6.11	F	24.00
OTTAWA SFL	18.49	5.04	0.00	2.80	F	30.84
CRITZER LAKE	18.46	1.54	0.00	1.74	G	26.29
SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	17.06	11.76	0.00	4.52	F	17.06
WOODSON SFL	17.04	6.67	1.48	5.95	F	20.39
MARION CO. LAKE	15.29	2.35	0.00	2.95	F	15.32
CHASE SFL	14.71	3.92	0.00	4.41	F	15.20
OSAGE SFL	14.71	3.92	0.98	5.20	F	24.51
DOUGLAS SFL	13.73	0.00	0.00	1.01	F	11.76
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	13.53	10.00	1.18	4.63	F	11.47
BARBER SFL-LOWER	11.76	0.00	0.00	0.95	P	12.53
HARVEY CO. LAKE - WEST	11.76	3.92	0.00	3.59	P	8.47
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-WEST	10.79	7.19	3.60	5.89	F	10.67
MONTGOMERY SFL	8.23	4.49	0.00	3.55	G	28.60
GREAT BEND-STONE PARK LAKE	6.82	4.55	2.27	5.07	F	6.35
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	6.25	3.47	0.00	3.81	F	8.54
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	6.09	4.35	0.00	5.13	F	40.91
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	5.13	4.28	0.00	2.19	P	5.16
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	4.71	3.53	0.00	3.75	F	4.71
COLDWATER LAKE	4.00	4.00	0.00	2.46	F	13.76
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	3.99	3.99	1.00	4.65	P	9.96
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	3.36	2.52	0.00	2.00	P	3.53
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	1.18	0.59	0.00	3.30	P	1.84
<b>PONDS</b>						
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - E POND	110.00	20.00	0.00	3.22	G	140.00
SEVERY CITY LAKE	80.84	20.96	2.99	5.16	G	85.42
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	80.39	17.65	1.96	6.54	G	62.99
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - W POND	76.92	15.38	0.00	2.12	G	96.79
EMPORIA-PETER PAN PARK	68.00	68.00	0.00	4.16	G	71.41
JEWELL CITY LAKE	64.71	23.53	0.00	3.27	G	66.86
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #7	60.66	0.00	0.00	1.63	F	60.66
OLPE-JONES PARK POND	50.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	G	77.63
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - N POND	25.00	0.00	0.00	1.19	G	53.63
TROY 4-H LAKE	23.53	0.00	0.00	1.38	F	23.53
COFFEYVILLE-LECLERE	17.96	5.99	0.00	1.70	F	17.96
WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES.	15.69	4.90	0.00	3.43	F	9.90
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	2.94	0.00	0.00	1.80	P	11.76
FALL RIVER	0.98	0.00	0.00	1.49	P	4.30

SPOTTED BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	19.12	8.82	0.00	1.89	E	15.20
MILFORD	2.71	0.45	0.00	1.41	F	3.01
MELVERN	1.18	0.20	0.00	1.58	P	1.42
CEDAR BLUFF	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.72	F	1.14
WILSON	0.29	0.00	0.00	1.04	P	0.28
<b>LAKES</b>						
BOURBON SFL	42.16	0.00	0.00	1.01	E	24.83
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	28.43	7.84	0.00	1.70	G	28.43
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	28.24	10.59	0.00	2.18	G	18.32
WILSON SFL	20.96	5.99	0.00	2.58	E	29.96
CRAWFORD SFL	9.80	5.39	0.49	2.27	F	11.24
EUREKA CITY LAKE	9.80	0.98	0.00	1.32	G	8.21
CHASE SFL	8.82	0.98	0.00	2.20	G	7.35
MARION CO. LAKE	7.06	1.18	0.00	1.48	F	3.79
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	3.53	2.35	0.59	2.47	G	3.53
<b>PONDS</b>						
WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	P	0.00

SMALLMOUTH BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WOLF CREEK	63.00	37.00	4.00	3.02	E	50.24
MELVERN	23.92	10.78	2.75	3.49	G	13.82
GLEN ELDER	14.95	7.84	1.23	3.86	G	13.89
MILFORD	7.69	2.04	0.23	4.29	G	14.33
EL DORADO	5.88	3.53	1.76	3.81	F	6.40
CLINTON	3.99	2.66	0.89	3.74	F	6.25
BIG HILL	1.50	1.20	0.90	3.00	F	1.28
WILSON	1.47	1.18	0.00	1.79	G	2.72
PERRY	0.69	0.23	0.23	2.32	F	0.70
<b>LAKES</b>						
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	12.83	5.99	0.00	1.48	E	12.01
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	7.58	0.00	0.00	1.17	F	3.79
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	4.58	2.61	0.65	4.02	F	2.90
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	2.99	2.99	1.00	3.41	G	6.98
GEARY SFL	1.68	0.00	0.00	1.23	F	1.01
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	1.52	1.02	1.02	3.51	P	1.97



WHITE BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>9")	Preferred Rating (>12")	Lunker Rating (>15")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>9")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
KANOPOLIS	23.92	15.83	2.92	2.84	E	11.51
JOHN REDMOND	12.95	8.90	0.25	2.93	E	8.64
WEBSTER	11.10	10.20	1.00	1.73	G	11.20
CLINTON	9.88	8.31	1.88	1.95	G	11.42
CEDAR BLUFF	8.50	8.06	3.69	2.18	G	14.07
PERRY	8.35	2.60	0.20	1.96	G	6.52
CHENEY	8.20	7.00	2.80	2.78	G	6.67
MARION	8.13	4.13	0.88	2.03	G	8.69
FALL RIVER	7.33	4.50	2.17	2.82	G	5.74
GLEN ELDER	6.92	5.75	1.67	2.07	G	13.14
MELVERN	6.13	5.75	1.81	2.31	F	5.83
HILLSDALE	5.92	3.92	0.17	1.85	F	4.36
POMONA	5.63	4.19	0.25	1.76	G	6.69
BIG HILL	3.78	3.56	0.44	1.59	F	4.39
LACYGNE	2.31	2.19	0.38	2.08	G	2.80
KIRWIN	2.25	1.42	0.50	1.94	G	3.42
WILSON	2.17	2.17	1.40	2.41	F	2.86
LOVEWELL	2.06	1.94	0.24	1.73	F	4.84
WOLF CREEK	1.94	1.88	0.06	1.57	G	3.91
EL DORADO	1.93	1.40	0.07	1.34	F	2.44
COUNCIL GROVE	1.75	1.25	0.08	1.74	F	2.89
TORONTO	1.17	0.83	0.42	2.43	F	2.64
TUTTLE CREEK	0.45	0.45	0.35	2.41	P	3.27
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	16.25	4.75	1.00	2.57	G	7.67
CLARK SFL	16.25	8.63	0.00	1.31	E	10.92
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	5.75	5.75	0.75	1.99	G	6.29
FORT SCOTT CITY LAKE	5.00	4.25	1.75	2.08	G	4.38
GARDNER CITY LAKE	5.00	4.67	1.50	1.83	G	4.11
MIAMI SFL	5.00	5.00	2.67	2.45	E	3.78
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	4.88	4.88	2.00	1.99	G	4.92
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	3.75	1.25	0.25	2.02	G	3.58
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	3.33	3.33	2.50	1.94	F	3.04
WILSON SFL	3.17	1.42	0.50	2.23	F	2.00
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.88	0.00	0.00	0.44	F	2.88
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	2.83	1.50	0.33	1.92	P	1.39
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	2.33	0.67	0.00	1.53	F	7.11
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	2.17	2.17	0.67	2.40	F	1.61
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.50	1.33	0.00	1.30	F	1.44
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.50	0.67	0.00	1.29	P	0.72
MELVERN RIVER POND	1.25	1.25	0.25	1.52	P	2.08
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	1.17	1.17	0.00	1.60	F	1.17
OSAGE SFL	1.17	0.83	0.00	0.95	P	1.22
HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST	0.83	0.83	0.00	1.37	F	0.67
LYON SFL	0.83	0.67	0.50	2.20	P	1.28
GEARY SFL	0.75	0.25	0.25	1.41	P	1.50
CHASE SFL	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.50	P	2.42
COWLEY SFL	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.79	P	0.50
PAOLA CITY LAKE	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.28	P	1.11
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	0.38	0.38	0.00	1.00	P	0.96

WIPER						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	11.10	3.20	0.00	6.34	G	8.50
EL DORADO	7.80	0.67	0.00	5.27	G	4.82
MARION	6.00	1.88	0.13	6.50	E	5.50
WEBSTER	5.60	0.20	0.00	4.17	G	4.66
CHENEY	3.93	1.53	0.13	7.30	G	3.86
KANOPOLIS	3.67	1.08	0.00	4.61	G	1.31
KIRWIN	3.33	0.50	0.00	6.38	G	5.50
CEDAR BLUFF	3.00	1.50	0.00	5.02	G	3.23
COUNCIL GROVE	2.75	0.42	0.00	4.14	G	2.19
POMONA	2.25	0.38	0.00	4.38	G	1.71
LACYGNE	2.00	0.69	0.00	6.84	G	1.53
MILFORD	1.90	0.70	0.15	7.92	G	5.20
LOVEWELL	1.71	0.18	0.06	5.88	G	0.94
CLINTON	1.69	1.31	0.00	5.46	F	2.35
GLEN ELDER	0.92	0.50	0.04	5.59	G	1.45
WOLF CREEK	0.81	0.00	0.00	2.80	F	0.33
JOHN REDMOND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	P	0.00
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	22.00	3.75	0.50	6.74	G	11.75
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	6.67	1.50	0.50	8.27	G	4.50
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	2.67	1.17	0.17	6.77	G	2.33
PAOLA CITY LAKE	2.50	0.50	0.00	3.81	G	2.11
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	2.50	2.38	0.00	5.39	G	1.71
LEAVENWORTH SFL	1.83	0.50	0.00	3.65	G	2.61
SHERIDAN SFL	1.50	0.25	0.00	5.30	G	1.26
COLDWATER LAKE	1.40	0.40	0.00	4.54	F	1.40
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.33	0.17	0.00	4.27	F	1.00
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	1.25	0.38	0.00	3.90	G	5.25
OSAGE SFL	1.17	0.33	0.00	4.37	F	0.56
KIOWA SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.47	F	1.00
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	0.83	0.00	0.00	2.77	F	0.28
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	0.67	0.17	0.00	3.49	F	2.06
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	0.67	0.00	0.00	2.45	F	0.33
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	0.50	0.33	0.00	4.45	F	0.67
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.40	0.00	0.00	2.82	F	2.27
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.02	P	0.39
OLPE CITY LAKE	0.33	0.33	0.33	12.79	P	0.33
<b>PONDS</b>						
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #7	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.89	F	1.00
HORTON-LITTLE LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.37	F	0.17

STRIPER						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WILSON	2.37	0.00	0.00	9.35	G	2.12
GLEN ELDER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	P	0.02





SAUGEYE						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>14")	Preferred Rating (>18")	Lunker Rating (>22")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>14")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	9.00	3.40	0.00	3.64	G	12.97
KANOPOLIS	3.42	1.50	0.25	4.61	G	7.47
COUNCIL GROVE	1.50	1.33	0.42	4.59	G	5.56
<b>LAKES</b>						
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	7.50	0.25	0.13	4.63	G	4.54
WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE	7.25	4.00	2.50	5.95	F	7.25
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	5.67	3.00	0.00	2.56	G	3.33
SABETHA CITY LAKE	4.50	4.50	3.00	6.53	G	5.75
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	3.50	3.50	0.25	4.83	E	6.92
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	3.50	0.50	0.25	5.73	G	1.75
SHERIDAN SFL	3.25	2.75	0.25	4.12	E	2.31
CHASE SFL	3.00	1.00	0.25	4.52	G	1.67
WASHINGTON SFL	2.75	1.75	0.00	3.17	F	2.17
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	2.50	2.13	1.13	5.66	G	3.21
OTTAWA SFL	2.50	2.00	0.25	3.49	G	3.42
SCOTT STATE LAKE	2.00	1.67	0.75	5.53	E	3.13
MCPHERSON SFL	2.00	1.00	0.00	2.73	F	1.44
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	1.83	0.50	0.17	4.75	F	1.00
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	1.75	1.75	1.25	6.70	G	2.25
OLPE CITY LAKE	1.67	1.33	0.33	4.07	P	1.67
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.50	0.67	0.00	2.49	F	1.67
MADISON CITY LAKE	1.33	1.33	0.50	5.13	F	1.06
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	1.33	0.33	0.00	3.48	F	1.44
<b>PONDS</b>						
TUTTLE CREEK RIVER POND	1.00	1.00	0.25	4.16	G	1.00

SAUGER						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
PERRY	2.55	1.70	0.45	2.64	G	3.45
CLINTON	1.00	0.88	0.19	3.62	F	1.19
MELVERN	0.63	0.63	0.06	1.48	P	0.56
<b>LAKES</b>						
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	1.75	1.75	0.75	2.02	F	2.17

WALLEYE						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>15")	Preferred Rating (>20")	Lunker Rating (>25")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>15")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WEBSTER	4.70	0.30	0.00	4.29	G	6.05
KIRWIN	3.25	1.83	0.33	7.69	G	4.97
CEDAR BLUFF	2.88	0.38	0.00	3.84	G	3.01
MARION	2.75	1.13	0.00	5.34	G	2.44
EL DORADO	2.73	1.27	0.13	5.11	G	3.44
CHENEY	2.53	1.33	0.13	5.56	G	3.56
GLEN ELDER	2.08	0.63	0.00	4.45	G	3.40
WILSON	1.63	0.03	0.03	3.97	G	2.63
LOVEWELL	1.35	0.65	0.12	7.07	F	2.07
HILLSDALE	0.67	0.17	0.08	5.61	F	0.67
MILFORD	0.50	0.10	0.05	5.27	G	1.75
CLINTON	0.38	0.25	0.13	7.43	F	0.88
POMONA	0.31	0.19	0.00	4.22	F	0.67
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	0.20	0.10	0.00	3.69	F	0.25
MELVERN	0.19	0.00	0.00	2.26	F	1.13
<b>LAKES</b>						
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	7.00	0.00	0.00	2.23	G	3.67
PRATT CO. LAKE	2.00	1.00	0.00	3.06	G	4.00
HORSETHIEF	1.50	0.50	0.00	4.42	F	1.61
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	1.33	1.17	0.33	7.37	F	1.39
CLARK SFL	1.25	0.00	0.00	2.02	F	0.97
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	1.25	0.75	0.13	5.72	F	1.96
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.89	F	0.92
CRITZER LAKE	1.00	0.83	0.00	5.09	G	0.78
COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE	0.83	0.00	0.00	1.59	F	0.79
JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE	0.67	0.33	0.00	3.71	F	0.72
BARBER SFL-LOWER	0.67	0.00	0.00	1.31	F	0.83
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.67	0.17	0.00	2.71	F	0.83
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	0.67	0.17	0.00	4.63	F	0.92
BOURBON CO. LAKE	0.67	0.33	0.00	2.84	G	0.67
JEFFREY EC- AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	0.63	0.13	0.00	3.39	F	0.71
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.60	0.40	0.00	5.31	F	1.17
SHAWNEE SFL	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	F	0.61
MELVERN RIVER POND	0.50	0.50	0.00	4.35	P	0.50
SCOTT STATE LAKE	0.42	0.33	0.00	5.87	F	0.60
ALMA CITY LAKE	0.33	0.33	0.00	4.59	F	0.17
ATCHISON SFL	0.25	0.25	0.00	4.08	P	0.25
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	0.17	0.17	0.00	4.22	P	0.17

# Planting Seeds of Appreciation

by Nadia Marji  
associate editor, Pratt





The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) is a small group of people with a big vision: encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas through education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge. KNPS members are firm believers there is beauty and value in all of Kansas' native plants, and they are striving to instill that passion in others.

Thirty-seven years ago, the Kansas Wildflower Society was born. It wasn't until 2004, when members decided the name didn't accurately reflect the spectrum of plants found in Kansas, that the organization became known by the Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS). Focusing on indigenous flora, KNPS members educate the public on Kansas wildflowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, and lesser known groups such as sedges, rushes, liverworts, mosses, and ferns. This is done through presentations, printed materials, and most importantly, through exploration.

Members come from all walks of life – geologists,

ecologists, university professors, master gardeners, plant lovers and the like – but all have one thing in common. They all have a deep appreciation for the plants and wildflowers of Kansas.

“KNPS is essentially a fun group of native plant lovers,” said KNPS Hays-area regional coordinator, Chelsea Erickson. “We come with a wide degree of plant knowledge from novice gardeners to university Ph.D.s. The only requirement we have is to have fun and enjoy native plants!”

It's this very enjoyment and diverse background that aided KNPS members in seeing through one of the organizations greatest accomplishments to date.

### **Little Bluestem as The Kansas State Grass**

Before July 1, 2010, the state of Kansas, a prairie state, didn't have a designated symbol for a state grass, but several members of KNPS with careers in education were determined to change that.

The process began in 2005 when KNPS member Valerie Wright recommended the group launch a campaign to name a state grass. She found an ally in Shawnee Mission South High School Biology teacher, Jan Alderson, whose class had already been discussing native grasses. Before they knew it, the Little Bluestem Committee was born.

Committee members chose



Little Bluestem, pictured above, was named the state grass by the Kansas State Legislature in July of 2010.



Since some plants and wildflowers look very similar, KNPS members recommend taking pictures to make identification easier when at home. It's also a good idea to jot down information such as size, texture, and location of the plant or wildflower.



Touch is an essential element in identifying flowers and plants, however learning to identify them without a reference aide can take years to master. Beginners can download a field guide like *The Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* from the “Resources” section of the KNPS website, [kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://kansasnativeplantsociety.org). Other guides are also available there.



Plains, and still of major importance in the tall, mixed and shortgrass prairies where it can produce one to two tons of biomass per acre, little bluestem is a nutritious and palatable food source for grazing animals.

“Members created materials to teach students about little bluestem and just as the committee was doing its part, so were the students,” said fellow KNPS member, Nancy Goulden. “But for five years, nothing we tried seemed to have any impact. The Legislature just wasn’t interested.” Goulden added that things finally began to change with the class of 2009-2010.

With one final effort, KNPS was able to persuade Rep. Sharon Schwartz, R-Washington, and Sen. Kay Wolf, R-Prairie Village, to sponsor a bill to make little bluestem the Kansas State Grass. And this time, there was more than just the Shawnee

the approach of inviting Kansas school students to be at the heart of the project by having students contact State representatives and ask them to present a bill for a state grass to the Legislature.

When trying to determine which grass would best represent the state, students and members took into consideration the several native grasses that are considered dominant in pastures and prairies across

the state. All were viable candidates, but only one species was found in every county – little bluestem.

Known by its scientific name, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, little bluestem is a native perennial with a dense root system reaching 5-8 feet into the soil. It is drought resistant and grows from 2-5 feet tall in deep, shallow or rocky soils. Once the most abundant grasses in the Great



Annual Wildflower Weekends are one of many KNPS family-friendly events held each year to promote a better understanding and appreciation of Kansas' native plants.



Often, KNPS will gain access to private lands not normally accessible to others.

Mission South High School Biology class involved – students from Chase County Elementary School had hopped on the bandwagon, too. Both classes, along with Wright and Goulden, were invited to go before the House Federal and State Affairs Committee to make the case for naming Little Bluestem as the Kansas State Grass. Dozens of sponsors wrote proposals in support of the grass and at last, the bill was on its way.

“The bill was passed by the committee, and a few days later, the full House of Representatives passed HB2649,” said Goulden. “Passage in the Senate followed, and Little Bluestem became the State Grass of Kansas.”

### **The Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses**

In an effort to make native plant information accessible for all, KNPS, along with the

Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, Westar Energy Green Team, Chickadee Checkoff program, and Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC), compiled a full-color, printed pocket guide. Eighth in the pocket guide series, *The Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* covers 52 kinds of native wildflowers and six prairie grasses found in the Flint Hills, most of which are the same species of plants that greeted European settlers entering the region nearly 200 years ago.

The pocket guide gives detailed descriptions of each wildflower and grass, as well as information on the plant's ecological relationships to livestock grazing, wildlife and basic human uses. The wildflowers are also arranged by flower color.

Authored by Iralee Barnard, the 69-page softbound pocket guide can be purchased through the GPNC, (316) 683-

5499. Other pocket guides in this series include: *Kansas Red Hills Wildflowers*, *Kansas Raptors*, *Kansas Snakes*, *Kansas Mammals*, *Kansas Freshwater Mussels*, *Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species*, *Great Plains Shorebirds* and *Great Plains Waterbirds*.

### **Annual Wildflower Weekends**

KNPS hosts a variety of events throughout the year designed to encourage the exploration and appreciation of Kansas' native flora. Events include scheduled hikes, programs and workshops, wildflower walks, and speciality classes such as wildflower photography and making paper from plant fiber, all led by volunteers. Of all the events that KNPS hosts throughout the year, none are as grand or large-scale as the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). AWW is a three-day crash-course in the world of

native flora and participants are led by some of the most qualified and dedicated plant experts out there. Typically held in late September, AWW brings together KNPS members and the general public to explore a given region of the state.

Apart from wildflower walks, the three-day event also consists of the club's annual photo contest, a variety of presentations, and most importantly – camaraderie.

During the 2014 AWW last September, members were able to identify more than 120 plants in just three short days – a feat that was as challenging as it was fun.

The next AWW will be held Sept. 25-27, 2015 in Manhattan. Participants will explore the northern Flint Hills region, as well as a



KNPS members and participants at the 2014 AWW, where more than 120 unique plant species were identified over a three-day period.

variety of other sites, including the Konza Prairie Biological Station.

### Membership

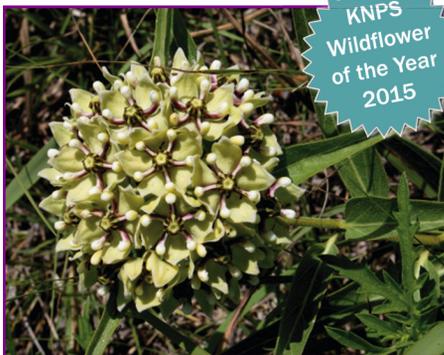
Although being a member of KNPS is not required to participate in any KNPS events, membership has invaluable benefits.

“It's one thing to buy a flower guide book, it's quite another thing to spend time

with people who are willing to share what they know,” said member Krista Dahlinger. “KNPS is a chance to observe more plants than I'd ever find on my own in the company of intelligent and interesting people.”

To learn more about the benefits of membership, and to view a calendar of events, visit [kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://kansasnativeplantsociety.org).

## KNPS Member Picks: “Plants to Know”



**Spider Milkweed/Green Antelopehorn** (*Asclepias viridis*)  
**Distribution:** East 2/3 of Kansas.  
**Habitat:** Dry prairies, pastures, ditch banks, and disturbed ground, on sandy or rocky limestone soils. **Stems:** Ascending, 1-2, simple or sparingly branched above, glabrous (smooth) or sparsely pubescent above. **Flowers:** 5-parted, about 1/2 inch tall, on stalks 1/2 to 1 inch long; green.



**Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum*)  
**Distribution:** Throughout Kansas.  
**Habitat:** Moist, open lowland prairies, sand prairies, and open woods, on broad range of soils. **Culms:** Erect, solitary or clumped, usually unbranched above base, firm, glabrous. **Blades:** Flat, narrow, 4 to 24 inches long, to 3/5 inch wide, nearly glabrous, leaf base with triangular patch of hair on upper surface.



**Dotted Gayfeather/Blazing Star/ Button Snakeroot** (*Liatris punctata*)  
**Distribution:** Throughout Kansas.  
**Habitat:** Dry, open, upland sites, most abundant on sandy soils. **Stems:** Erect, solitary or in clusters, stiff, glabrous. **Flowers:** Ray florets absent; disk florets 3-8, rose-purple, corollas pubescent inside.

Spider Milkweed courtesy Krista Dahlinger. Switchgrass courtesy Iralea Barnard. Dotted Gayfeather courtesy Chelsea Erickson. Descriptions courtesy Mike Haddock.

# 2015 Sportsmen's Calendar

## SPRING TURKEY:

- Youth/Persons with disabilities: April 1-14, 2015
- Archery: April 6-14, 2015
- Firearm: April 15-May 31, 2015

## FALL TURKEY:

- Season: Oct. 1-Dec. 2 AND Dec. 15, 2014-Jan. 31, 2015

## DEER (proposed):

- Youth/Persons with disabilities: Sept. 5-13, 2015
- Archery: Sept. 14-Dec. 31, 2015
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 14-27, 2015
- Regular Firearm: Dec. 2-13, 2015
- Pre-rut whitetail antlerless: Oct. 10-11, 2015
- Firearm Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season: Jan. 1-3, 2016 (Units to be set)
- Firearm Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season: Jan. 1-10, 2016 (Units to be set)
- Special Extended Firearms Whitetail Antlerless Season: Jan. 1-17, 2016 (Units to be set)
- Archery Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season (DMU 19 only): Jan. 18-31, 2016

## ANTELOPE

Firearm and muzzleloader application deadline:  
June 12, 2015 (residents only)

- Archery: Sept. 19-27 AND Oct. 10-31, 2015
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 28-Oct. 5, 2015
- Firearm: Oct 2-5, 2015

## ELK (residents only)

Application deadline for Ft. Riley July 10, 2015

### Outside Fort Riley:

- Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-30, 2015
- Archery: Sept. 14-Dec. 31, 2015
- Firearm: Dec. 2-13, 2015 and Jan.1-March 15, 2016

### On Fort Riley:

- Muzzleloader and archery: Sept. 1-30, 2015
- Firearm Season for Holders of Any-Elk Permits: Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2015

### Antlerless Only:

- Firearm First Segment: Oct. 1-30, 2015
- Firearm Second Segment: Nov. 1-30, 2015
- Firearm Third Segment: Dec. 1-31, 2015

## DOVE

(Mourning, white-winged, Eurasian collared, and ringed turtle doves)

- Season: Sept.1-Oct. 31 and Nov. 7-15, 2015

## EXOTIC DOVE

(Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves only)

- Season: Nov. 20-Feb. 28, 2016

## RAIL (Sora and Virginia)

- Season: Sept. 1-Nov. 9, 2015

## SNIPE

- Season: Sept. 1-Dec. 16, 2015

## WOODCOCK

- Season: Oct. 17-Nov. 30, 2015

## SANDHILL CRANE

- Season: Nov. 11, 2015-Jan. 7, 2016

## DUCKS

- To be set

## GEESE

Canada Geese

- To be set

## Light Geese Conservation Order

- Season: Feb. 16-April 30, 2015

## GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

- Regular Season (Greater Prairie Chicken Unit): Nov. 21, 2015-Jan. 31, 2016
- (No open season for taking prairie chickens in Southwest Unit)

## PHEASANTS

- Season: Nov. 14, 2015-Jan. 31, 2016
- Youth Season: Nov. 7-8, 2015

## QUAIL

- Season: Nov. 14, 2015-Jan. 31, 2016
- Youth Season: Nov. 7-8, 2015

## SQUIRREL

- Season: June 1, 2015-Feb. 28, 2016

## RABBITS (cottontail & jackrabbit)

- Season: All year

## CROW

- Season: Nov. 10, 2014-March 10, 2015

## TRAPPING/HUNTING

- Season: Nov. 12, 2014-Feb. 15, 2015
- Badger, bobcat, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, swift fox, red fox, gray fox, striped skunk, weasel.

## BEAVER AND OTTER TRAPPING

- Season: Nov. 12, 2014-March 31, 2015

[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)

## A PHOTO ESSAY OF DUCKS IN SPRING PLUMAGE

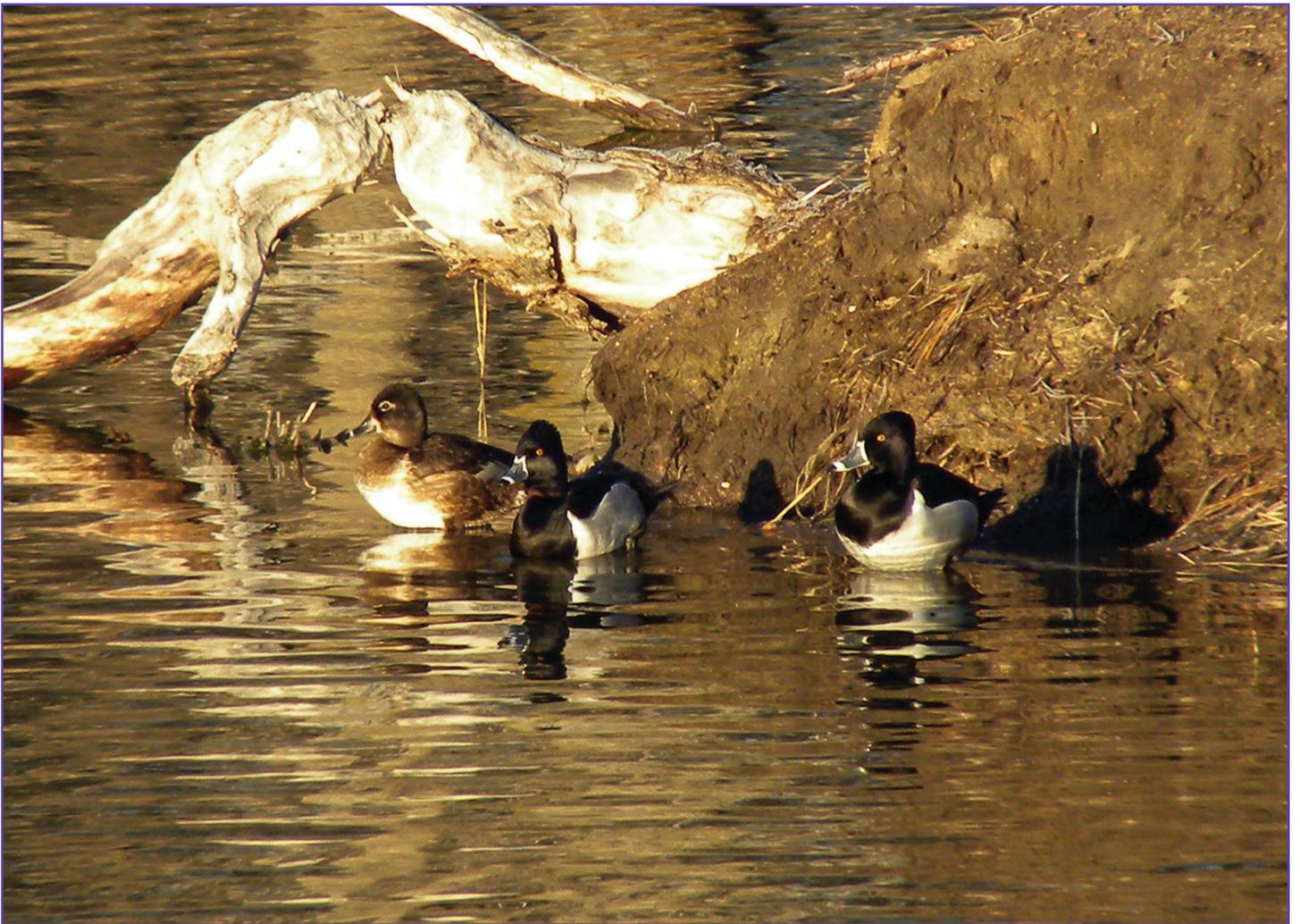
The fall waterfowl migration is an annual event that is nothing short of spectacular, but March hosts a second migration that is even more stunning than the first. Following hunting season, the spring migration brings to life something that hunters and birdwatchers alike can appreciate – color. Ducks in spring plumage sport feathers richer than even the highest quality oil paints. Here are six of those ducks you may see this spring.

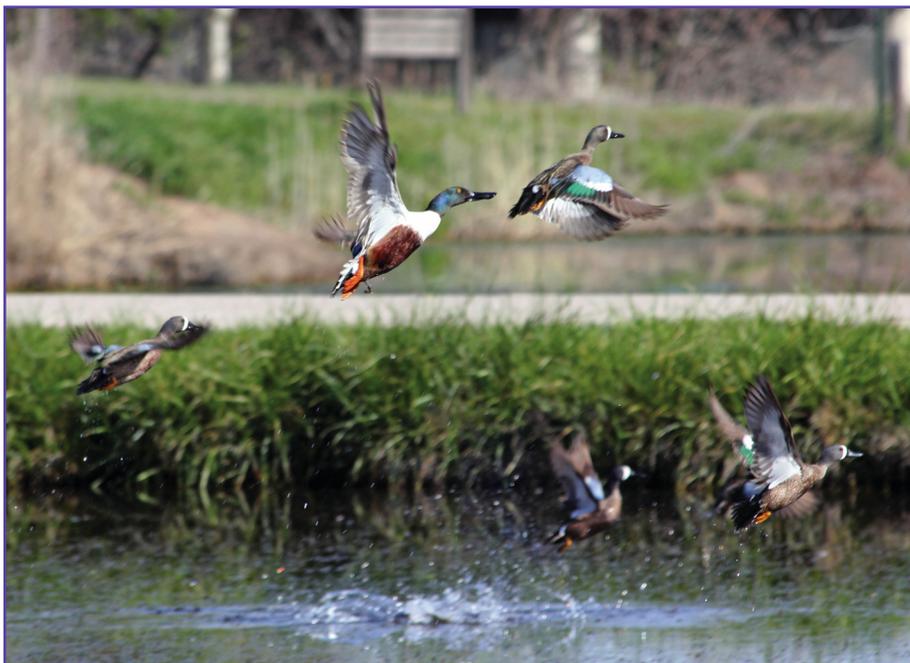


by Nadia Marji, associate editor, Pratt

FLEETS OF

*feathers*





**Page 42, top left:** A wildly-colored drake wood duck stops for a break at a secluded creek.

**Page 42, top right:** Two drake mallards court a single hen, flashing vivid emerald green and purple feathers.

**Page 42, bottom:** A hen ring-necked duck is accompanied by two drake ring-necked ducks sporting rich black and white plumage.

**Above:** Five sleek drake pintails with the signature white crescent neck-patch chase a hen pintail in flight.

**Left:** A lone, chestnut-breasted drake shoveler takes off amid four drake blue-winged teal. Their blue and green feathers serve as a great contrast to their bright orange feet.

# WALLEYE



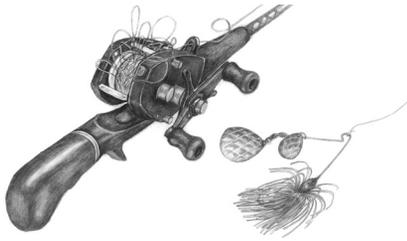
Joseph Tomelleri illustration

## Species Profile

The walleye is a popular sport fish not native to Kansas waters. It was first stocked into reservoirs in the early 1960s. Walleye populations are maintained through stocking. Kansas fisheries biologists harvest millions of walleye eggs annually in March. Walleye are netted, eggs milked from females and fertilized with milt taken from males. The fertilized eggs are then transported to KDWPT hatcheries where they are hatched in a controlled system. The fry are then either stocked directly into lakes, or put in hatchery ponds so they can grow larger before stocking.

Some of the walleye eggs will be fertilized with milt from saugers to create hybrids called saugeyes. Saugeyes are often stocked in lakes that are turbid or have high flow-through rates, conditions not conducive to walleye survival.

While anglers catch some walleye in March when the fish move shallow to spawn, most are caught in April, May and June. When water temperatures reach into the 60s, walleye are found on shallow lake flats feeding on insect larvae.



# Backlash

by Mike Miller

## STUPID TURKEYS

**W**e've all seen a flock of wild turkeys pecking down the middle of the road, making us slow our vehicle down before they waddle out of the way. The whole flock watches passively, oblivious to potential danger. Some who don't hunt turkeys might wonder why hunting them would be any kind of challenge; or how a turkey hunter could ever come home empty handed, outsmarted by a bird with a brain the size of pea. I've wondered that about myself.

I once watched a tom pace along a woven-wire fence, trying in vain to find a way through to the feed field on the other side. The fence might have been 3 feet tall, and with two flaps of the big bird's wings, it could have easily sailed over. And this was a mature gobbler that had survived several hunting seasons, bobcats, coyotes, horned owls and who knows how many road crossings. Maybe the tom eventually figured it out, but it didn't in the time it took me to drive by.

The irony is that turkeys are also tasty – just about every predator big enough to catch and kill them eats them, including, on occasion, humans. So you would think that these palatable birds with such an obvious lack of intelligence would soon disappear. But in fact, turkeys are survivors and with a little help, they have dramatically increased their numbers and expanded their range in Kansas over the past 40 years. So how does that work?

The truth is, turkeys are only as smart as they have to be. Turkeys appear stupid until they figure out you're after them. I've seen birds

stand 20 yards off the road looking completely befuddled until I slipped out into the cover and tried to put a stalk on them. One minute 15 birds were milling around looking anything but wary, and the next minute they were gone. Five minutes later, they were tiny black specks going over the far hill. My not-so-stealthy attempt at a stalk tripped a switch in the birds and they were instantly in survival mode.

It's possible that turkeys are the Columbos of the bird world duping us predators into believing they're easy prey. We relax and they execute an escape strategy they've had planned all along. (For you non-Baby Boomers, Columbo is a detective character played by Peter Falk in a television series from the 1970s. His disheveled appearance and bumbling manner convinced criminals to underestimate him while he shrewdly solved every case. Google him.)

Columbo or not, when the switch flips and turkeys go into survival mode, the big birds do have an array of senses that make up for lack in smarts. They have very good vision and can easily spot movement.

Turkeys also have excellent hearing. One particular bird illustrated this fact to me years ago. While scouting before the season, I was walking along a tree row looking for sign, absently yelping on a diaphragm call when a bird gobbled several hundred yards away. Every time I yelped, it gobbled back. I didn't really want to call it in and spook it, but it was hard to stop calling when it kept answering. Finally, when it sounded like it was within 100 yards, I quit calling. I

wasn't wearing camouflage and wasn't well hidden.

While I remained quiet, hoping the bird would lose interest, it continued to gobble and close the distance. It covered 75 yards of pasture then came through a thick row of cedar trees. All of a sudden the big tom popped into view less than 30 yards away. It gobbled, took a few more steps, then gobbled again. I was sitting awkwardly, caught in an uncomfortable position. The bird moved closer, then stood and gobbled repeatedly. It had pinpointed the location of my call from more than 100 yards away. I finally moved to relieve a leg cramp and the bird left begrudgingly. Thinking back, I wonder now if that bird didn't know the season was closed all along. That might explain why I couldn't call it into shotgun range later in the month when the season was open.

Another fact that keeps turkeys alive is they are usually found in flocks. Instead of just one pea-sized brain and pair of eyeballs, a hunter is usually dealing with 10 or 20. And during the spring season when toms are supposed to be vulnerable to hen calls, the breeding behavior also keeps them alive. When a tom has a real-live hen in sight, it can be impossible to call it away to your imaginary hen.

Most of the evidence leads to the conclusion that turkeys usually aren't the smartest bird in the field. However, the Columbo theory is easier on my ego when I come home from a hunt empty handed, muttering, "Stupid turkeys."

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2420 NW Button Road  
Topeka, KS 66618  
(785) 233-4400

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