

KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

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On Point

by Mike Hayden



Prairyerth

"In all of modern America, there is no more lost, plaintive, old-time sound than the booming of a native prairie chicken. And when it is gone, it shall be gone forever. All our television will not bring it back to us, and none of our spacecraft can take us to where it vanished. It is the last fading voice of the prairie wilderness, echoing after the lost clouds of curlews and plovers, crying farewell."

-John Madson, *Where The Sky Began - Land of the Tallgrass Prairie*

The words of John Madson, writer and noted tallgrass prairie historian, offer a glimpse of what may become. Of course it is not just the prairie chicken we stand to lose, but an entire ecosystem and way of life that has identified Kansas and, especially, the Flint Hills.

It is these thoughts that led to the formation of the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance (Alliance). The mission of this group is to preserve, enhance, and restore Kansas' tallgrass prairie. The diverse groups that make up the Alliance face many obstacles in their quest to undo a century worth of change on our prairie landscape.

Sadly, 95 percent of the original tallgrass prairie in North America is gone. Kansas is home to 80 percent of what remains. Although this sounds promising, it is offset by the fact that most of Kansas' tallgrass prairie, more than 80 percent, has been lost, perhaps forever.

The reasons for the decline of the tallgrass prairie and its wildlife are numerous. Vast landscapes of prairie have been interrupted by homes and other developments, fragmenting existing grassland. As you drive past new subdivisions near Emporia, Wichita, El Dorado, and Topeka, you witness urban sprawl and the demise of prairie. A lack of private, state, or federal incentives to effectively manage the tallgrass prairie in a sustainable manner is also a chief concern.

The impact that loss of prairie has on wildlife cannot be overstated. While Kansas is still home to one of the largest prairie chicken populations in the country, numbers remain in a long-term decline. Other species that have been negatively affected are the short-eared owl and Henslow's sparrow. All of these birds require large areas of prairie with a variety of habitat types.

The recently passed Federal Farm Bill has the potential to address prairie issues and many other concerns. The Farm Bill will increase overall conservation program

funding by 80 percent and will increase grassland protection nearly 20-fold. Through a variety of cost-share programs, landowners in the tallgrass prairie region will be able to receive funding and technical assistance to conserve and enhance their grassland.

Many past conservation programs had potential to benefit our natural resources but failed due to a lack of consensus between agricultural producers and wildlife enthusiasts. It should be noted that these two groups are not mutually exclusive. The Alliance is in a unique position not only to prove this point, but to succeed in benefiting the farmers' and ranchers' bottom line, as well as the plants and wildlife of the prairie. The key to the Alliance's success is the cooperation between many diverse groups.

For instance, The Nature Conservancy is working with the Kansas Livestock Association and the Kansas Farm Bureau to secure conservation easements through a program called the Cattleman's Land Trust. In the past, conservation easements weren't popular because they limited land-use options. However, because the Alliance is focused on preserving the farm and ranch way of life, the easement program has the potential to succeed.

The Alliance promotes practices that will improve the overall health of the remaining tallgrass prairie. Overgrazing often occurs simply due to a lack of adequate fencing. Water quality also suffers when cattle are not fenced out of impoundment and riparian areas. While the Alliance does not fund or mandate any conservation practices, it gathers the best available technical and grant funding information. This allows farmers and ranchers to make well-informed decisions that most benefit their operations, while also improving the health of the prairie.

The 2002 Farm Bill has provided the funding mechanism. The Alliance is ensuring that these resources are accessible to the stewards of the prairie. It is time to seize this opportunity and restore our tallgrass heritage. In the words of Madson, ". . . a restored prairie isn't the real thing. But it's a start, and can only improve with age."

For more information on the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, please contact Jim Minnerath of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (620) 392-5553 Ext. 104. The Alliance is made up of representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Conservation Commission, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Extension Service, The Nature Conservancy, Resource Conservation and Development, Stream and Prairie Research, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

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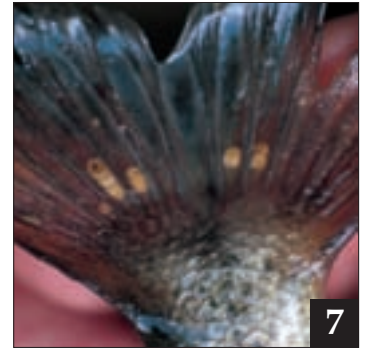
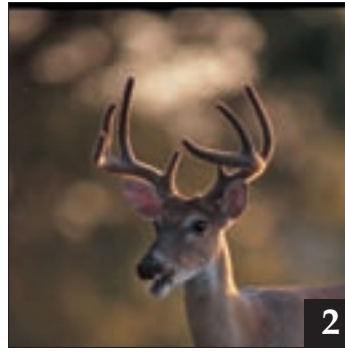
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About the covers

Front Cover: Fishing and solitude go together in the vast Mined Land Wildlife Area. Mike Blair filmed this scene with a 105mm lens set at f/11, 1/125 sec.

Back Cover: Kansas is nationally known for its many hunting opportunities outlined in this issue. Mike Blair filmed this deer hunter in search of a trophy with a 55mm lens, f/8, 1/500 sec.



Mined Land Wildlife Area



text by Rob Riggin

Mined Land Wildlife Area manager, Pittsburg

photos by Mike Blair

Rugged and vast, the unique Mined Land Wildlife Area has everything hunters and anglers could want — from outstanding small game, deer, and turkey hunting to abundant fishing opportunities.

There is a small region in Kansas that is like no other. It's a place where extreme topographical features are unmatched, where rainbow trout cruise through crystal water, and where river otters play. Its forested terrain harbors a bounty of deer and wild turkeys. Beautiful vistas invite exploration. This place is not the product of glaciers, erosion, or mil-

lennia of plate tectonics — it is the remnant of coal mining activities in southeastern Kansas. Through time and effort, the region is now a unique outdoor playground.

Interested? The sprawling Mined Land Wildlife Area (MLWA) awaits. Located in Crawford, Cherokee, and Labette counties, it is comprised of 14,500 acres and includes approximately half of all

the Kansas land surface mined for coal. Donated to the state, the first parcel was acquired in 1926. The largest acquisition, totaling 8,208 acres, was donated by the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company in 1981. Although this public land's unique character is owed in part to its geographic region, many of its physiological features were determined by the region's coal mining history.



Today, the area is a wonderful example of how the environmental devastation of strip mining that continued as late as 1974 can be reclaimed through successful resource management. Big Brutus, an 11 million-pound, 160-foot-tall electric coal shovel, now stands idle, a symbol of days gone by.

History of the area is fascinating. Coal mining began in southeastern Kansas in the 1850s. One of several coal beds was exposed at the surface near Columbus and north to the city of Mulberry. Settlers using the easily accessible coal for heating soon learned that the coal bed became gradually deeper as they followed it northwest. Eventually they were forced to follow the bed underground. In 1877, the first commercial mining shaft was constructed within the city of Pittsburg. The success of the mine prompted a

proliferation of more shaft mines and a flood of hardworking immigrants to the area.

The dangerous shaft mining was replaced with steam shovels, and later, electric shovels. Often, the large equipment stripped a layer of earth 40 to 60 feet deep to expose the coal bed. This "overburden" was placed either into an existing pit or left in a long pile called a dump, that paralleled the pit. As the shovel worked its way back and forth over an area, the end result was a series of pits and dumps.

Reclamation regulations in effect at the time of mining determined the surface characteristics of the land. Prior to 1969, lack of reclamation laws resulted in an almost impenetrable maze of strip-mine lakes, steep-sided hills, and dense vegetation. The first Reclamation Act of 1969 required that the tops of dumps be leveled to produce a rolling hill effect. Today, surface mining requires an approved reclamation plan that provides for the storage and replacement of top soil, along with revegetation at least 90 percent as productive and diverse as the pre-mine plant complex.

Before recent laws, surface mining typically left topsoil buried up to 60 feet underground, while clays, shale, and other less productive overburden were left at the surface. This less than desirable situation made revegetation difficult. First, the coal companies, and later, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, spent considerable time establishing vegetation. The coal companies experimented with fescue, loblolly pine, and even kudzu to meet ground cover requirements. However, the department is dedicated to establishing native vegetation and is still eradicating fescue and kudzu on some areas. While the earliest mined

areas were naturally encroached by trees, many of the reclaimed areas acquired in the 1980s have required tree and shrub plantings to provide improved wildlife habitat.

The majority of MLWA is comprised of land that was strip-mined with small equipment prior to reclamation laws. These areas contain numerous undulating peaks and valleys. Due to an average annual rainfall of 40 inches, they present an ideal environment where vegetation grows quickly. Bur oak, hickories, and walnut dominate MLWA plants, with a tightly woven understory of honeysuckle, roughleaf dogwood, and greenbriar. Many of the low-lying areas hold water on a permanent or semipermanent basis. Approximately 3,000 acres of the reclaimed areas are best characterized as rolling hills with numerous strip mine lakes up to 50 acres in size. Terrestrial habitat on these areas is dominated by grassland and early successional shrubs and small trees.

While most of the MLWA was surface mined, there are more than 2,000 acres of undisturbed areas found throughout the properties. These include beautiful bottomland hardwoods comprised of pin oak, bur oak, hickory, and paw paw, and



Early settlers found coal at the surface near Columbus. The discovery soon brought scores of hardworking immigrants to mine the resource.



The strip mined landscape has been reclaimed. Dense woodlands harbor deer and turkeys, as well as gray treefrogs. While early reclamation efforts attempted to cover the land with non-native plants, KDWP efforts focus on native grasses, trees, and shrubs.

41 crop fields ranging in size from 6 to 42 acres. The fields are maintained to provide open areas, edge effect, and food for wildlife.

The mix of dense, unreclaimed woodland areas, mature bottom-land hardwoods, crop fields, and rolling grassland areas provides habitat for all kinds of wildlife. White-tailed deer and turkey hunting opportunities draw hunters to the area from hundreds of miles away. A Canada goose restoration project begun in 1985 now serves as the nucleus of a 600-acre waterfowl refuge. This, combined with several managed marshes on the area, provides waterfowl hunting opportunities. Small game hunters find excellent hunting for squirrels and rabbits. The non-commercial harvest of blackberries, mushrooms, and paw paw fruit is an attraction to some, while others take advantage of unique opportunities for birding and hiking.

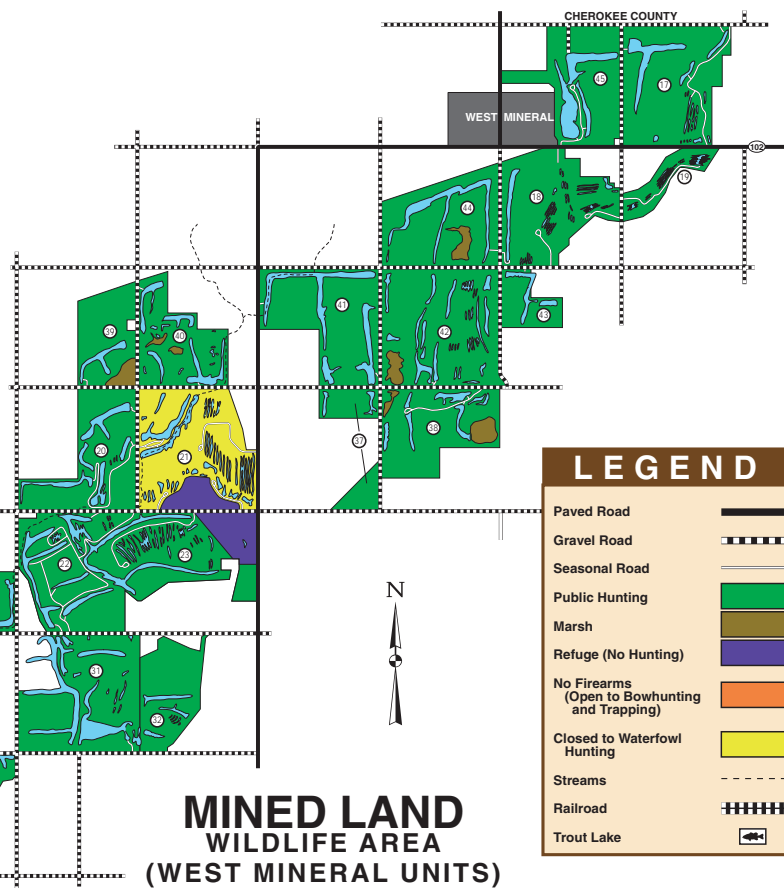
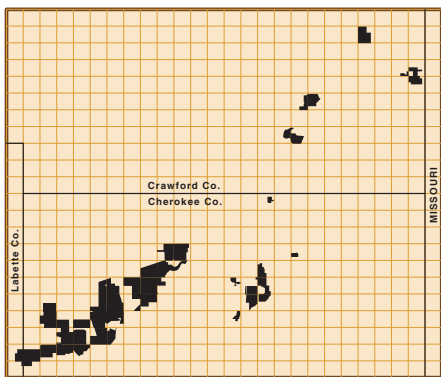
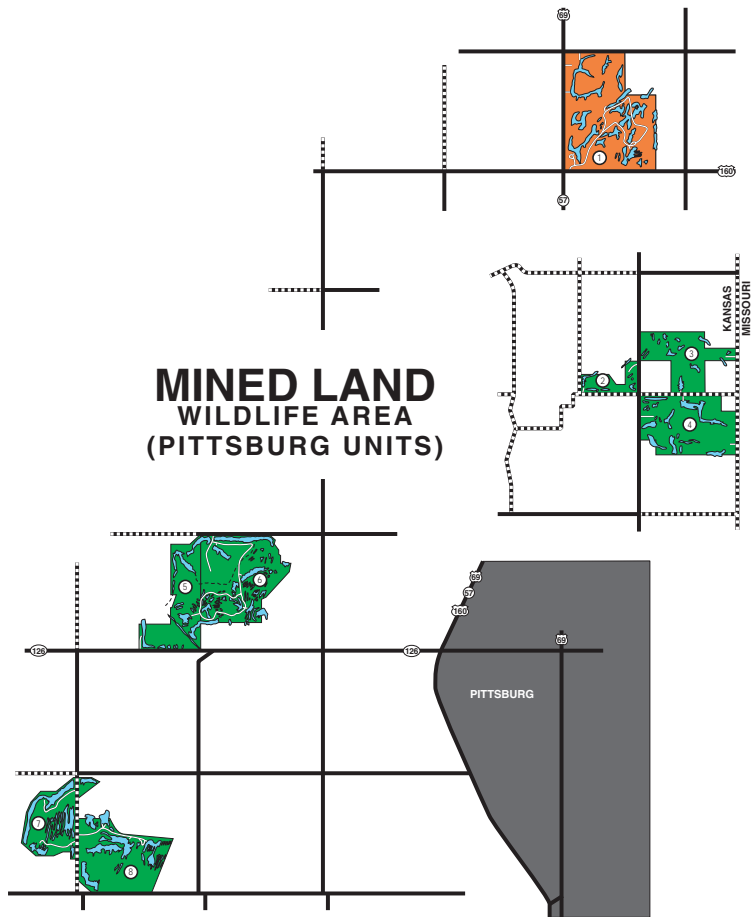
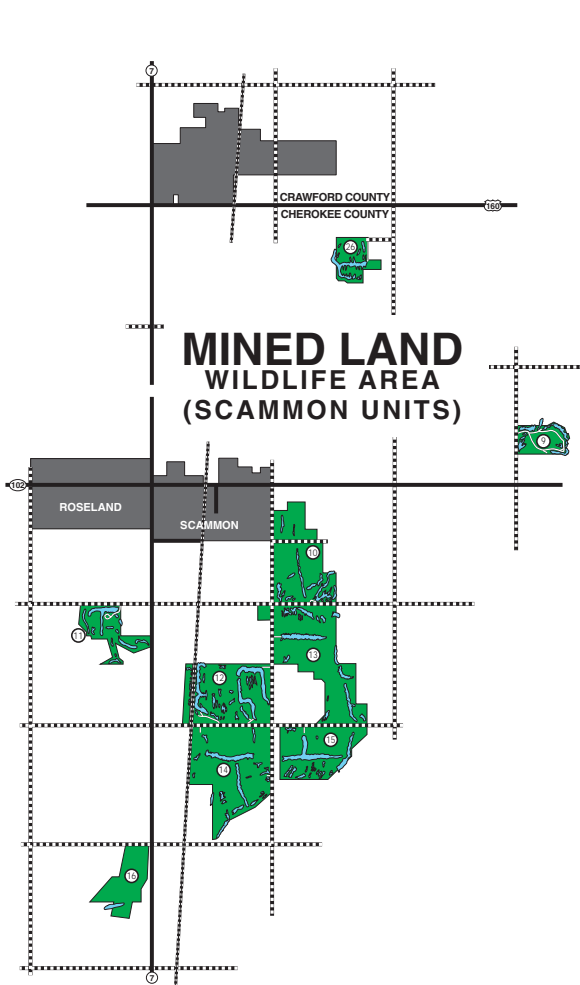
If fishing is your preferred recreation, MLWA has much to offer. Twelve miles of streams meander through the area to offer fine angling opportunities. However, it is the strip mine lake fishing that sets the area apart from other public lands. More than 1,000 permanent bodies of water provide 1,500 surface acres of fishable water.

The 200-plus strip-mine lakes range in size from five to 50 acres

and are managed for fishing. Sportfish include largemouth bass, spotted bass, channel catfish, black crappie, bluegill, redear, warmouth, and green sunfish. Fourteen thousand channel catfish are stocked each year throughout these waters. More than 3,000 walleye are also stocked annually in the largest of these strip mine lakes. Area 30 contains a 28-acre strip mine lake that receives special attention. Known to many as the "trout lake," this 65-foot-deep strip mine lake does not stratify during the hot summer months due to an underground water source thought to be a deep shaft mine. This unique quality provides cool, oxygenated water throughout the summer, allowing trout to survive year-round. Eighteen thousand rainbow trout are stocked annually in Area 30 with biweekly deposits from October through May. The thought of Kansas trout growing to a ripe old age is more than many anglers have been able



A waterfowl refuge, several managed marshes, and abundant strip mine lakes attract ducks, geese, and waterfowl hunters.



LEGEND

- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Seasonal Road
- Public Hunting
- Marsh
- Refuge (No Hunting)
- No Firearms (Open to Bowhunting and Trapping)
- Closed to Waterfowl Hunting
- Streams
- Railroad
- Trout Lake





Twelve miles of streams flow through the wildlife area, including Lightning Creek, pictured above. More than 1,000 permanent bodies of water on the area combine to provide 1,500 surface acres of fishable water. Below, a visitor stands atop Big Brutus, a 160-foot-tall steam shovel that once mined coal from the area. (For visitor information about Big Brutus, call 620-827-6177.)

to resist.

For the adventurous type, the hundreds of smaller strip mine lakes can be a challenge to find and moreover, to find twice. Many of these “honey holes” are secluded, difficult to access, and see little fishing pressure.

Strip mining lakes are characteristically deep and clear. A limiting factor to productivity for many of these lakes is shallow water for spawning, cover, and forage fish. Elevating water levels by constructing small dams allows water to back up over shallow, wooded areas, greatly enhancing the fishery. Due to the steep-sided shoreline of strip-mine lakes, shoreline angling is limited, and small boats are highly recommended. In an effort to improve fishing access, the department will replace 34 gravel boat launching sites with 14-foot-by-50-foot concrete boat ramps over the next three years. Also included within the scope of this project will be the improvement of roads,

parking areas, and shoreline angler access.

Camping is permitted throughout the wildlife area. Though 120 parking lots and 30 campsites are maintained on the area for camping, primitive camping is allowed anywhere it does not block roads, boat ramps, or require off-road vehicle access. There are no electrical or

water hookups on the area.

The MLWA is large and diverse. Covering an area about 30 miles long and 4 miles wide, it offers endless possibilities for exploration and recreation. It affords beautiful scenery and is rich in history. It is as close to a tropical rain forest as you’ll get without leaving Kansas’ border. 🦋



WORMY FISH,



text by **Tommie Berger**
district fisheries biologist, Sylvan Grove

photos by **Mike Blair**

Kansas is blessed with 60,000 farm ponds that provide some outstanding fishing. However, bass, channel catfish, and panfish caught from farm ponds may have parasites. When these natural freeloaders are visible, either on the fish's skin or in the meat, finicky anglers worry about eating their catch.

I'll bet that every person who ever worked for Kansas Wildlife and Parks has been asked about worms in fish. I don't know how many times a year I get questions like, "What are those little worms on my fish?" or "What are the little things in the meat of the bass I just filleted?" or "I caught a couple of nice catfish last night, but they were so wormy that I had to throw them away." The thought of eating "worms" is just not appealing in our culture. Perhaps if we learn a little about these small wiggly or fuzzy things in fish, we can change our attitudes.

Fish have parasites and get diseases just like any other animal. Parasites and diseases come in many forms and may cause various problems to fish. Most healthy fish

can tolerate some parasites or disease with little or no ill effects. Some may cause simple irritation, others can cause secondary infections, and some can even be lethal. Sometimes it takes an expert with a microscope to distinguish between fish diseases or parasites.

Most fish in the wild or in a hatchery situation will have at least a few parasites. Types of parasites include protozoa, flukes, tapeworms, roundworms, leeches, or crustaceans. In most waters, parasites are a natural part of the ecosystem and impossible to get rid of. The best way to keep fish populations healthy is to maintain good water quality and prevent overpopulation.

Fish are most susceptible to diseases and parasites in the early

spring when their resistance is lowered by the rigors of winter. Fish in poor body condition are also more vulnerable to these natural stresses. Sudden changes in water temperature will often stress fish and make them more vulnerable. Fish populations are much like our wildlife populations — the strong and healthy survive, and the weak and sickly usually get eaten by something else. It is a natural process that has been repeating for eons. Unfortunately, we humans have a hard time convincing ourselves that we can and probably should eat a fish that has something fuzzy growing on the outside or something wiggling on the inside.

Let's take a look at some of the common parasites that you might find on a fish. Bass and catfish are



Largemouth bass are one of the most popular fish with farm pond anglers, and they also commonly have yellow grubs. The parasite has a complex life cycle that includes the great blue heron, snails, and fish as hosts.

two of the more popular gamefish species in Kansas and are found in many ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state. Unfortunately, they are also the fish that seem to have more parasites than other species. Bass are in the sunfish family, and bluegills and green sunfish also have their share of little critters along for a free ride.

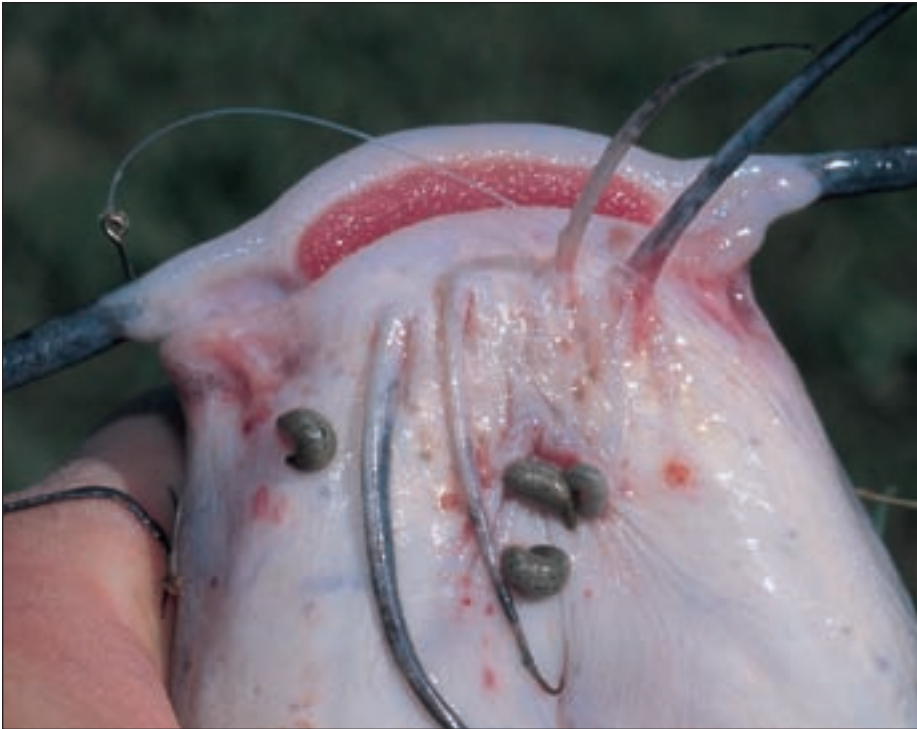
The parasites most frequently encountered in the temperate zones of the United States are the yellow grub and the black grub. The yellow grub is most notorious and infects a great variety of freshwater species. The “grub” is actually an encysted immature form of the organism. It is

often found just below the skin near the base of the fins or the tail where it forms a wart-like bulge. However, it can also be found in the muscle tissue and internal organs of heavily infected fish. When removed from the cyst, the white or yellow worm moves like a leech.

The yellow grub has a complicated life cycle that includes fish-eating birds (primarily the great blue heron,) snails, and fish. The adult grub lives in the mouth or throat of the bird. As the bird feeds, the yellow grub’s eggs are shed back into the water and hatch into an immature form known as a miracidium. The miracidium then

penetrates into a particular species of underwater snail and eventually develops into a free-swimming form called a cercaria. This little bugger then attaches and burrows under the scales or through the skin of a fish, becomes encysted, and remains there until its host is eaten by the right kind of bird.

The black grub is a similar fish parasite. Its primary host bird is the kingfisher, and its life cycle is very similar. The grub itself is not black, but it deposits a black pigment in the sack which surrounds it. The result is a small, round, black grain about the size of a pinhead embedded in the skin or flesh of



External parasites such as the leeches pictured at left are easy to remove when the fish is cleaned. Yellow grubs visible in the fish's tail below are not as easy to remove when they are in the meat, but they disintegrate when cooked and pose no threat to anglers eating the meat.

fish. Sunfish and minnows are especially susceptible to black grub. I have seen green sunfish that look like they are heavily peppered because of this little creature.

The control of these two fish grubs can be accomplished only by short-circuiting their life cycles at some point. That means removing any of the host species — the fish, the snails, or birds. Obviously, this is next to impossible, so we will just have to live with these little critters. Grubs actually do little harm to the fish, but they make them look unappetizing to us squeamish humans.

Although some fish parasites can be infectious in humans, most will not develop in man even if eaten raw. All are killed by thorough cooking, hot smoking (4 hours 200 degrees or more), pickling, or freezing. There is no danger in eating infected fish if they are properly prepared. Even though most anglers shudder at the thought, fish containing parasites are still good table fare. In fact, I am sure that everyone who has eaten

wild fish has consumed some of these little guys and didn't even know it. When I was young and Mom served up a big plate full of sunfish fillets with black grub, Dad always said that we didn't need to add pepper because they already had their own.

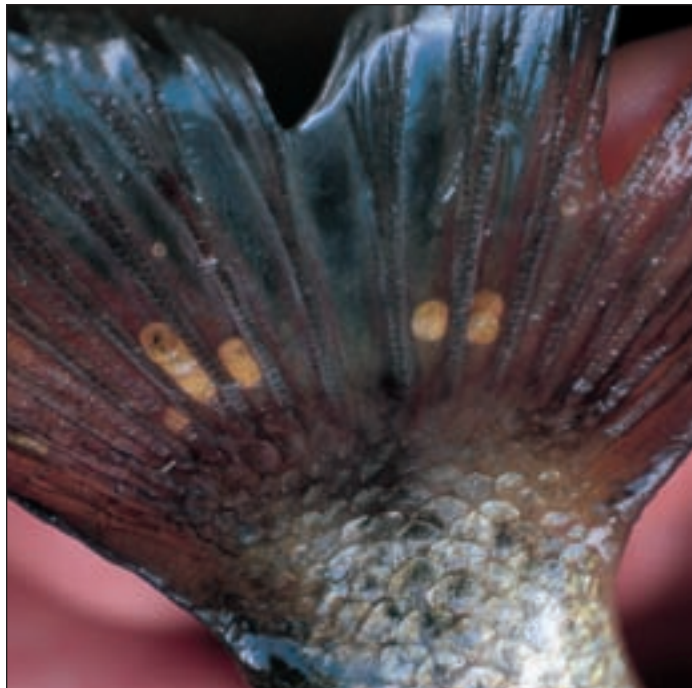
Other common fish parasites most noticeable in Kansas are those that attach to the fins, tail, or outside of the fish. Leeches are

common on catfish and other species. They are often seen around or inside the mouth. Anchor worms are another worm-like parasite but they are actually a copepod. They bore into the skin and often leave a red sore on the body surface with a small worm sticking out. These external freeloaders are usually completely removed when a fish is skinned or filleted.

Internal parasites like tapeworms, liver flukes, and others may occur in the body cavity or in the internal organs, and are not nearly as noticeable. They are removed when the fish is gutted. Internal parasites don't cause nearly as much concern among anglers as do the external ones or the ones imbedded in the meat.

Fish diseases, on the other hand, are caused by viruses, bacteria, or fungus. Diseases can affect fish and if they do not kill the fish, they certainly can make them look unsightly and unappealing. Viruses, bacteria, and fungi will often cause sores on the outside of fish and may be secondary infections due to parasites or injury. Fungi is most common and is often called water mold. It appears as white or gray thread-like fuzz radiating from the body in patches. It is nature's decomposer and will form on fish when they die but is not always lethal.

There are times that anglers will catch a fish having fungus, red spots, blisters, or even open sores on its body. My normal comment to questions about the edibility of such fish is that if it is healthy enough to bite a hook or lure, it is healthy enough to



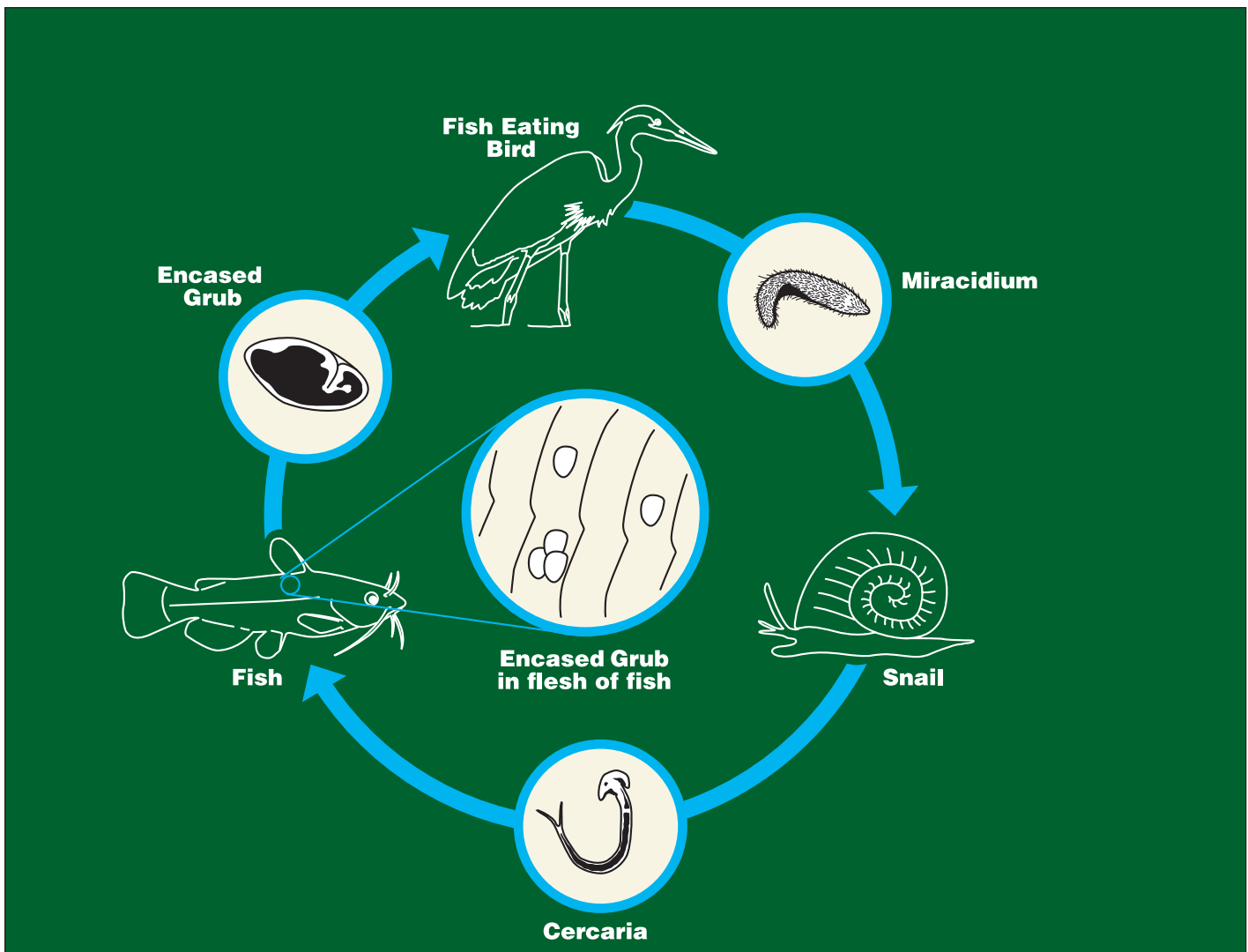
eat. Sick and severely diseased fish will not feed. So, even if a caught fish looks bad, cut out the bad spots and put it in the frying pan. We all do that with game birds or deer when we are preparing them for the table.

Catfish from most Kansas streams and rivers will harbor a variety of parasites. Most anglers are accustomed to seeing small leeches and anchor worms on the fish they catch, and even yellow grubs around the fins or tail. Bass and sunfish from farm ponds are most often the ones with obvious worms. Weedy ponds and smaller lakes generally have more snails, and more snails mean more grubs.

Low water situations also compound fish disease and parasite problems. As the fish become more concentrated, they are more stressed and more susceptible. It is also easier for things to spread when fish are crowded together.

Fish from larger reservoirs are more parasite-free because there is less vegetation and the water quality is often better. We do not often see parasites on the more open-water species like white bass, stripers, and walleye, but these species are certainly susceptible to a variety of diseases. Big lakes also generally have less water level fluctuation than smaller lakes and ponds.

Now that you know something about the little critters out there along for a free ride on your favorite fish, don't let them keep you from eating those tasty fillets. When fish are filleted, grubs can be easily spotted and removed. When fish are left whole, grubs might be present, but they will not hurt you if you thoroughly cook the fish. In a lot of other cultures in our world, people eat raw fish, insect larvae, worms, and a whole host of critters that tend to make our stomachs turn. Don't let a little critter so small you can hardly see it keep you from eating one of the healthiest foods in the entire world.



The adult yellow grub is present in the great blue heron's mouth or throat. As the bird feeds, eggs are washed into the water. The eggs hatch and the miracidium parasitize snails, eventually developing into free-swimming cercaria. The cercaria burrows under the scales into the skin of fish. Here it becomes encysted and remains until the fish is eaten by the right kind of bird, and the cycle continues.

Java



text and photos by Mike Blair
staff photographer, Pratt

The addition of a puppy to a household brings lots of changes — and lots of smiles.

She came on a January night, the first pick of a litter of seven. Forty-six days old, she mewed when pulled from her litter mates into the sub-zero air. We tucked her beneath a coattail to soften the chill and fear, and drove her in Friday darkness to her new home. A warm bath, a fireplace, and 30 pampered minutes later, she crossed an emotional threshold, never to return. Now she was ours.

We called her Java. A chocolate Labrador, she was the sole brown

pup among black siblings and parents. She was just what we wanted, a Christmas gift for our high school daughter, Kaycie, and we had visited and played with the puppy every day for two weeks while waiting to take her home. It paid off. There was no crying that first night as Java slept beside the girl.

House-breaking was immediate, due in part to four people who took turns walking the pup at 15-minute intervals for two days. It was a joyful time of acquaintance. Then

suddenly, the weekend was gone and it was time to return to school and work.

Now, a dilemma. Leave the puppy alone for eight hours in a Kennel-aire? It seemed too harsh. I took her to work and never looked back. After that, Kaycie got the night shift and I took the day. Java cooperated by sleeping at the right times and minding at the right times and tagging along without a whimper. By the second work day, she was plowing through icy water

as we photographed ducks, sleeping in the blind and eating dry chow from my hand.

Right off, she did the Labrador things that stirred thoughts of waterfowling and promised to earn her way. I was delighted at the photo opportunities suddenly available with the animated puppy.

Training began as a natural way to focus Java's keen interest in the outdoor world. In no time she was my partner, quick to learn and grasp the lessons necessary to go anywhere. The more she went, the easier she met new people, places, and situations. She was a natural companion for a wildlife photographer, reveling in the sights, sounds, and smells of an awakening spring. Somehow, she understood the need to be still when wild subjects were close by, watching with keen interest as the camera's motor drive began to fire.

Days of adventure became routine. Play times were many, interspersed with deep sleep. Play consisted of chasing and grasping everything in sight, leaving a trail of teeth marks behind. House limits were grudgingly acknowledged. Outside, though, everything was fair game. A corn cob, a pine cone, or fermented hedge apple could be the center of the universe one minute, only to be abandoned the next as the pup charged off on a new excursion.

There were inevitable shoe wars, and Java gradually stripped the lining from my old camo jacket. I really didn't care. Before long, its pockets bulged with a lanyard whistle, a bumper, a check cord, dog biscuits, and a baggy full of puppy chow for our frequent, all-day outings. The jacket sleeves grew ragged from daily tugs-of-war, and overall, the coat took on a smell and character that seemed a fitting end for a hunting garment. At any rate, the happy pup at

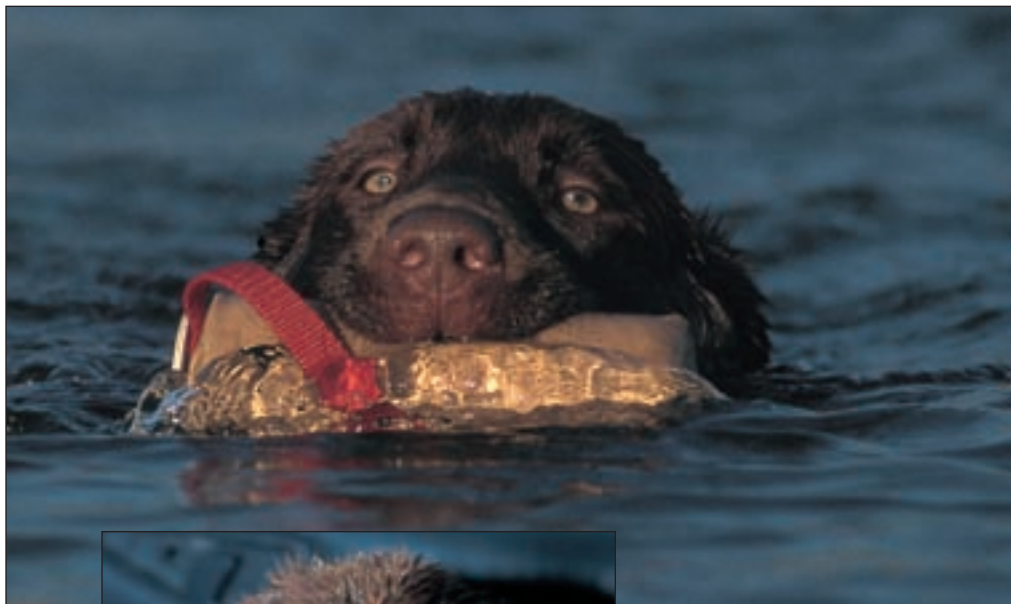
heel explained its frayed appearance.

The young dog stretched her limits as she grew, ranging farther and testing a big world. Sometimes, she pushed too hard, howling and whining for help when stairs were too steep or the far end of the log too high. But her spirit never dampened, and once rescued, she was off

again, sniffing and probing. Fortunately, she was waterproof.

It's in a Lab to retrieve. Throw a stick, a rock, or a bumper, and a pup will make great, leaping bounds to grab it. The return trip is just as fast, though delivery may take some work. After all, a child and a toy are not easily parted.

Java wasn't choosy about the



The early months of a pup's life make special memories that last forever. Work and play combine to fill the days with fun. Training forms a special bond between man and dog that one must experience to understand.



object to fetch, though a particular smelly deer antler excited her most. She found and dug it from wetland mud, a four-point shed covered with stinking algae. When I wouldn't throw it, she'd toss it herself. Then she'd spring at the horn with a high hop, snorting with pleasure as she dropped it to extract the marsh grass from her tongue.

Oh, the energy of a puppy.

Training took time. At nine weeks, Java would chase a toy and carry it off for a chew. At 10 weeks, she would return it somewhere close. By the 12th, she would sit at heel and mark a thrown object without breaking. By week 14, she would deliver it to hand — sometimes.

There were days Java spent on the Bad Doggy list, but how can one stay mad at a pup? Frustration quickly turned to pride when machine precision marked her best exercises. There was hope and anticipation, watching her grow. And there was the fun.

Every day brought something new. Whether she was chasing a cold-blooded bullfrog on its first outing of spring, barking through the car window at a chipping ice scraper, or riding down a country road with her head out the window, Java brought new interest to common experiences. The days were filled with laughter.

Java became a water dog. Her first swimming retrieve was a surprise, performed at 95 days of age in the icy waters of early March. As usual near a pond, she sneaked into the water while I was preoccupied with gear. This time, though, it was deep, forcing her to swim and exciting her immensely. As she climbed out, I hooked her bumper to a line and tossed it 10 feet into the pond. At



A young dog is full of enthusiasm for the world around it. Chasing frogs or riding down a country road, a puppy is ever ready for new adventures.

eyes danced with pleasure as she nipped at my fingers and towel. Training could advance to the next phase.

This was a time for sore hands. The weapons of a Labrador pup are formidable: half-inch needles hooked to a chomping machine, and stout claws as persistent

as a can opener. Add to these an amazing puppy indifference to pain while roughhousing, and the playmeister can prove his title with scars.

After Java was removed from the litter, I became her "dog" as well as trainer. At least several times daily, she was on the offen-

the command, "Fetch!" she dived in and swam to the dummy, seized it and returned as easily as if on land. She shook off, raced in great, joyous circles and then sat for the next throw. Three retrieves later, she was shivering and ready to stop. I dried her off, making a huge fuss over this accomplishment, and her green



sive, barking and snarling in a mock attack. This was enjoyable, had her teeth been blunter.

The exercises served a purpose, though, and were so endured. A dog must learn to parry, fight and master its vocal warnings. Play fighting is the vehicle. It got rough, and occasional bloodshed was unavoidable. For weeks, my hands were scarred with teeth marks, not so much from bites as from rakings by Java's ivory pegs.

The Labrador's tenacity was evident in these battles. At times, a rough rebuttal was in order to calm the overactive pup. Without a harsh word, though, even a significant swat might be mistaken for rough play, drawing the next onslaught. Fortunately, other family members were spared these tests.

Chewing was the next best thing for idle hours. Java explored the

world with her teeth, and nothing was safe. She made it clear that squeaky chew toys were for wimps. Plastic was better, bones were outstanding, and ice cubes were a treat to surpass dog biscuits. Nothing prevented boredom on long car trips or in photo blinds like chewing a bone. So I carried them everywhere: a deer rib stayed in my film pack; an antler in my office; a cow's shoulder blade in my truck; and her favorite — the leg of a bobcat I shot while predator calling — was the "carry" bone. With these, Java could stay quiet for hours at a time. The bones were also damage control.

By the 16th week, training progressed to real birds. I shot a crow and froze it, and this became the object of "hide and seek" on the all-important blind retrieves. These forced Java to use her nose to find downed game. She loved it.

Sitting at heel, she watched as I dropped a "line," a flattened hand held above her nose that pointed the direction she was to search. At the command, she ran hard, quartering

the wind to sniff out the planted crow.

The trick was to hide the bird. Normally, the dog was taken to the truck's opposite side and commanded to "sit" as I went another direction to construct the exercise. I could bury the crow or simply toss it — it didn't matter as long as the bird was out of sight. Then I'd call the pup, give her a line and send her off.

It was always delightful to see the results. Java was proud with every return, and for good reason. To find a hidden bird in three-foot grass took skill; to fetch a bird half her size through a weedy jungle took determination.

Day's end brought rest from work and play. Java would curl up on my boots or hunting coat, passing the hours in sleep. Periodically, she would dream, legs jerking as she ran in some imaginary place, nose to the wind. Sometimes she yipped from this faraway field.

I'd watch and ponder, wondering if I were with her. ♡

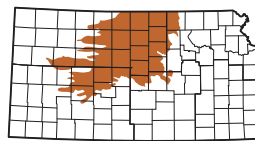
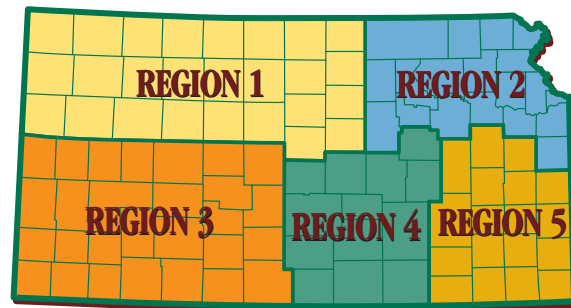
Kansas Hunting Guide



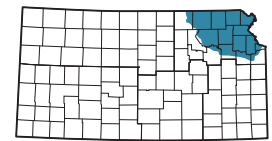
Hunting In Kansas

Hunting in Kansas can be described with one word: variety. From east to west, north to south, Kansas has a rich and diverse array of habitat and game species. The hunting heritage runs deep in Kansas, and hunting is important to the quality of life and rural economies. Unique hunting opportunities wait on the eastern and western borders, and the central region provides a blend.

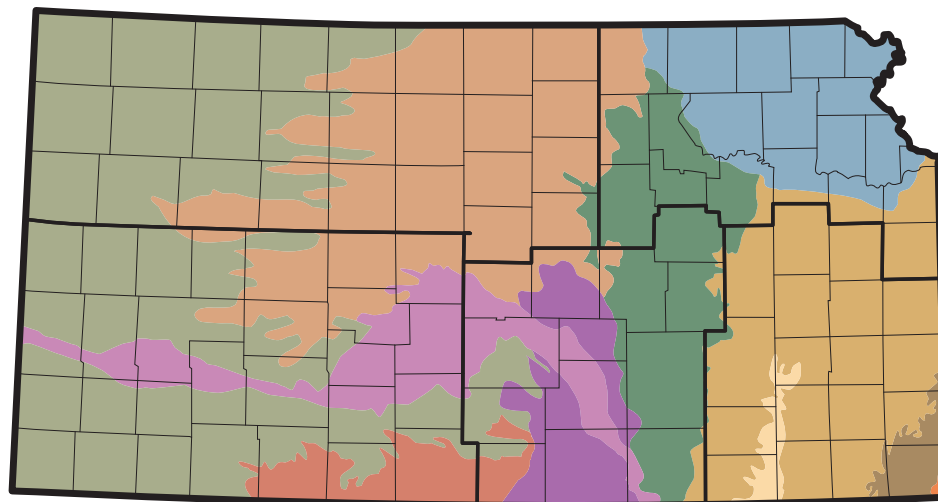
The physiographic regions of the state, distinguished by climatic, topographic and vegetative differences, allow such variety. Generally, Kansas' climate is wetter in the east than the west. In fact, the southeast region may receive 40 inches of rain per year, whereas the southwest region may receive less than 15. Being familiar with the physiographic regions can help a hunter select an area of the state to correspond with the preferred type of game, as well as the style of hunting desired.



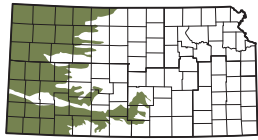
In the northcentral part of the state, the **Smoky Hills** follow the Smoky Hill River to the east. The Smoky Hills region is characterized by vast areas of rolling grassland and some dramatic topography. The land is farmed along the river bottoms, and this combination of permanent native cover and agriculture provides pheasant, quail, prairie chicken, turkey, and deer hunting opportunities.



The far northeastern corner of the state is the **Glaciated Region**. This region features gently rolling plains with broad stream valleys. It is characterized by heavily timbered, rocky hillsides and small irregular croplands. This region provides excellent deer and turkey hunting, as well as bobwhite quail, rabbit, and squirrel opportunities.

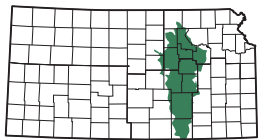


L E G E N D			
High Plains	Chautauqua Hills	Arkansas River Lowlands	Smoky Hills
Flint Hills	Osage Questas	Cherokee Lowlands	Glaciated Region
Red Hills	Ozark Plateau	Wellington / McPherson Lowlands	

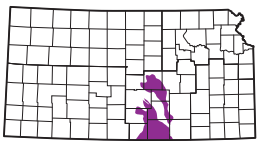


The **High Plains**, the western one-third of the state, is the largest and driest region. Originally short-grass prairie and nearly treeless, most of the High Plains has seen dramatic changes due to settlement and agriculture. Many areas of the High Plains are intensively farmed, and this combination of native grass and agriculture makes this region ideal for ring-necked pheasants. The High Plains are wide open and vast. Where untilled, native shortgrasses, yucca, sagebrush and other arid-climate vegetation support lesser prairie chickens. Antelope still inhabit the far western reaches of this region and provide limited hunting opportunities. Mule deer thrive in the region, although you also find whitetails. The Conservation Reserve Program has returned thousands of acres in this region to native grasses.

The north-south strip of grass-

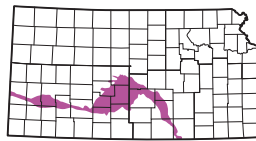


land through the east-central portion of the state is known as the **Flint Hills**. Much of this region remains in native grass because a layer of rock just beneath the soil's surface prevents tillage. Vast areas of unbroken tallgrass prairie with timbered, brushy draws and stream-bottoms make this unique area ideal for quail, deer, and turkey, and it remains the nation's stronghold for the greater prairie chicken.



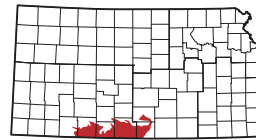
In the center of the state are the **Wellington and McPherson Lowlands**. These regions are characterized by several wetlands and salt marshes and form the transition

zone between the west and the Flint Hills. Much of the region is intensively farmed. The combination of wetland, prairie, and croplands provides a variety of game species for hunters, from upland birds to deer, turkey, and small game. And during wet years, the wetlands and flooded croplands attract untold



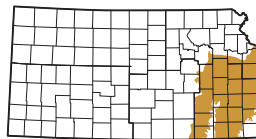
numbers of waterfowl.

In the southwest, the **Arkansas River Lowlands** follow the river from the Colorado border, east to Wichita, then south to Oklahoma. Sand and sediment carried by the river have formed sandhill grasslands along this corridor, and this area provides ideal lesser prairie chicken habitat. This midgrass prairie is dotted with sandhill plum thickets and eastern redcedars, and provides good quail, pheasant, deer



and turkey hunting.

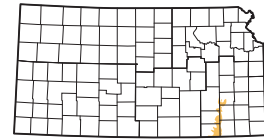
In the southcentral region, the beautiful **Red Hills** bring topographic relief to the land. The Red Hills are largely native grassland with bluffs, buttes and steep draws and canyons filled with cedars, sumac and sandhill plum thickets. Timbered areas follow the many spring-fed creeks and streams throughout the region. This area is known for bobwhite quail, turkey



and deer hunting.

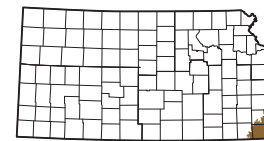
The **Osage Cuestas** dominate the southeastern one-quarter of the state. Rolling grasslands, limestone bluffs, and heavily timbered bottomlands mark this region. The

hardwood timber provides excellent deer, squirrel, and eastern turkey hunting. Quail hunting can also be very good on the grasslands and at the edges of timber,



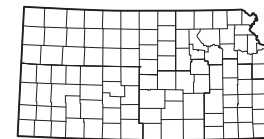
grass, and small crop fields.

At the southern reaches of the southeastern quarter are the **Chautauqua Hills**. Rolling tall-grass prairie is dotted with thickly timbered bottoms and draws. Underlying sandstone protects the grasslands, and the croplands are restricted to streambottoms. The region provides excellent deer,



turkey and quail hunting.

The **Cherokee Lowlands** distinguish the southeastern corner with thick brush and timber, and rich coal resources. In recent years, thousands of acres, once strip mined for coal, have been reclaimed to native vegetation. The Mined Land Wildlife area was donated to the department for public use. The area provides deer, quail, squirrel, rabbit and turkey hunting, as well as fishing in the



hundreds of strip mine lakes.

In the far southeast lies the **Ozark Plateau**. This is the wettest region of the state, receiving more than 40 inches of rain annually. Heavy timber, dissected by streams and broken with small cropfields, make this area ideal for deer, turkey, squirrel, and rabbit hunting. Bobwhite quail are found on the edge areas between timber, grass, and croplands.

Hunting

Ring-necked pheasant

Arguably Kansas' top draw, the ring-necked pheasant was introduced in the state in 1906. Since then, it has become a symbol of upland bird hunting in Kansas. Annual pheasant harvests are usually within the top three states in the nation. Pheasants are found in all parts of the state except the southeast. Traditionally, the best hunting is found in the northcentral and northwest regions, with the southwest coming in a close third. Other regions can have locally good pheasant numbers, and often provide good pheasant and quail combination hunting opportunities.

Bobwhite quail

Number Two on the upland bird draw is the bobwhite quail. And Kansas generally ranks within the top three states in quail harvest. While quail can be found statewide, populations are generally better in the east. The southeast region of the state is usually the top quail producer. And the northeast generally runs a close second. Numbers can be good locally in the northcentral, southcentral and southwest regions, where good pheasant/quail hunts are an attraction. During years of favorable weather, the Red Hills region can provide very good quail hunting amid a beautiful setting. In the far southwestern corner of the state, scaled, or blue, quail are found in addition to bobwhites.

Prairie chicken

Kansas is home to two species of this prairie grouse; the greater and the lesser prairie chickens. Greater prairie chickens are found in most abundance in the Flint Hills. Greater are found in smaller numbers in the northcentral part of the state. These birds thrive in large areas of native grass, but have adapted to benefit from the small



grain fields which provide high-protein food in winter. A special early season, opening in mid-September, allows hunters to hunt greater chickens over dogs, before the winter flocks form and the birds become unapproachable. The traditional opener on the first Saturday in November finds hunters stationed around the grain fields, waiting for birds to fly in from the surrounding grasslands. The lesser prairie chicken is found mostly south and west of the Arkansas River Lowland. The lesser thrives in mid- and short-grass grassland. Numbers of lessers have decreased as the prairie has been fragmented by land use.

Deer

Two deer species thrive in Kansas: the mule deer and the white-tailed deer. Mule deer are restricted to the western one-third

of the state, primarily on the High Plains, Smoky Hills, and Red Hills regions. As you travel west to east, mule deer are less abundant, and whitetail numbers increase. White-tailed deer numbers have increased dramatically in the last 20 years, and they can be found virtually statewide wherever suitable habitat exists. Highest whitetail densities are in the eastern one-third of the state. Whitetails have adapted well to Kansas' modern landscape, finding cover in natural woodlands, shelterbelts, old homesteads and grasslands, and abundant food in cropfields. The selective management program has created a healthy deer herd, with excellent potential for trophy-sized bucks in all regions.

Turkey

Wild turkeys were reintroduced into Kansas in the 1960s, and the program has been a great success.

Today, huntable populations of turkeys exist in nearly every county. The Rio Grande subspecies dominates the western two-thirds of the state. Low numbers in the southwest provide only limited hunting. Hybrid Rio Grande/Eastern birds are found in the northcentral region. The Eastern subspecies is common in the northeast and far southeast regions, where numbers have grown tremendously in recent years.

Waterfowl

Kansas lies in the middle of the Central Flyway, and waterfowl migrations can be spectacular. Waterfowl opportunities are limited in the arid west, but wherever reservoirs and marshes exist, good waterfowling can be found. Several waterfowl management areas and national wildlife refuges attract waterfowl each fall and provide outstanding hunting, especially during wet water years when sheet water covers surrounding crop fields. An abundance of rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands in the east attract waterfowl, and in the far northeast, large numbers of snow geese congregate in late winter and early spring. Non-toxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting, and in addition to the federal duck stamp, all hunters required to have a license must have a state waterfowl stamp and a Harvest Information Program stamp. Weekly waterfowl reports are posted on the department's website beginning in October: www.kdwp.state.ks.us

Small Game

Cottontail rabbits and squirrels exist throughout the state wherever suitable habitat is available. Both are most abundant in the east, and in addition to fox squirrels, the hardwood timber of the eastern one-fourth of Kansas also has gray squirrels. Both rabbits and squirrels are overlooked by upland bird

hunters, and hunting pressure is light. Excellent hunting opportunities are available for both species.

Other

Dove hunting can be excellent when warm, dry weather conditions continue into September. Good shooting can be found over worked crop fields, windmill water holes, and grassland ponds. Doves may migrate before the traditional Sept. 1 opener in the northwest, especially ahead of an early cold front. Furbearers are common throughout the state. Coyote, bobcat, beaver, and raccoon are top draws, and provide good to very good trapping and hunting opportunities.

Private Land

Most land in Kansas is privately owned, so most of the hunting opportunities are found on private land. Kansas law requires that all who hunt on private land must

have permission, whether that land is posted or not. For those who have the time to scout, contact landowners, and get acquainted, permission to hunt can be obtained. For those who don't have that luxury, the department has initiated the Walk-in Hunting Area (WIHA) program. The department began leasing private land for public hunting in 1996, and in 2001, more than 800,000 acres were enrolled. The department's goal is 1 million acres by 2004. WIHA has been popular with both hunters and landowners. Tracts range in size from 80 acres to several thousand, and a wide variety of hunting opportunities are available. Two lease agreements are enrolled, opening land to hunters Sept. 1-Jan. 31 or Nov. 1-Jan. 31. The department prints atlases, available free of charge, showing county maps with enrolled lands marked. With an atlas in hand, a hunter can choose from several thousand tracts to hunt, many of which are in remote, out-of-the-way areas.



Public Lands

Approximately 400,000 acres of state- or federally-owned land are open to public hunting in Kansas. Many of the larger areas are located around reservoirs built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. These areas are often managed by the Department of Wildlife and Parks to provide optimum hunting opportunities. Other public hunting lands are provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's national wildlife refuges, and the U.S. Forest Service's Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County. Other state-owned and managed areas include waterfowl management areas such as Cheyenne Bottoms, and small tracts around state fishing lakes or land that has

been acquired or donated to the state. Public areas, especially those near large population centers, can receive heavy hunting pressure. But hunters who avoid season openers or plan hunts during mid-week, can have good hunting experiences. As expected, hunters who put in extra scouting effort and avoid easily accessed areas will have more success.

Wildlife areas are managed specifically for wildlife and hunting opportunities, so camping is limited. Many wildlife areas are located near state parks, where excellent camping facilities are available. Some remote wildlife areas offer primitive camping in designated areas, but it's a good idea to check with the area Wildlife and Parks office for more specific camping information.

Some wildlife areas offer special hunts. These special hunts may limit the number of hunters on the area on a given day through a random drawing, or they may provide youth and other first-time hunters with a quality experience. Check with the local regional or wildlife area offices for information about special hunt options. A brochure listing special hunts along with an application is available.

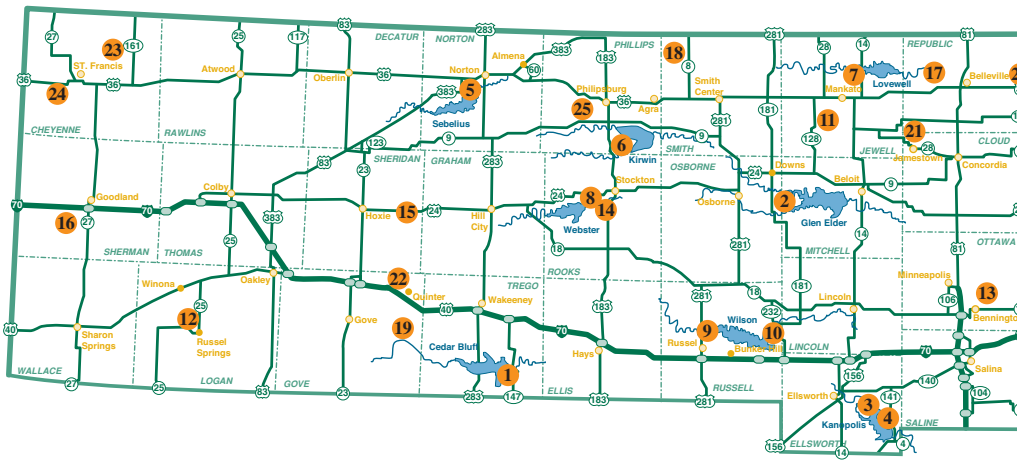
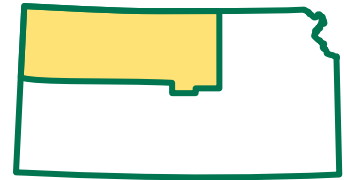
Need More Information?

For more information about hunting in Kansas, individual wildlife area maps or a Walk-in Hunting Area atlas, contact your nearest Wildlife and Parks office, call the Pratt Operations office, (620) 672-5911, or visit the department's website:

www.kdwp.state.ks.us

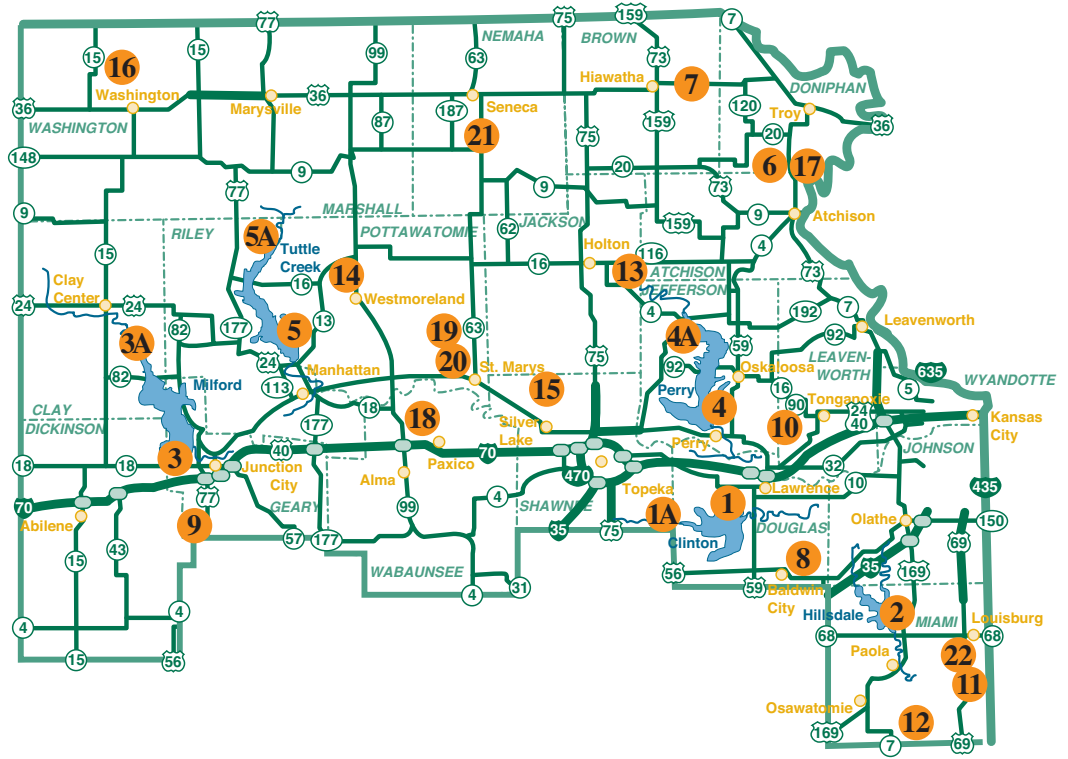
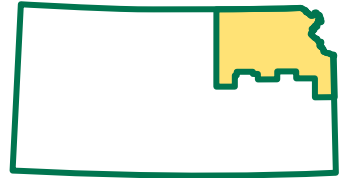


Region 1



RESERVOIR WA					Boat Ramp	Designated Camping	Walk-In Camping	Special (Draw) Hunts	Youth Hunt Area	ADA Hunt Area	Refuge Area	Trapping	Vault Toilet	Shooting Range	White-tailed Deer	Mule Deer	Rio Grande Turkey	Pheasant	Quail	Greater Prairie-Chicken	Doves	Ducks	Snow Geese	Canada Geese	White-fronted Geese	Rabbits	Squirrels	Furbearers
1	Cedar Bluff – 13 mi. S of I-70 on K-147	7,300	6,900	(785) 726-3212	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	F	P	P	G	P	F	G	G	F	F	P	G	G	
2	Glen Elder – S of US 24 from Downs to Glen Elder	12,514	12,586	(785) 545-3345	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	G	P	P	G	F	G	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	
3	Kanopolis – 30 mi. SW of Salina on K-141	4,179	3,550	(785) 546-2279	KDWP	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	G	P	G	F	F	F	F	F	F	G	F	G	G	
4	Kanopolis – 30 mi. SW of Salina on K-141	10,000	0	(785) 546-2294	COE	●	●					●	●	●	G	P	G	P	P	F	F	F	F	G	F	G	G	
5	Norton – 3 mi. SW of Norton	6,421	2,230	(785) 877-2953	KDWP	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	F	F	F	G	P	F	F	G	G	P	G	P	G	
6	Kirwin – 15 mi. SE of Phillipsburg	3,700	5,080	(785) 543-6673	USFWS	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	G	F	G	G	F	F	F	G	F	G	F	P	G	
7	Lovewell – 4 mi. E, 10 mi. N of Mankato	2,229	2,986	(785) 753-4971	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	G	G	F	F	F	F	F	F	G	F	G	G	G	
8	Webster – 8 mi. W of Stockton	5,750	3,740	(785) 425-6775	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	G	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	G	F	G	P	G	
9	Wilson – 8 mi. N of I-70 at Bunker Hill exit	8,039	9,040	(785) 658-2465	KDWP	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	G	P	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	P	G	
10	Wilson – 8 mi. N of I-70 on K-232	3,200	0	(785) 658-2551	COE							●	●	G	P	P	P	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	G	P	G	
STATE FISHING LAKE WA																												
11	Jewell – 6 mi. SW of Mankato	165	57	(785) 545-3345	KDWP	●	●					●	●	P		P	P			P	P	P		P	P	P		
12	Logan – 2 mi. NW of Russell Springs	271	SEAS	(785) 726-3212	KDWP	●	●					●	●				F				F	F			F	F		
13	Ottawa – 6 mi. NE of Bennington	611	148	(785) 546-2279	KDWP	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F			G	F	F	
14	Rooks – 3 mi. SW of Stockton	243	64	(785) 425-6775	KDWP	●	●				●	●	●	●	F	F	P	F	F	F	F	F			G	P	F	
15	Sheridan – 11 mi. E of Hoxie	48	67	(785) 877-2953	KDWP	●	●					●	●	●	F	P	P			F	F	F						
16	Sherman – 10 mi. SW of Goodland	1,547	SEAS	(785) 726-3212	KDWP	●						●	●	●	F	F	P	F	P	F	F	F			F	G		
OTHER WILDLIFE AREAS																												
17	BRZON – SPECIAL HUNTS ONLY	320	2	(785) 753-4971	KDWP			●									G	F		G				G	F	F		
18	Francis Wachs – 11 mi. NE of Agra	785	2	(785) 425-6775	KDWP						●			F	P	P	G	F	P	P				G	G	G		
19	Gove – 23 mi. S of Quinter	160	0	(785) 726-3212	KDWP						●				F					F				F	G	G		
20	Griswold – SPECIAL HUNTS ONLY	320	0	(785) 753-4971	KDWP																							
21	Jamestown – 3 mi. NW of Jamestown	2,389	1,400	(785) 753-4971	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	F	P	G	F	F	F	G	G	G	F	G	P	G	
22	Sheridan – 5 mi. NE of Quinter	458	3	(785) 425-6775	KDWP							●	●	●	F	P	F	P	F	F				F	P	G		
23	South Fork – 11 mi. NE of St. Francis	1,100	3	(785) 762-3212	KDWP				●		●			●	F	F	F	F	P	F	F			F	G	G		
24	St. Francis – 3 mi. SW of St. Francis	480	5	(785) 672-3212	KDWP						●			●	F	F	F	P	F	F				F	G	G		
25	Vogel – SPECIAL HUNTS ONLY	200	0	(785) 425-6775	KDWP			●			●			●			G	P						G	G	G		

Region 2



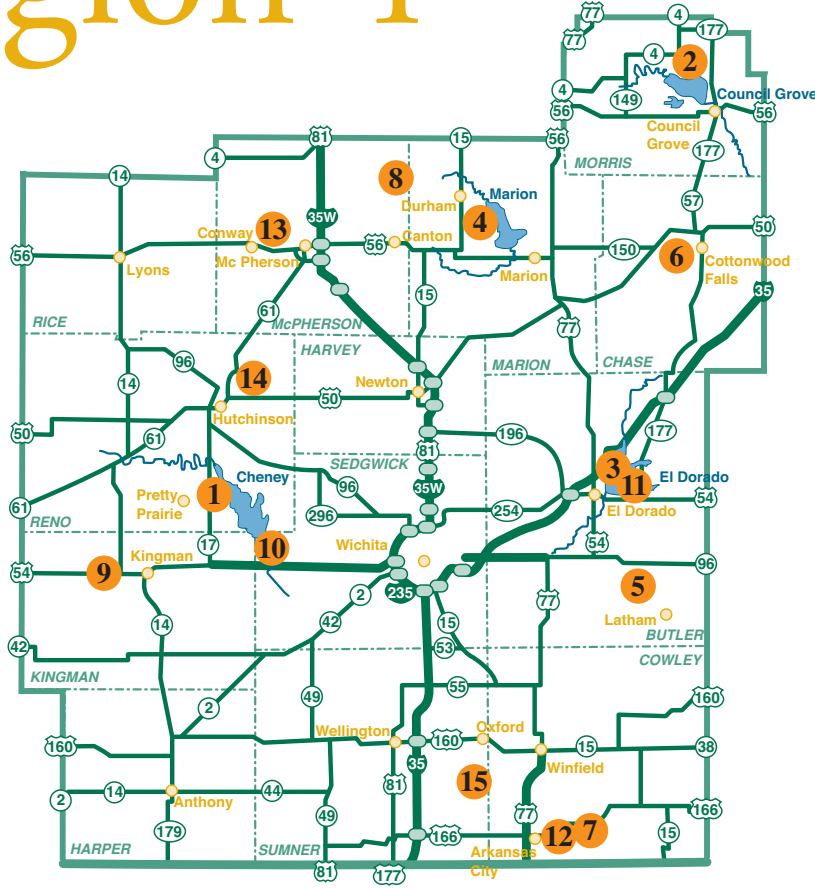
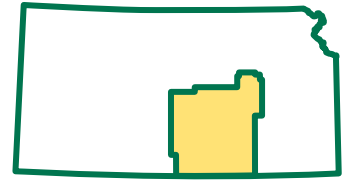
RESERVOIR WA					Boat Ramp	Designated Camping	Walk-In-Camping	Special (Draw) Hunts	Youth Hunt Area	ADA Hunt Area	Refuge Area	Trapping	White-tailed Deer	Eastern Wild Turkey	Rio Grande Turkey	Pheasant	Quail	Greater Prairie Chicken	Doves	Ducks	Snow Geese	Canada Geese	White-fronted Geese	Rabbits	Squirrels	Furbearers	
		acres (L) (W)	phone (area)	managing agency																							
1	Clinton - 4 mi. W of Lawrence	920	7,000	(785) 843-7665	COE	●	●	●	●	●	●	T	G		F		G	G	T	F			G	G			
1A	Clinton - 8 mi. W of Lawrence	9,200	100	(785) 887-6882	KDWP	●	●		●	●	●	T	G				G	G	T	F			G	G			
2	Hillsdale - 15 mi. S of Olathe on Hwy 169, 3 mi. W on 255 St.	7,700	4,500	(913) 783-4507	KDWP	●			●	●	●	T	G		F		G	G	P	F			G	G			
3	Milford - 5 mi. N of Junction City	1,500	15,600	(785) 238-5714	COE	●	●				●	G	G		G	F		G	G	P	P	F	G	G			
3A	Milford - 25 mi. N of Junction City	18,800	550	(785) 461-5402	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●	G	G	G	G	F	F	G	G	P	F	P	F	G	G		
4	Perry - 3 mi. N of Perry	5,000	11,200	(785) 597-5144	COE	●	●		●	●	●	G	G		F	F		G	G	F	F	P	F	G	G		
4A	Perry - 25 mi. NE of Topeka	9,894	1,000	(785) 945-6615	KDWP	●			●	●	●	G	G		F	F		G	G	F	F	P	F	G	G		
5	Tuttle Creek - 4 mi. N of Manhattan	6,500	13,500	(785) 539-8511	COE	●	●				●	G	G		F	F	F	G	G	P	F	P	G	G	G		
5A	Tuttle Creek - 22 mi. N of Manhattan on Hwy 77	12,000	360	(785) 363-7316	KDWP	●	●		●	●	●	G	G		F	F	F	G	G	P	F	P	G	F	G		
STATE FISHING LAKE WA																											
6	Atchison - 3 mi. N, 2 mi. W, 1/2 mi. N of Atchison	182	66	(913) 367-7811	KDWP	●	●						F	F		F		P	F				P	F	F		
7	Brown - 8 mi. E of Hiawatha	129	60	(913) 367-7811	KDWP	●	●						F			F	F	P	F	F			P	F	F		
8	Douglas - 1 mi. N, 2 mi. E of Baldwin City	538	180	(785) 887-6882	KDWP	●	●				●		F	F		F		P	P				P	F	F		
9	Geary - 10 mi. S of Junction City off Hwy 77	180	90	(785) 238-6465	KDWP	●	●				●		F			P	F	P	P				P	P	F		
10	Leavenworth - 3 mi. N, 2 mi. W of Tonganoxie on Hwy 90	341	160	(785) 887-6882	KDWP	●	●			●	●	G	F			P		P	F				P	F	F		
11	Louisburg-Middle Creek - 7 mi. S of Louisburg	220	281	(913) 783-4507	KDWP	●	●				●	G	F			P		P	P				F	F	F		
12	Miami - 8 mi. E, 5 mi. S of Osawatomie	149	118	(785) 783-4507	KDWP	●	●				●	F	F			P		P	F				P	F	F		
13	Nebo - 8 mi. E, 1 mi. S, 1/2 mi. W of Holton	45	30	(913) 367-7811	KDWP	●	●					F				P		P	P				P	P	F		
14	Pottawatomie No.1 - 5 mi. N of Westmoreland	160	25	(785) 539-9999	KDWP	●	●				●	G				P		P	P				P	F	F		
15	Shawnee - 7 1/2 mi. N of Silver Lake	680	135	(785) 887-6882	KDWP	●	●					P				F	P	P	P				F	P	F		
16	Washington - 7 mi. N, 3 mi. W of Washington	400	20	(785) 461-5402	KDWP	●	●				●	G				F	F	P	F				P	F	F		
OTHER WILDLIFE AREAS																											
17	Benedictine Bottoms - 2 mi. NE of Atchison	943	200	(913) 367-7811	KDWP			●		●		G			G	F		F	G	F	F	F	P	P	F		
18	Bolton - 2 1/2 mi. N, 1 1/2 mi. W of Paxico	639	1	(785) 945-6615	KDWP					●		F	P		P	F	F	F					P	F	F		
19	Jeffery Energy Center Unit 1 - 3 mi. N of Belvue	1,380	6	(785) 539-9999	KDWP					●		G	G	F	F	F	F						F	F	F		
20	Jeffery Energy Center Unit 2 - 5 mi. N, 3 mi. W of St. Marys	5,100	575	(785) 539-9999	W. RESOURCES	●		●		●		G			F	F	F	F	G	G	F	F	F	F	F		
21	Nemaha - 4 1/2 mi. S of Seneca on Hwy 63	705	0	(785) 363-7316	KDWP	●				●		G	G		F	F	F						P	G	F		
22	Rutlader - 1/2 mi. N of Louisburg-Middle Creek SFL	108	0	(913) 783-4507	KDWP					●		F	P		F		F						F	P	F		



STATE FISHING LAKE WA					Boat Ramp	Designated Camping	Walk-In-Camping	Youth Hunt Area	ADA Hunt Area	Refuge Area	Trapping	Unrestricted Camping	Open by Written Notice	No-tox Shotgun hunting	White-tailed Deer	Mule Deer	Rio Grande Turkey	Pheasant	Quail	Lesser Prairie Chicken	Doves	Ducks	Snow Geese	Canada Geese	White-fronted Geese	Rabbits	Squirrels	Furbearers
		acres (L) (W)	phone (area)	managing agency																								
1	Barber - Upper end of Barber SFL, north edge of Medicine Lodge	179	77	(620) 227-8609	KDWP	●	●				●	●			F		F	P		G	P				G	G		
2	Clark - 8 1/2 mi. S, 1 mi. W of Kingsdown	700	337	(620) 227-8609	KDWP	●	●			●	●	●			G	F	G	F		G	F			F	G	F	G	
3	Concannon - 18 mi. E of Garden City on Hwy 156	800	60	(620) 276-8886	KDWP	●	●				●	●			G	G	G			G	G			G	G	F		
4	Finney - 8 mi. N, 3 mi. W of Kalvesta	863	110	(620) 276-8886	KDWP	●	●				●	●			G	G	G			G	G			G	P	G	F	
5	Goodman - 5 mi. S, 2 1/5 mi. E of Ness City	225	40	(620) 276-8886	KDWP	●	●				●				F	F	F			G	F			F	G			
6	Hain - 5 mi. N, 2 1/4 mi. E of Wright off Hwy 283	53	53	(620) 227-8609	KDWP		●				●	●								G	G		F	G	P			
7	Hamilton - 3 mi. W, 4 mi. N of Syracuse	432	60	(620) 276-8886	KDWP	●	●				●	●			G	G	G	P		G	F			F	G			
8	Hodgeman - 3 mi. E, 2 mi. S of Jetmore	254	87	(620) 276-8886	KDWP		●	●			●	●			G	G	G	P		G	G			F	G			
9	Meade - 8 mi. S, 5 mi. W of Meade	420	0	(620) 227-8609	KDWP		●	●	●		●	●			G	F	G	F	G	G	F			G	G			
10	Scott - 14 mi. N, 1 mi. W of Scott City	160	0	(620) 276-8886	KDWP					●	●				G	F	G	F	F	G					G	F		
OTHER WILDLIFE AREAS																												
11	Cheyenne Bottoms - 5 mi. N, 2 mi. E of Great Bend	7,957	12,000	(620) 793-3066	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		G	P	P	G	F		G	G	G	G	G	G	G	
12	Cimarron National Grasslands - Morton County near Elkhart	108,000	11	(620) 697-4621	USFWS		●				●				G	G	G	G	G	G	G	F		F	P	G	G	
13	Cottonwood Flats - 1 1/2 mi. S, 1/2 mi. E of Coolidge	80	SA	(620) 276-8886	KDWP						●				G	F	G	F		G	F				F	F		
14	Finney Game Refuge - 1/2 mi. S of Garden City (Restricted)	3,700	5	(620) 276-8886	KDWP					●		●			G	G	F	G		G					G	F		
15	Greeley Co. - 8 mi. N, 5 mi. E, 2 mi. N, 1/2 mi. E of Tribune	900	0	(620) 276-8886	KDWP						●				G	G				G					G	F		
16	Herron Playa - 1 mi. S, 1/2 mi. W, 3 mi. S of Spearville (Restricted)	360	50	(620) 227-8609	KDWP							●	●		F	F	G	F		G	G	F	G	F	G	F	G	
17	Isabel Wetlands - 8 mi. E of Sawyer	200	40	(620) 227-8609	KDWP		●				●	●	●		G	F	G	G		G	G	F	G	F	G	P	F	
18	Lane - 6 1/2 mi. N, 3 mi. E of Dighton	42	0	(620) 276-8886	KDWP		●				●	●			F	F	G			G					G			
19	Pratt Sandhills - 5 mi. W, 7 mi. N of Cullison	4,757	0	(620) 227-8609	KDWP		●	●			●	●			G	F	G	G	G	G					G	F	G	
20	Quivira NWR - 13 mi. N of Stafford	8,000	1,200	(620) 486-2393	USFWS					●		●					F	F		G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
21	Stein Playa - 2 1/2 mi. W, 1/2 mi. S of Spearville (Restricted)	115	50	(620) 227-8609	KDWP							●	●		F	F	G			G	G	F	G	G	G	F		
22	Texas Lake Wetlands - 4 mi. W, 1 mi. N of Cullison	880	50	(620) 227-8609	KDWP		●				●	●	●		G	G	G	G		G	G	F	G	F	G			
23	Wild Turkey Playa - 4 mi. S of Howell (Restricted)	160	10	(620) 227-8609	KDWP							●	●		G	G	G	G		G	G	F	G	P	G			



Region 4



RESERVOIR WA					Boat Ramp	Designated Camping	Vault Toilet	Special (Draw) Hunts	Youth Hunt Area	ADA Hunt Area	Refuge Area	Trapping	Archery Deer Only	White-tailed Deer	Wild Turkey	Pheasant	Quail	Greater Prairie Chicken	Doves	Ducks	Snow Geese	Canada Geese	White-fronted Geese	Rabbits	Squirrels	Furbearers	
	acres (L)	(W)	phone (area)	managing agency																							
1	Cheney – 7 mi. E of Pretty Prairie	5,397	9,537	(620) 459-6922	KDWP	●	●	●	●					G	F	F	F	G	F	P	F	P	G	F	G		
2	Council Grove – 5 mi. NW of Council Grove	2,638	3,235	(620) 767-5900	KDWP	●	●	●		●	●			G	F	P	G	F	G	G	F	G	P	G	G		
3	El Dorado – 2 mi. E, 1 mi. N of El Dorado	4,000	8,000	(316) 321-7180	KDWP	●	●	●			●	●		G	F	P	G	F	G	G		G	G	F	G		
4	Marion – 2 mi. S, 2 mi. E of Durham	4,300	6,160	(620) 732-3946	KDWP	●	●	●		●	●	●		G	F	G	F		G	G	F	G	F	G	P		
STATE FISHING LAKE WA																											
5	Butler – 3 mi. W, 1 mi. N of Latham	196	124	(620) 876-5730	KDWP	●	●	●				●		F	F		G	P	F	F		F	F	F	F		
6	Chase – 1 1/2 mi. W of Cottonwood Falls	383	109	(620) 767-5900	KDWP	●	●	●				●		F	P		F	F	P	F		F	F	P	F		
7	Cowley – 16 mi. E of Arkansas City on Hwy 166	113	84	(620) 876-5730	KDWP	●	●	●				●		F	F		F	F	F	F		F	F	P	F		
8	McPherson State Lake – 6 mi. N, 2 mi. W of Canton	260	46	(620) 628-4592	KDWP	●	●	●		●	●			G													
OTHER WILDLIFE AREAS																											
9	Byron Walker / Kingman State Lake – 7 mi. W of Kingman	4,364	165	(620) 532-3242	KDWP	●	●	●			●	●		G	G	P	G		G	G	P	F	P	G	G		
10	Cheney State Park – 25 mi. W of Wichita	1,913	0	(316) 542-3664	KDWP	●	●	●						F	P		F	F						P	P		
11	El Dorado State Park – 2 mi. E of El Dorado	4,000	8,000	(316) 321-7180	KDWP	●	●	●	●	●				F	P	G	G		P	F		G	P	F			
12	Kaw – 1 mi. SE of Arkansas City	4,341	0	(620) 878-5730	KDWP	●					●			G	G	P	G		G	F		F	F	F	G		
13	McPherson Wetlands – 2 mi. N, 1 mi. E of Conway	3,290	926	(620) 241-7669	KDWP					●	●			P		G	P		G	G	G	G	P		G		
14	Sandhills State Park – 3 mi. NE of Hutchinson	800	0	(316) 542-3664	KDWP				●	●				G	G	F	G		F				F		F		
15	Slate Creek – 6 mi. S, 1 1/2 mi. W of Oxford	907	85	(620) 876-5730	KDWP						●			G	P	G	G		F	G	P	G	P	F	G		



RESERVOIR WA					Boat Ramp	Designated Camping	Walk-In-Camping	Shotgun & Archery Only	Youth Hunt Area	ADA Hunt Area	Refuge Area	Trapping	No Pistols or Cntr Rifles	No-tox Shotgun hunting	Waterfowl permit Reqrd.	White-tailed Deer	Eastern Wild Turkey	Rio Grande Turkey	Quail	Greater Prairie Chicken	Doves	Ducks	Snow Geese	Canada Geese	White-fronted Geese	Rabbits	Squirrels	Furbearers
		acres (L) (W)	phone (area)	managing agency																								
1	Big Hill - 9 mi. W, 4 mi. S of Parsons	800	1,240	(620) 336-2741	COE	●	●									G	G	G			F	G	G	G	G	G	G	
2	Elk City - 3 mi. W of Independence	11,880	4,450	(620) 331-6820	COE/KDWP	●	●		●		●					G	G	G	F		G	G	G	F	G	G	G	
3	Fall River - 6 mi. N, 1 mi. E of Severy	8,382	2,500	(620) 583-6783	COE/KDWP	●	●				●					G	G	F		G	G	F	G	F	F	G	G	
4	John Redmond - 4 mi. W, 2 mi. N of Burlington	1,637	100	(620) 364-8614	COE/KDWP	●	●	●			●					G	G	G		G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	
5	Melvern - 4 mi. N of Lebo	10,407	7,000	(620) 699-3372	COE/KDWP	●					●					F	G	F		G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	
6	Pomona - 17 mi. W of Ottawa	3,600	4,000	(785) 539-8511	COE	●					●					G	G				G				G	G	G	
7	Toronto - 1 mi. W of Toronto	3,981	2,800	(620) 583-6783	COE/KDWP	●	●			●						G	G	F		F	G	F	G	F	F	G	G	
STATE FISHING LAKE WA																												
8	Bourbon - 4 1/2 mi. E of Elsmore	277	119	(620) 449-2539	KDWP	●	●				●					G	G	F		G					G	G	G	
9	Lyon - 5 mi. W, 1 mi. N of Reading	442	140	(620) 699-3372	KDWP	●	●			●						F		G		G	G				G	G	G	
10	Osage - 10 mi. S of Topeka	366	140	(620) 699-3372	KDWP	●	●	●			●					G		G		G					G	G	G	
11	Wilson - 1 mi. S of Buffalo	172	119	(620) 637-2748	KDWP	●	●	●										G		G					G			
12	Woodson - 5 mi. E of Toronto	2,700	180	(620) 637-2748	KDWP	●	●	●			●					G	G	G	F		G	G			G	G	G	
OTHER WILDLIFE AREAS																												
13	Berentz/Dick - 2 mi. W, 2 mi. S, 10 1/2 mi. W of Independence	1,350	10	(620) 331-6820	KDWP			●			●					G	G	G							G	F	F	
14	Big Hill - 8 mi. W, 4 mi. S of Parsons	1,300	20	(620) 331-6820	KDWP	●	●	●		●	●					G	G	G		F	F				G	G	G	
15	Copan - 1/2 mi. W of Caney	2,340	20	(620) 331-6820	KDWP					●	●					G	G	G		F					G	G	G	
16	Dove Flats - 2 1/2 mi. E, 1 1/2 mi. N of Elk City	206	0	(620) 331-6820	KDWP						●					G		G		G					F	F		
17	Duck Creek - 1 1/2 mi. E, 3 1/3 mi. N of Elk City	246	0	(620) 331-6820	KDWP						●					G	G	G							G	F	G	
18	Flint Hills NWR - 15 mi. SE of Emporia	7,500	9,400	(620) 392-5553	USFWS	●				●	●	●				G	G	F		F	G	G	G	F	G	G	G	
19	Harmon - 2 mi. N, 1 1/4 mi. E, 1 mi. S of Chetopa	100	2	(620) 231-3173	KDWP		●	●			●					G	G	F		F					G	G	G	
20	Hollister - 6 mi W, 2 mi. S of Fort Scott	2,432	0	(620) 449-2539	KDWP		●				●					G	G	G		G					G	G	G	
21	Hulah - Scattered tracts east and west of Elgin	800	0	(913) 532-4334	COE						●					G	G	F		F					G	G	G	
22	La Cygne - 5 mi. E of La Cygne	2,000	2,600	(913) 352-8941	KDWP		●				●	●				G	G	F		G		F	F	F	G	G	G	
23	Marias des Cygnes - 5 mi. N of Pleasanton	4,851	2,500	(913) 352-8941	KDWP		●				●	●	●			G	G			G	G						G	
24	Marias des Cygnes NWR - 5 mi. N of Pleasanton	7,400	100	(913) 352-8956	USFWS	●		●		●	●	●				G	G	G		G	G		G	G	G	G		
25	Mined Land - Crawford and Cherokee Counties	12,962	1,543	(620) 231-3173	KDWP	●	●			●	●	●				G	G	G		G	G	F	G		G	G	G	
26	Neosho - 1 mi. E of St. Paul	3,243	800	(620) 449-2539	KDWP	●	●				●	●	●			G	G	F		G	F	F	F	F	G	G	G	
27	Spring River - 3 mi. E, 1 1/4 mi. N of Crestline	424	0	(620) 231-3173	KDWP		●	●			●	●				G	G	G							G	G	G	



Department Offices

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

900 SW Jackson, Suite 502
Topeka, KS 66612-1233
(785) 296-2281

REGION 2

3300 SW 29th
Topeka, KS 66614-2053
(785) 273-6740

REGION 5

1500 W. 7th
P.O. Box 777
Chanute, KS 66720-0777
(620) 431-0380

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512 SE 25th Avenue
Pratt, KS 67124-8174
(620) 672-5911

REGION 3

808 McArtor Rd,
Dodge City, KS 67801-6024
(620) 227-8609

KANSAS CITY OFFICE

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Lenexa, KS 66215-1164
(913) 894-9113

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U.S. 183 Bypass
Hays, KS 67601-0338
(785) 628-8614

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(316) 683-8069

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Emporia, KS 66801-1525
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Wildlife Area Offices

Cedar Bluff/
Webster/ Norton (785)726-3212
Cheney (620)459-6922
Cheyenne Bottoms (620)793-7730
Clinton (785)842-8562
Council Grove (620)767-5900
Crawford (620)362-3671
Eisenhower/Pomona (785)528-4102
El Dorado (316)321-7180
Elk City (620)331-6295
Glen Elder (785)545-3345
Hillsdale (913)783-4507
Lovewell (785)753-4971

Marais des Cygnes (913)352-8941
Meade (620)873-2572
Milford (785)238-3014
Mined Land (620)231-3173
Perry (785)246-3449
Scott (620)872-2061
Toronto/Fall River (620)637-2213
Tuttle Creek (785)539-7941
Wilson/ Kanopolis (785)658-2465
Kanopolis State Park (785)546-2565
Pomona State Park (785)828-4933
Prairie Dog SP (785)877-2953
Webster (785)425-6775

FEDERAL OFFICES

Cimarron National Grasslands (620)697-4621
Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge (620)392-5553
Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge (785)543-6673
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (620)486-2393
Marias des Cygne Wildlife Refuge (913)352-8956

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

text and photos by J. Mark Shoup
associate editor, Pratt

In an effort to improve their teaching abilities, hunter education instructors gather to trade tips and learn from each other.

Years ago, a friend of mine, a mason by trade, decided to take college night classes while laying brick during the day. His friends questioned this decision, asking, "What do you want to be?"

My friend answered bluntly, "I want to be educated." I was struck by this obvious but often overlooked reason for pursuing more education. And I was proud of my friend.

On April 12-14, I was reminded of this attitude when I attended the 2002 International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Rendezvous at Rock Springs 4-H Center. When one thinks of the word "rendezvous," images of mountain men, traders, and wild parties often come to mind, but this event was more akin to continuing education. These folks came to learn, and learn they did.

Forty-five participants and 10 instructors, representing seven states, gathered for two days at this beautiful Flint Hills facility for one

purpose — to become better hunter education instructors. They paid their own transportation costs and \$50 each to cover part of the cost of meals and lodging. The remainder of the meals and lodging costs — as well as some classroom expenses, ammunition, and targets — were covered by the IHEA Foundation and Winchester Ammunition.

Kansas Hunter Education Program coordinator Wayne Doyle kicked off the rendezvous with an introduction of the weekend's instructors. IHEA general manager Bob Mayer, Colorado, gave a brief overview of new developments in hunter education, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) attorney Chris Tymeson, Topeka, who is also an IHEA Instructor Board member, announced the organization's national meeting, held in Springfield, Missouri, last May.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Keith Sexson, KDWP assistant secretary for Operations,

Pratt. After acknowledging the dedication of hunter education instructors, Sexson quickly loosened up the audience with profuse accolades for Doyle. He noted that while the agency has two attorneys, it only has one hunter education coordinator for the entire state. With no assistant coordinator, Doyle is still doing such a fine job that Sexson thought perhaps there were other duties he might be able to handle. (Everyone laughed except Doyle, as I recall.)

Saturday morning, the group got down to the education business when Colorado's statewide hunter education coordinator, Patt Dorsey, presented a lecture on techniques of instruction.

An engaging instructor, Dorsey said a good instructor is goal-oriented, knows his material, and is organized and prepared, but that doesn't necessarily translate to a rigid approach. Some teachers prefer a formal approach while others are more informal. More

than once, however, she stressed the need to know one's material.

Knowing one's audience was another key element Dorsey stressed. Such knowledge will affect everything from how the instructor dresses to the use of humor in the classroom.

Dorsey also pointed out that just as instructors teach differently, students learn differently. Some are more visually-oriented while others retain the spoken word better. Still others benefit most from hands-on experience. Thus, a mixture of teaching tools is required, as well as the customary lectures, demonstrations, and questions.

Much of the weekend focused on issues that affect the hunter's image, and Doyle's presentation on reducing wounding loss in waterfowl hunting was no exception. Introducing his subject, Doyle noted that "public support is necessary to the future of hunting, and the public demands certain things before they will approve it. It must be biologically sound, ethical, fair, and humane."

Dennis Vincent, Leavenworth; Ted Billingsly, Solomon; and Ed Augustine, Junction City, rounded out the Saturday morning session with demonstrations of hunting simulation systems. Much like computer games, these systems use laser-equipped firearms to fire at game on a video projector screen. The systems are very popular and teach student concepts such as shoot-don't shoot situations, shot placement, and proper firearms handling. KDWP has several high-quality systems for use by instructors.

The Saturday afternoon session was perhaps the most popular part of the rendezvous because it brought everyone outdoors on a beautiful spring day. The group was divided — half for training on how to set up and run a field walk and half for shotgun training.

The field walk training was conducted by Bob Lark, Hollyrood; Barney Mahoney, Halstead; and Larry McAdoo, Halstead. In this



Part of the two-day conference taught instructors how to teach beginning wingshooting.

training, participants were taught how to put their students in a "hunting" situation, complete with simulated shotguns, actors pretending to be landowners, fences, pop-up game bird silhouettes, decoy deer and turkey, and backgrounds chosen to create shoot-no shoot situations.

The other half of the afternoon instruction focused on teaching students to shoot. In this case, the participants became students and were given instruction not only on teaching, but on shooting, as well. Ed Augustine — aided by Jerry Vincent, Junction City, and Dick Shields, Manhattan — led this session. A few of the participants were not seasoned shotgunners, but Augustine had one woman who had never hit a flying target breaking nearly every rock thrown.

As the afternoon session wound down, I had the opportunity to talk with Mark Birkhauser, statewide hunter education coordinator for New Mexico. This was the fourth such event nationally, and he had attended all of them. Birkhauser could not say enough good things about this event and is excited about the prospect of more in the future.

"As a hunter education coordinator, I believe that the training and word-of-mouth trading of informa-


tion we get from these events helps everyone. The formal classroom and field training is invaluable, but the informal 'training' we get just by trading information is sometimes just as useful. I think more states should get involved in these events."

The Sunday morning session concluded with a presentation from the "Tread Lightly" organization's videos, intended to promote the responsible use of ATVs. Bob Mayer then gave a brief lecture on child protection issues involving students, and the group was dismissed for lunch in the cafeteria.

Impressed by the dedication of the participants and the quality of the programs, I was curious to know what a rank-and-file instructor felt about it. I was able to corner Steve Miles of Grand Island, Nebraska, and his reaction was typical.

"I came here with hopes of learning one or two new things, but after the trail walk alone, I had seven," Miles said. "I've really been impressed by the congeniality of Kansas hunter education instructors, and I've enjoyed talking to folks who walk the walk and talk the talk, and to tap into their resources. Mr. Doyle should be commended for the job he's doing bringing hunter education to Kansas kids.

As Doyle mentioned on several occasions, hunter education instructors have "won the safety battle." Kansas has come off a record low number of hunting accidents — the second year in a row with fewer than 20. Considering the millions of hunter man-hours spent afield each year, this makes hunting one of the safest activities on the planet.

The challenge for the modern-day hunter education instructor is moving forward with increasing emphasis on issues such as ethics, responsibility, shooting skills, and conservation. With more events like the 2002 IHEA Hunter Education Instructor Rendezvous, those "battles" may soon be won, as well. 

Edited by Mark Shoup

MORE ON MOWING

I am a retired roadway/right of way maintenance department administrator, and the letter entitled "Leave the Ditches" [*Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine, May/June 2002, Page 33] caught my attention. The suggestion by Mr. Linton of Winfield regarding limiting road side mowing to improve habitat seemed like an excellent idea, and the favorable response by Mr. Shoup was encouraging.

The very next day I read an article in the Kansas University Transportation Center News Letter entitled "KDOT and Audubon Society Hatch Partnership to Promote Prairie Vegetation and Cut Mowing Costs."

"This partnership is working so well that both agencies are considering ways to cooperate in the future-and are discussing ways to involve more entities in future initiatives," the article said.

"This initiative calls for far less frequent mowing, and that means lower fuel costs." There are approximately 130,000 acres of state administered roadsides in Kansas, prime potential for prairie vegetation.

—Ronald Zimmermann,
Edgerton

THE TICKS!

Editor:

I read the recent article on ticks in the May/June issue of *Kansas Wildlife and Parks* magazine [Page 2] with great interest. I was born and raised in southeastern Kansas, Bourbon County, and can honestly say that in spite of living outdoors every day that I was not burdened with the obligatory school thing; I was never the victim of a tick.

Last summer on my annual vacation to Kansas, I encountered a tick under my waistband after trekking through my brother's pasture in Leavenworth County. After the removal, a painful red

area remained for a least one month. The area was discolored and remained hard as leather for several more months. I have a new respect for the viscous little creatures.

Now my problem/complaint. Since reading the comprehensive article, I imagine that every tiny sensation I feel on my skin is a tick. I dream about the nasty things. Please have the author of the article contribute his best effort at an antidote for the the obsessive-compulsive disorder he has inflicted me with. What if Alfred Hitchcock had made a movie titled "The Ticks" instead of "The Birds"? My skin is crawling, and its all your fault.

Charles Russell
Mesa, Arizona

Dear Mr. Russell:

I'm glad you read the article - even information one doesn't like may be useful. I've always believed that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. I suspect your willies will go away with time, especially if you live in a part of the country with fewer ticks.

Mr. Russell, regarding tick numbers when you were growing up in Bourbon County, I don't know when that was, but you have added to the anecdotal evidence that we have a lot more ticks in Kansas than we used to. Unfortunately, no one has ever done tick population density studies in Kansas. I do know that the density varies between similar-looking sites within a few dozen yards of one another, and at a given site, the density varies from year to year. Until I began to work on Kansas ticks in 1989, there were only a smattering of scientific articles that even mentioned ticks in this state. Now we have over 1,300 curated samples of ticks from people, many kinds of animals, and collected off vegetation where they awaited a host. We finally know which species are present on a county-by-county basis.

The unusually long-lasting skin response from the tick that bit you in Leavenworth County is not uncommon. Your description suggests that it was a lone star tick. This species has long,

narrow mouthparts. Thus, they feed more deeply, which causes more host immune response.

Furthermore, since the mouthparts are so narrow, they break off in the skin as the tick is removed - more frequently than do those of American dog ticks and Rocky Mountain wood ticks. And, to add insult to injury, components of their saliva form a "cement tube" around their mouthparts as they feed. No matter how carefully one removes the tick, even if he is successful in removing the mouthparts, the cement tube is usually left in the skin. Thus, the skin walls off the foreign object, creating scar tissue - the hard plaque that lasted so long.

The other ticks mentioned above also produce a cement to help anchor themselves, but theirs is around the base of their mouthparts on the surface of the skin and virtually always comes off with the tick.

I hope this explanation answers your question and does not cause further obsession.

—Don Mock
professor emeritus, KSU, Manhattan

WHAT OF THE LITTLE GUY?

Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for an accomplishment that took years to achieve. Starting with the sales of non-resident deer permits, there was a slow and quiet move that headed Kansas deer hunting into a high-dollar business.

What happens to the little guys, the hard-working men and women who cannot afford the way that you have our hunting headed? If the trade-off here is the Walk-In Hunting Areas, how many of them are open to rifle deer hunting? As the available land for the small guy diminishes, and we get herded into walk-in areas, there will be more hunters per acre than deer. If hunting accidents increase, what will be the cost of big business deer hunting?

What have you established for the small Kansas landowner that lets you hunt for the asking, the landowner who is still appreciative when you say "thanks" by bring him a smoked turkey or stopping by during harvest to give him a hand. In my mind, these are the landowners who Kansas Wildlife and Parks should be rewarding.

If your agency has the knowledge and authority to implement big business deer hunting, they also have the knowledge to change it. Maybe there should be a slow, quiet move by Kansas deer hunters to stop it.

*Richard Nagy
Nickerson*

Dear Mr. Nagy:

First of all, I believe we would have had nonresident deer hunting whether we implemented it ourselves or not. We receive more than \$6 million of federal excise money each year for our wildlife programs, and we manage thousands of acres of federally owned land for public hunting. When all Kansans who wanted a permit received one, we decided to establish nonresident deer hunting so that we could control the program. The statutes passed by the legislature limit the number of nonresident firearm deer permits to 10 percent of what we sold to residents the previous year.

Large-scale leasing has always been a concern of the department. That is one reason for the strict limitations placed on the number of nonresident deer permits. The Walk-In Hunting Area (WIHA) program was established to ensure that all hunters have a place to hunt. And the department is concerned with keeping our hunting heritage alive.

"Pass It On" is a program that focuses on recruiting new hunters and providing youth with quality hunting opportunities. The department wants to reverse the decline in the percentage of Kansans who hunt so that social, political, and financial support for hunting and wildlife management is maintained.

The current economic climate in agriculture and the market demand for trophy whitetail hunts play key roles in the leasing trend. No one can deny landowners the right to profit from access to their land, and additional

income is critical to many farming operations.

I don't know how the department could reward landowners who allow limited access "for the asking," but we can reward landowners who allow unlimited access through WIHA. We realize WIHA isn't the answer for all hunters, but it is a piece of the puzzle. Hunters, like you and I, make up another piece. Good communication between hunters and landowners has never been more important. If you have a landowner friend who allows you to hunt, you should make sure he knows how much that privilege means to you. In today's market, access for hunting is a valuable commodity.

Priorities in the department's effort to provide hunters with opportunities include expanding WIHA, land acquisition within budget and state law constraints, emphasizing ethics through hunter education, and promoting the value of passing on our hunting heritage. It's in our best interests to ensure that we all enjoy the privilege of hunting.

—Miller

LOVE THE PICS

Editor:

I am a wife and mother of hunters. These men in my life have subscribed to your magazine. However, I am just as blessed as they are when it arrives into my home.

Comparable to last year's photo issue, this one is also delightfully splendid. If I had the income, I'd order it for every friend that I have. It alone is worth the whole year's subscription cost and would appeal to all folks.

Each picture takes you instantly into another world with personality and detail like I've never seen before. And the bonus of it all is the fact that the narration is comparable to most anything I've read. I am so thankful that you are in a position to share your incredible photography and writing talents. I think you should enter a national contest with this piece of work and we in Kansas would be cheering you on.

*Tammy Pontious
Milan*

KANSAS COUGARS?

Editor:

I recently picked up an old issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine (Sept./Oct. 2000). In thumbing through, I came across "Cougars in Kansas?" I just wanted to pass along an experience my wife and I had back in 1994.

We own 80 acres in Elk County. As we were on vacation on the property, my wife said, "Lets go down to the alfalfa field and watch the deer come out to graze." We got out of the truck and stepped up to a fence to observe. The alfalfa field is approximately 17 acres, bordered on one side by 20 acres of timber and creek. No sooner had we stepped up to the fence to observe than deer started blowing.

I said, "They must have seen us," but the timber is about 100-150 yards away. I retrieved a chair from the truck, so my wife could sit down with binocks. As she scanned the field, she said, "I know what the deer are upset about." A cougar was walking across the field. I grabbed the binocks, and to my surprise, she was right. As I observed, the cat sat down, scratched it's ear, got up, and crossed the field and disappeared into a hedge row.

I will look to see if I can find a plaster cast we made of a possible cougar track. I know there were no claw marks in the track. The plaster cast was taken in the creek bed on the same property, and it appeared to me that three cats had crossed the creek. I think I remember calling the local Sedgwick County Wildlife and Parks office and reporting the sighting. But I understand that it is hard to tell if this cat was a part of a viable population or had gotten loose somewhere. I estimate the cat weighed around 80-100 pounds.

The people we bought the land from said they had a female and three young outside of their trailer one day. Well, I just wanted to pass this along. As a life-long hunter, it was an experience I'll never forget.

*Michael Noland
Shawnee Mission*

JUMP TO FEDERAL COURT

One morning the last week of December 2001, conservation officer Chris Hammerschmidt (Sedan) and I were patrolling in Greenwood County. When we arrived in the Hamilton area, we found a group of goose hunters. Just prior to our arrival, this group of five hunters had just jumped and shot at a flock of Canada geese that were on a small pond. As we drove up to the pond, we saw that three of the hunters were carrying a number of dead geese. When the three men saw us, they quickly threw down the geese.

In addition to the 13 dead geese the men were carrying, on the water and ice were 16 more dead Canada geese. With the daily bag limit for Canada geese being three birds per hunter, we quickly saw that the hunters might have killed too many birds during their hunt.

The five hunters told us that they were responsible for killing some of the 29 Canada geese but that some of the dead geese remaining on the pond had been left by other hunters days before. When we asked the hunters to retrieve the geese they had killed, they said they did not know what birds were theirs, so they weren't going to retrieve any.

We explained to the hunters that failing to attempt to retrieve the geese they had killed was a violation of the wanton waste law and that they needed to retrieve their geese to avoid this violation. The hunters told us that we could not

prove that the geese on the pond were theirs, so they weren't going to retrieve any of them. After the hunters told us this, I contacted CO Jason Deal who was working in Woodson County that morning. Deal agreed to bring a jon boat from Toronto State Park so that we could retrieve the remaining geese ourselves.

While we waited for Deal to arrive with the boat, Hammerschmidt and I checked the hunters' shotguns, ammunition, hunting licenses, and duck stamps. We found that two of the hunters were hunting with unplugged shotguns; one hunter had hunted with lead shot; and one hunter did not have a hunting license, HIP stamp, or a state or federal duck stamp.

When Deal arrived with the boat, we retrieved the remaining dead geese from the pond. After retrieving the geese, we tested the internal body temperature of each bird. Our tests indicated that all 29 geese had been shot at approximately the same time that morning. When we confronted the hunters with our evidence that the geese were killed that morning, the hunters tried to change their story. Now they claimed that another group of hunters had shot geese on the pond just before they arrived.

Not believing the hunters' new story any more than the previous story, we explained that we were going to prepare a report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and request that they be charged in federal court.

Operation Game Thief

You can help conservation officers by reporting fishing, hunting, and public lands violations using this toll-free telephone call.



Hunting season is a time to enjoy camaraderie, fresh air, exercise, and contact with nature. However, nothing can spoil this much-anticipated day more than poachers. These are the people who trespass, litter, take unsafe shots, drink while they hunt, or vandalize. While they represent an extremely small percentage of the hunting community, they reflect poorly on all hunters.

This season, all hunters – and everyone else – should be on the alert for wildlife violations with Operation Game Thief.

The Operation Game Thief hotline (1-877-426-3343) offers Kansans a simple way to get a quick, efficient response to any illegal activity they see or hear about. (No general information requests can be answered.) All calls received through the Operation Game Thief line are immediately relayed to the conservation officer nearest the violation. Callers remain confidential. The line is available anytime, day or night, every day of the year.

People who see a violation should get as much information as possible, including vehicle descriptions and license tag numbers, descriptions of people involved, locations, and the time the incident occurred. The more specific the information, the easier it is for conservation officers to investigate the case. But observers of violations should never confront violators.

–Shoup

In federal court, the five hunters pleaded guilty to 15 charges. One hunter paid \$525 in fines for taking over the limit of Canada geese and wanton waste of Canada geese. The second hunter paid \$625 in fines for taking over the limit of Canada geese, wanton waste of Canada geese, and hunting with lead shot. The third and fourth hunters each paid \$825 in fines for taking over the limit of Canada geese, wanton waste of Canada

geese, and hunting with an unplugged shotguns. The last of the five hunters paid \$925 in fines for taking over the limit of Canada geese, wanton waste of Canada geese, hunting without a hunting license, and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

The five hunters paid a total of \$3,725 in fines for the hunting violations they committed during a single hunting trip.

–Dan Melson, conservation officer, Eureka

Paola Teen Wins NRA Award

For more information on applying for the NRA Outstanding Youth Achievement Award, phone (703) 267-1505 or go to www.nrahq.org/youth/achievement.asp.

The National Rifle Association has named 18-year-old Zachary Hudson, from Paola, Kansas, to receive its 2002 National Outstanding Achievement Youth Award. The award will be presented at a special ceremony, part of the association's board of directors' meeting, in September.

The award recognizes the NRA junior member who best meets standards of excellence in the shooting sports and educational achievements. Core requirements include high academic standing, holding NRA membership and membership in an NRA-affiliated club or state association, completion of an NRA Firearm Training Course, participation in an NRA Marksmanship program, and submission of an essay: "Why I Became Involved in the Shooting Sports."

"We are very pleased to have Zach as the second national NRA Outstanding Achievement Youth Award Winner," said NRA Youth Programs Department Manager Matt Szramoski. "He is the personification of the well rounded sportsman, a competitor, a hunter, and a recreational shooter. Zach serves as a role model for youth involved in the shooting sports."

Hudson, in addition to meeting the base criteria, is an active competitive shooter in smallbore rifle, holding an expert rating. He is also co-holder of two NRA national records in team air rifle events. He has served as the junior leader and president of his local 4-H shooting club for the past three years and has also been an avid hunter since the age of 10. He enjoys pursuing deer, quail, and turkey when he is not study-

ing or competing in the shooting sports.

"I want to express my gratitude to the National Rifle Association, all of my 4-H leaders, shooting coaches, and my parents for offering guidance and support to my shooting career," Hudson said.

Hudson's academic achievements are exemplary as well. He was recently awarded a scholarship to the University of Missouri-Kansas City and will compete on their collegiate shooting team. Hudson also speaks on a regular basis about the shooting sports.

"With the negative view of shooting cast by certain groups, I feel it is the duty of every person who shoots to set a good example of our sport," Hudson wrote in his essay. "I do all that I can to play a positive role and act as a role model."

—NRA online

Atlanta Gun Suit DISMISSED

A unanimous three-judge panel of the Georgia Court of Appeals, in a clearly written decision, has dismissed the City of Atlanta's lawsuit against 14 firearm manufacturers and their trade associations. The court ruled that the city, by attempting to regulate firearms through litigation, had improperly tried to usurp that power from the state.

"Through this lawsuit, the city seeks to punish conduct that the state, through its regulatory and statutory schemes, expressly allows and licenses," the court said. The Georgia attorney general had filed a friend-of-the-court brief defending the constitutionality of the state preemption law.

The city filed its action in February 1999 just as the industry was in Atlanta for the annual SHOT Show. Almost immediately, the Georgia Assembly

enacted amendments to the state's firearm preemption law that specifically prohibited the city's suit. An industry motion to dismiss the case was denied by a lower court, which also refused to allow the industry to appeal. A subse-



quent law enacted by the legislature allowed the industry's appeal to proceed.

"Atlanta's lawsuit would not have saved a single life or prevented a single crime from occurring; all it did was waste taxpayer money," said Lawrence G. Keane, vice president and general coun-

sel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Atlanta is the third case, joining New Orleans and Philadelphia, to be dismissed because of a state preemption statute passed expressly to prohibit these reckless, politically motivated suits.

"Our industry owes a deep debt of gratitude to the National Rifle Association for its efforts in lobbying for passage, in 27 states, of historic legislation barring reckless litigation against our industry. And those efforts continue in the several states currently considering passage of preemption legislation," said Keane. Every appellate court to decide a municipal suit has ruled in favor of industry. The list of dismissed cases now includes Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Gary, Bridgeport, Camden County, and the state of New York.

—National Shooting Sports Foundation

NUMBER 1 TERRORISTS

"The No. 1 domestic terrorist group identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not al Qaeda or the Aryan Nation," the Wall Street Journal's Collin Levey writes. "No, it's the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), a group that's about "more than just tree-hugging."

ELF is distinguished from other activist groups by "the growing severity of its means" - setting off time bombs and incendiary devices, destroying research facilities, running online eco-terror training camps, and more. The group took credit for 137 attacks in 2001.

"That's a point of pride for the group, which boastfully puts up the Justice Department's tally of its trail of destruction on its website," Levey writes.

The U.S. House held a hearing on eco-terror and ELF last year. According to testimony by the executive director of the Center for Consumer Freedom, ELF and its sister group ALF (the Animal Liberation Front) "have claimed responsi-

bility for smashing bank windows, torching a chicken feed truck, burning a horse corral at a Bureau of Land Management facility, firebombing dealer lots full of sport utility vehicles, destroying valuable scientific laboratory equipment and many years worth of irreplaceable research documents, spiking trees, and even setting bombs under meat delivery trucks."

ELF received \$1,500 from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in 2001. In 1995 PETA even sent more than \$70,000 to ALF member Rodney Coronado, convicted of arson in an attack on a university research lab. (For more on the money trail, visit ActivistCash.com.)

—*consumerfreedom.com*

SPORTSMEN WIN COURT BATTLE

A court ruling last spring deals a major setback to an insidious campaign that has worked for years to remove sportsmen as the funding source for this nation's wildlife programs.

Sportsmen's groups have been fighting a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club against the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that made five specific complaints against the MDNR and the USFWS.

The complaints involved land management issues, including forestry practices that benefit game species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and ruffed grouse, as well as various non-game ani-

mals. In his ruling, Judge Richard Enslen ruled against the Sierra Club, clearing the way for sportsman-supported wildlife conservation to continue.

Sportsmen's organizations working on the effort included the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation.

"We knew that a ruling in Michigan in favor of the environmentalists would spell the end of programs that have produced abundant wildlife for hunters and anglers across the country," said Rick Story, U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation vice president. "This victory protects hunting programs for all sportsmen and will go far toward curbing the spread of these cases to other states."

The Sierra Club has filed several suits in recent years that challenged the use of Pittman-Robertson (P-R) and Dingell-Johnson (D-J) (also known as the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration programs) dollars for state wildlife programs that include hunting, fishing, and trapping. The P-R and D-J programs distribute funding to the states generated by an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and fishing gear. The tax is borne by hunters and anglers.

In 1996, the Sierra Club lost a suit that challenged the use of P-R dollars for a moose management program in Vermont.

—*U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation*

NYPD Blue About Hunting

An NYPD Blue cast member has revealed a side that most people haven't seen by posing unclothed for a People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) anti-fur advertisement.

Charlotte Ross, who plays police detective Connie McDowell on NYPD Blue, has posed for PETA's "Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" series.

Two ads show Ross au naturel but holding a small white rabbit to cover exposed body parts. The ads read "I'd rather show my buns than wear fur," and one appeared in the March issue of *Gear* magazine.

Ross is not the only star to shed her clothes for PETA's anti-fur campaigns. Other celebrity anti's include Dominique Swain, Pam Anderson, Kim Basinger, Christy Turlington, and The Dixie Chicks.

—*Sports Afield Newswire*

WAY outside

BY BRUCE COCHRAN



SLUG IT OUT

Because centerfire rifles are legal equipment for deer hunting in Kansas, not many hunters use shotguns with slugs. However, slugs are legal equipment, and some folks, particularly

those in eastern Kansas hunting woodlands where shots are seldom very long, prefer using their handy shotgun for hunting deer. Slugs are also handy in areas where the longer range of a center-fire rifle would not be as safe.

In the past, hunting with shotguns loaded with slugs meant restricting one's shooting range to 50 yards or less. Today, however, improvements in shotgun slug accuracy, particularly sabot and rifled slugs, allow accurate shooting at 100 yards or more.

The sabot slug is designed for use in rifled shotgun barrels, so those hunters who want to stick with their favorite upland bird gun may have to invest in another barrel to use slugs. Still, that can be a lot cheaper than purchasing a new rifle. The 1-ounce sabot slug is encased in a plastic sleeve (the sabot), which provides a tight fit as the slug travels down the barrel. Upon leaving the barrel, the sabot falls away as the slug rockets toward its target.

Unlike sabot slugs, rifled slugs have rifling on the slug. This ensures a tight fit and spins the slug. Rifled slugs are for use in smooth-bored shotguns and also have exceptional accuracy and maximum expansion without the expense of purchasing a rifled barrel or new shotgun.

Over the last several years, ammunition companies have developed slugs that rival centerfires within the 100-yard range. Hunters who decide to try this method of hunting for the first time should try a few rounds at the local gun range to decide if they like the feel and the accuracy of this equipment. If you decide to make the leap to shotgun, remember that, as with all equipment, practice makes perfect.

—Shoup

**Record Low Hunting Accidents**

For the second year in a row, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Hunter Education Program has the pleasure of announcing record low numbers of hunting accidents. Kansas has reported only 18 hunting-related accidents for the year 2001, down one from last year's record low of 19. This figure includes all hunting-related accidents, including one fatality when a hunter was electrocuted after hanging his tree stand on an electrical service pole.

Swinging on game accounts for most upland game hunting accidents and is the most common cause of all accidents.

One thing is clear from this trend: hunting is one of the safest pastimes in the state. There are approximately 170,000 licensed hunters in Kansas. (This does not count resident hunters who are younger than 16 or older than 64, because they don't need licenses in Kansas.) Multiply an estimated number of hunters from these figures by any conservative estimate of the number of hours each hunter spends in the field in a year, and a picture of just how safe hunting is quickly emerges.

Hunter education instructors across Kansas volunteer thousands of hours training young people in the safe handling of firearms, conservation ethics, wildlife management basics, and other topics. Their efforts have paid off over the years, nurturing not only safer hunters but hunters who are more aware of the needs of all wildlife and who are sensitive to outdoor ethics.

For more information on this program, visit www.kdwp.state.ks.us or email feedback@wp.state.ks.us.

—Shoup

SAFARI CLUB SUPPORTS H.E.

For the past three years, the Kansas City Chapter of Safari Club (KCSCI) International has supported the Kansas Hunter Education Program by sponsoring lunches and providing blaze orange hats for classes taught in Leawood and Shawnee.

By sponsoring the lunch, the Safari Club saves students from having to cross busy roads during lunch break.

The Kansas City Safari Club Chapter also purchased a laser-shot simulated shooting system, which is used by the Hunter Education Program to teach firearm safety and shooting skills. The laser-shot system uses real firearms that have been fitted with a laser. Use of this system allows the

instruction of firearm skills without the risk of a firearms accident. It also solves the logistical problem of taking an entire class to a shooting range. The chapter's laser shot has also been loaned to various other youth organizations and outdoor events.

Safari Club International is a worldwide hunting and conservation organization that is dedicated to conserving wildlife, educating youth, and preserving the privilege of hunting. SCI has more than 200 chapters and 42,000 members. The Kansas City Chapter of SCI was established more than 20 years ago and has been active in local conservation and education projects within Kansas and Missouri. For more information about Safari Club, visit their web site at www.safariclub.org.

—Butch Moberly, Shawnee



THE PERILOUS CRICK

by Mark Shoup



Almost everything I'm about to tell you is lies, but I'll try to make them entertaining lies, which, as far as I've been able to observe, should redeem them. And besides, lies are often more appealing than the truth. Otherwise, we'd have a new Congress every election.

When I was kid, the best way to time travel was through "The Rocks" and down to the Pawnee River, better known as "The Crick." This is where I escaped into the 19th century, blazing a pioneer's trail or running the river like Huck Finn.

Larned was built at the confluence of two rivers - the Pawnee and the Arkansas - and the two were always distinguished by the names "crick" and "river." The distinction was apt, too - the Arkansas being shallow, sandy-bottomed, relatively clear, and rapidly flowing while the Pawnee was deep and muddy, ambling slowly between steep banks.

To get to the Pawnee from my house, I could walk a block east and a couple blocks south, but there were, in fact, no streets when I went on such expeditions, so the only route to The Crick was through The Rocks - an outcropping of Dakota limestone cliffs running parallel to what would become Second Street in a hundred years or so. The Rocks also ran parallel to The Crick, so my route was a bit circuitous.

The Rocks took me through a tunnel, across numerous ledges, through a swamp that cut into a "clay mine," and emerged onto a neck of buffalo grass and yucca. The cliffs were highest at this point - hundreds of feet at that time although they have since eroded to 8 or 10 feet - and it was here that my friends and I would tie a rope to a tree and lower ourselves over the edge to mine precious limestone gold dust.

If the mine was played out on a given day, we might slip to the bottom of the cliff, checking carefully for hostile natives in the open stretch between The Rocks

and The Crick, then charge headlong toward the old muddy river. There, Pee Wee Island was a common destination. Reached by leaping from rock to rock across piranha-infested waters, the island had emerged when a great cottonwood sprouted mysteriously in the middle of the stream.

A gigantic limb - blown from the cottonwood by a Spanish cannonball -- stretched from the island to the south side of the river and the great expanse of prairie wilderness beyond, a no-man's land where the faint of heart dared not enter. One time, David Redding and I were crossing that limb when his boot fell off. It was a brand new boot, and certain death awaited David upon his return if his father, who was sergeant major at Ft. Larned, discovered David had lost the boot. If not death, at least the stockades.

Not knowing where the schools of piranha lurked, I braved the water in vain, searching for the boot. To David's astonishment, however, his father dismissed the incident as a trail blazing hazard and sent him quietly off to the commissary for a new pair of Wellingtons.

Two of David's brothers, Clark and Bobby, once accompanied us on a Crick sortie where we spent the afternoon beneath Rawhide Falls, sunbathing on a sandbar, fishing lines attached to our toes. I don't recall catching anything, but we figured there was no use wasting time watching a line when we could be snoozing in the sun.

A favorite rendezvous along The Crick was Moffet's-Hair Pond, somewhere between the fort and the new town. This spot was named for one of the founders of this budding settlement who had lost half his scalp in an ugly skirmish with a band of marauding Pawnee only a year earlier. The Pawnee apparently got the worst of it, however, when Moffet broke free and jumped into the pond. The

Indians, not being swimmers, engaged the bleeding, half-bald Moffet in a heated swearing match, which, despite the fact they had no language in common, each side seemed to understand perfectly. Throughout this exchange, the intrepid pioneer tread water.

Shortly, a pair of curious grizzly bears came upon the scene and made quick work of the Pawnee. Although the bears appeared uninterested in Moffet's head bobbing in the pond and soon left, he spent the night treading water and nursing a serious headache.

So whenever I approached Moffet's-Hair Pond, I was always on the lookout for grizzly bears and Pawnee. Wolves generally kept their distance, and mountain lions were rare. Grizzly bear and Pawnee commanded respect, so on one particular scouting expedition, I decided to nap in a tree near the pond, on an especially wide, safe limb that stretched out over The Crick.

I must have been asleep a long time when I was roused by an apparition that would've scared the liver out of Jim Bridger. At the base of the tree sat two girls. *Girls!* Alone in this treacherous, God-forsaken country. As if this was not freakish enough to quiet a squirrel, they were wearing the queerest costumes I had ever seen. Both wore trousers - *trousers*, mind you - and trousers that came clear up to their knees, exposing ankles, calves, and all. Stranger yet were the hats they wore - brimless, perfectly-round black bowlers with huge mouse ears on top.

They giggled and talked about things like their favorite "shows," as if a caravan rolled through this land every day. I was just about to holler at them to quiet down if they wanted to keep their scalps when one of them up and says, "Oh, that Mark Shoup. He is just soooooo cute!"

I was so flummoxed, I just twitched and rolled right off that limb into The Crick. The next thing I knew, I was lying in bed with a crick in my neck and the fort surgeon looking down at me. "What happened, boy?" he asked. "You were blubberin' like a wild Indian when you ran in here."

I hesitated a moment, then whispered, "It was Pawnee, Doc!"

And that's the honest truth

Effective Lure Contrasts

—Frank Manuele, Kansas Angler Online, www.kansasangler.com

I've been fishing since I was eight years old and began fishing artificial lures 25 years ago with Cotton Cordell's Big O crankbait and Bill Norman's Snatrix plastic worm. I've read hundreds of articles that gave reasons that fish attack lures, but my experience tells me that there are abstract qualities in a lure that cause it to be seen, tracked, and bit.

Realism

Anyone who believes that fish bite because of traditional reasons (e.g., match-the-hatch or simulate-the-forage) may be completely right based on their experiences and confidence in lures that support those concepts. But there are too many lures that resemble nothing in nature and that catch fish when the forage looks like something else. I want to discuss lure contrast qualities that explain year-after-year success.

Lateral line tracking

A lure has basic physical qualities that appeal to a fish. Vibration is key when distance is a factor; visual is key when a lure moves close, especially in murky water. Fish biologists have confirmed that a fish, using its lateral line [see "Nature's Notebook," Page 43], can track a living thing in the water even with eyes blinded. In nature, fish with cataracts have lived to healthy old ages by lateral line tracking.

Lateral line tracking works because of a still object's reflected vibration, not inherent vibration. A bell is heard when rung. A submerged bell can be 'felt' by the lateral lines — nerve receptors that pick up sonar-like reflections off its surfaces. Fish "feel" the size, direction of movement, and swim-

ming characteristics of a living creature within a fish's detection range of many yards.

Color in clear water supports what the lateral line "knows" and stimulates a response similar to a hungry person looking at a steaming steak.

Keeping this in mind, I believe that the simple, elementary, physical characteristics of light (color or flash) and sound vibrations (inherent and reflected) make a lure effective.



Looks aren't everything

Lures that look like the real thing may contain those characteristics, but unrealistic-looking lures will at times do as well or better. Color contrast (not a specific realistic hue) is what gets their interest and provokes a bite. A drab-colored lure in drab-colored water is drab, period, but it is the object's reflective surfaces — that indicate size and motion — that cause contrast stimulus and make it stand out.

The flash of tiny silver flakes, a fluorescent color combo, a sound chamber, or a jerk-jerk-pause retrieve may provide the needed contrast to provoke a predatory strike.

I use Fish Formula on my soft plastics because an oily surface reflects light better than a flat, dull surface.

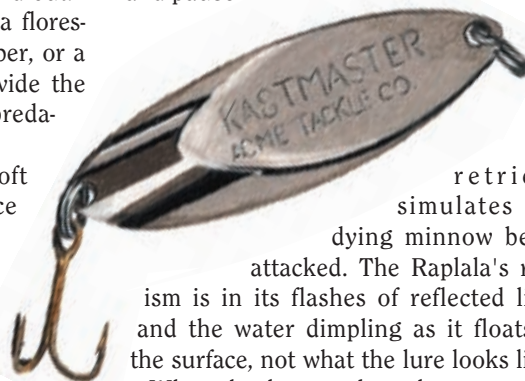
Some anglers fall for a realistic lure and spend big bucks for it. They want to believe that a fish is interpret-

ing the visual image the same way a human does.

HooDaddy worms don't resemble any living thing, but they work superbly in all colors and sizes due to moving surfaces that enhance reflectivity and color and that are felt by a fish's lateral line. Try working a no-weight, Texas rigged 6-inch "Hoo" across matted weeds or pads. The fish will target the 6-inch lure without seeing it and will repeatedly hit that lure until it "kills" it. The fish can't see it, but it feels the lure's bulk and creature characteristics.

Contrast is the key

Contrast characteristics in a lure are what I look for before buying it. If it looks like the real thing, great, but it must reflect light and color a certain way that is enhanced by the lure's action and inherent or reflected sound. A Rapala that swims in a steady retrieve is not natural or realistic. Fish do not wobble. A twitch or jerk-and-pause



retrieve simulates a dying minnow being attacked. The Rapala's realism is in its flashes of reflected light and the water dimpling as it floats to the surface, not what the lure looks like.

What the lure and angler causes to happen, namely realistic light-flashes and water disturbances, provoke the fish's bully response. The gliding action of a small Fin S Fish on a 1/16-ounce jig head is exactly the way a minnow looks gliding or darting through the water.

Both lures and many types of retrieves applied to those lures will catch fish. A successful angler can find triggering contrasts that will provoke strikes. Total realism cannot be exactly achieved, but an abstraction of life (like a painting) can be artificially achieved, and exaggeration through light, sound, and motion combine to compel a fish to bite even if hunger is not a key reason.

TREE CONTEST WINNERS

Ten Kansans have each won a bundle of songbird-attracting tree and shrub seedlings, top prizes in the seventh annual trivia contest sponsored by the Kansas Forest Service's Conservation Tree Planting Program.

The 2002 winners are Sandy Beverly of Lawrence; Ted Brock, Dodge City; Jane Zohner Brown, Hesston; Ray Matticks, Wichita; Randy Otting, Kansas City; Kevin Ruland, Lawrence; Larry Stricker, Gardner; Tracy Viles, Spring Hill; Jack Wilhite, Wellsville; and James Yungeberg, Washington.

The Conservation Tree Planting Program has a 50-year history of offering low-cost, Kansas-hardy tree and shrub species to help residents provide homegrown alternatives for native trees that might be harvested as firewood or Christmas trees, as well as to establish plantings that conserve state soil, water quality, energy, and wildlife.

"We offer the trivia contest each year, to bring conservation plantings to mind about the time Kansans need to be planning for spring," says Bill Loucks, Kansas Forest Service forester who coordinates the program and contest. "We find it often inspires people to learn a bit more. And we hope it reminds Kansans about the many less obvious benefits conservation plantings can bring, from noise abatement to snow protection."

Conservation District offices and county K-State Research and Extension offices help distribute the contest questions, as well as the order blanks for each year's array of Kansas Forest Service trees available for purchase. Both statewide systems distribute the correct trivia answers after each year's contest winners are announced. Cooperating with Kansas Forest Service district foresters, they also provide year-round help for residents wanting to learn how to plan or manage effective conservation plantings.

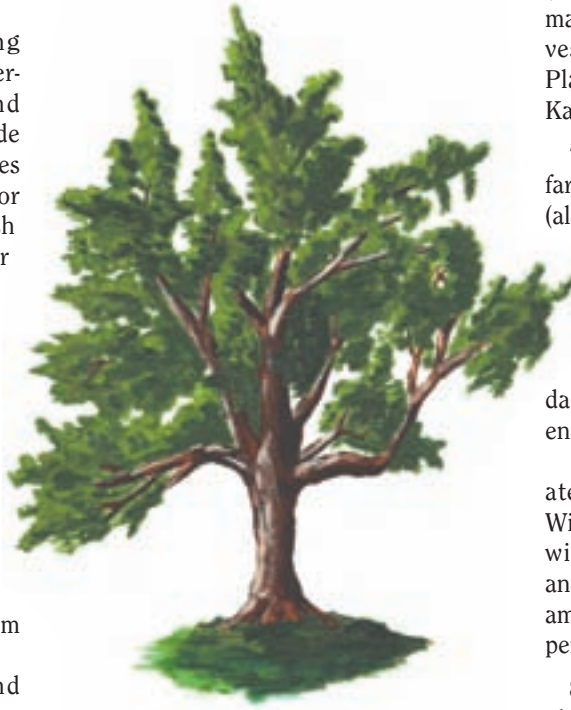
—Kansas Forest Service

TREE TRIVIA ANSWERS

The correct answers for this year's contest questions are as follow:

1. To have the best odds for survival in Kansas, plant trees in – March and April, although you can plant some types of trees through much of the year.

2. Leaf arrangement is a useful characteristic when identifying trees because their leaves can be alternate, opposite, or whorled. Trees with an opposite leaf arrangement include – green ash and silver maple, NOT cottonwood or black walnut.



3. Some shrubs develop shoots from root suckers, thus producing thickets that can be valuable wildlife habitat. Among these thicket-forming shrubs are – American plum and choke cherry, NOT fragrant sumac or Peking cotoneaster.

4. When European settlers arrived in what now is Kansas, they found 4.5 million acres of forest. Today, the number of Kansas woodland acres capable of producing commercial wood products is – 1.4 million acres according to the latest survey conducted cooperatively by the U.S. and Kansas Forest services.

5. Christmas tree plantations make a considerable contribution to the environment because – (all answers below are correct):

- Each acre of real Christmas trees produces the oxygen needed daily by about 18 human beings.
- Christmas tree plantations filter dust and smog from the air.
- Artificial trees commonly contain non-biodegradable plastics and metals, but real trees are a renewable, recyclable resource.

6. Each year about 1.4 billion tree seedlings are planted in the United States (roughly 4 million per day), more than making up for the number of trees harvested. Through the Conservation Tree Planting Program, seedlings planted in Kansas last year added to – 680,000.

7. Windbreaks are a valuable asset on farms, ranches, and home sites because – (all answers below):

- They create an improved dairy environment that results in increased milk production, better animal health, and fewer calving problems.
- Windbreaks reduce beef and dairy cattle stress and thus reduce feed energy requirements and costs.
- They can decrease the odors associated with livestock production. (Note: Windbreaks do reduce home heat loss in winter, as the fourth multiple-choice answer suggested, but the savings usually amounts to from 15 to 25 percent, not 90 percent.)

8. Arbor Day is celebrated as a tree-planting holiday. Last year the state legislature changed the date for Kansas Arbor Day to – the last Friday in April.

9. Trees vary in the amount of shade they can tolerate. Those that will grow in moderate shade include – the green ash, silver maple, and hackberry, NOT the honeylocust.

10. Bruising releases a vanilla odor from the bark and young stems of the – Ponderosa pine.

—Kansas Forest Service



NEW OVERBROOK CITY LAKE READY TO OPEN

Want a great place to take kids fishing? For folks in northeast Kansas – or those willing to travel – the new city lake at Overbrook is the place. The city, with grants from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and Fish America Foundation and a generous land grant from a local citizen, has constructed the new fishing lake.

The lake is an 8-acre jewel located in the northeast corner of the Overbrook city limits, east of Burlingame in Osage County. It was constructed and is being managed for public fishing. Built in 1999, the lake has all the amenities needed to create some great angling opportunities. It is stocked with channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, wipers, and sunfish. It also has two automatic fish feeders, five fishing piers, two islands, a boat ramp, and an aeration system.

The lake even has fish screens, to prevent the loss of fish from the lake during floods, and a new restroom and parking area.

Overbrook City Lake has clear water and excellent fish habitat constructed from brush piles and numerous large rock piles. It will provide some great fishing for many generations, and there will be a very intensive fish management program, including intensive stocking and feeding. Predator fish such as wipers and black bass will be trained to take pelleted feed. This will allow much heavier stocking rates while maintain-

ing rapid fish growth. These high densities of fish will increase catch rates for anglers and maintain high quality fishing. Strict length and creel limits will be implemented to maintain the fish population, with only high-quality to trophy-size fish allowed to be taken.

Anglers will be asked to support the lake by purchasing a city fishing permit. Permits are sold at Caseys, city hall, and O'Bryhim's grocery store. A state fishing license also is required, unless exempt by law.

The lake is open from sunup to sundown; night fishing is not allowed. Only boats without motors are allowed, and only channel catfish longer than 15 inches are legal this year. Other species will be included in the creel in 2003. The lake contains channel catfish up to 5 pounds and is rated as one of the top channel catfish lakes in the state.

–Shoup



PRESIDENT HONORS WMI

In a letter to the 67th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, President George W. Bush honored the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI), its members, and supporters. President Bush, an avid sportsman and strong supporter of the nation's rich hunting and shooting sports heritage, wrote:

“We must preserve our nation's natural heritage by being good stewards of our land. This important duty obligates all of us to become effective administrators of our

natural resources so that future generations of Americans can enjoy the diversity of our wildlife and the beauty of their natural habitats.

“I commend WMI's members and supporters for your work to develop and promote effective wildlife management policies at the federal, state, and local levels. I also applaud your support of forums that enable wildlife and natural resource professionals to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues. Your commitment to preserve our nation's natural heritage is an inspiration to all our citizens.”

[Rob Manes, former Department of Wildlife and Parks assistant secretary for Operations, now works as the 12-state Midwest field representative for WMI.]

–National Shooting Sports Foundation



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

If you have a youngster who will be 10 to 12 years old this summer and enjoys the outdoors, now is the time to make plans to attend Outdoor Adventure Camp. The camp will be held at the Camp WaShunGa area of Rock Springs 4-H Center (just south of Junction City) and runs Sunday, July 21, through Friday, July 26. Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC), sponsored by the Kansas Wildlife Federation and KSU Cooperative Extension Service, is open to all Kansas youngsters.

Mornings will be spent on field trips at Rock Springs getting a hands-on feel for

how the various critters and plants live together in the ecosystem we call Kansas. Afternoons are spent learning about mammals, insects, birds, fish, and amphibians, and reptiles. Ecology, wetlands, riparian areas, and watersheds are some topics covered. Instructors come from the ranks of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas State University, NRCS, County Conservation Districts, and other conservation groups.

Depending on the evening, kids may be out and about prowling for owls, star-gazing, or watching bats gobble bugs. Evening swims, campfires, stories, and friendly competition fishing are included.

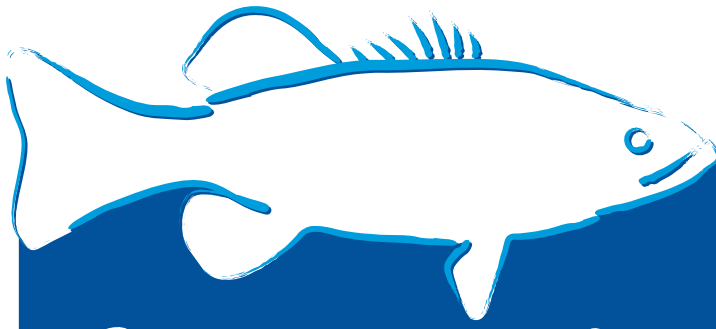
Other activities planned are scavenger hunts; swimming and canoeing; fishing; rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, archery, and pellet gun; arts and crafts; horseback riding, and a day-trip to the Milford Nature Center and Fish Hatchery.

Each youngster will receive a journal, pen, and pencil to write observations and organize all the materials they receive. The last day, they will write a short paper on what they learned about the various instructors' occupations and which one they feel might be right for them.

Food, instruction, and lodging are all included in the price of the camp. The price for the entire week is \$205. Space is limited and the registration deadline is July 15.

For more information and application, phone (785) 526-7466 or email bergkwf@wtciweb.com

– Kansas Wildlife Federation Tommie Berger



Something's

FISHY

When asked to describe a fish, most of us would answer that fish live in water and take in oxygen through gills. Many kinds of animals that live in water are mistakenly called fish, from jellyfishes to starfishes.

Fish are rather easy to recognize because they possess a combination of characteristics not found in other animals. Fish are cold-blooded animals with backbones, gills, and fins, and, usually but not always, scales covering the body. (Catfish, for example, don't have scales. Neither do paddlefish.) Most are torpedo-shaped — the shape best suited for moving through water.

Fish are the most numerous of all animals with backbones (called "vertebrates"). Worldwide, there are thousands of fish

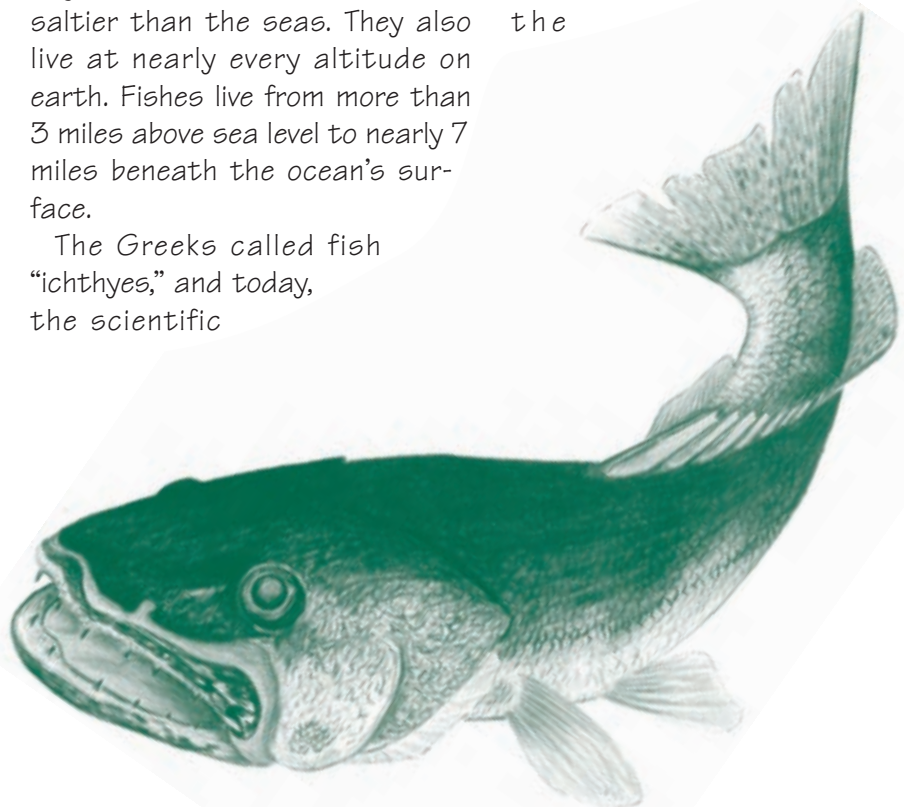
species. In fact, there are nearly as many fish species as all other vertebrates combined.

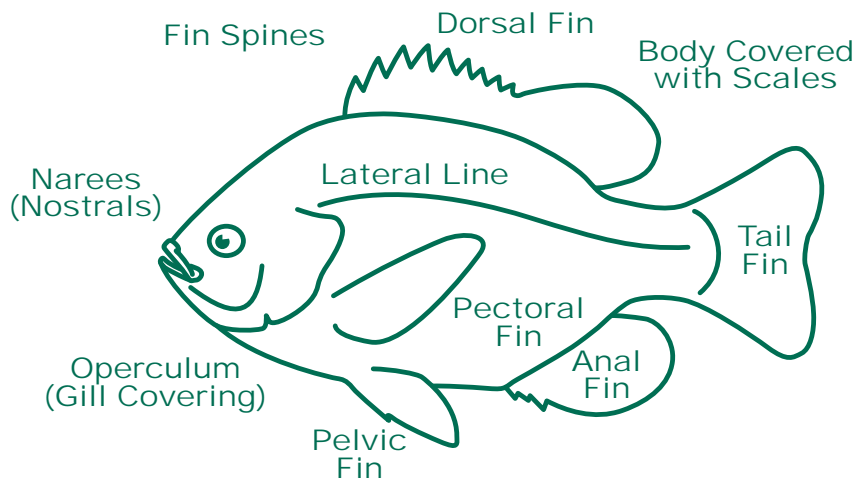
Fish are also masters of occupying a wide variety of places. They live almost everywhere there is water. They have been found in the waters of the Antarctic, in hot springs of more than 126 degrees Fahrenheit, and in water saltier than the seas. They also live at nearly every altitude on earth. Fishes live from more than 3 miles above sea level to nearly 7 miles beneath the ocean's surface.

The Greeks called fish "ichthyes," and today, the scientific

study of fishes is known as ichthyology. The common name "fish" comes from the Latin word "pisces."

Most fish possess five types of fins used chiefly for stabilizing, steering, and braking. These are the dorsal fin on the centerline of the back, the tail fin, the





anal fin on the underside opposite the dorsal fin, a pair of pelvic fins on the belly, and a pair of pectoral fins behind the head. The positioning of the pelvic and pectoral fins provides an important means of identifying the major groups of fish.

Most bony fishes are covered with scales. Scales are small, thin structures generally overlapping and usually made of bone. Scales grow throughout life, increasing in size with the fish. As scales grow, concentric rings of bone are laid down much like the rings in a tree trunk. Biologist can age a fish by counting the rings.

The air bladder is a thin-walled, hollow sack that allows a fish to adjust its density to match that of the surrounding water, making the fish weightless.

Like all other animals,

fish possess the five major senses of hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. Sound travels better in water than air, and fish have good hearing. The sense of smell is highly developed in many fish, and experiments have shown that some fish recognize their home by its smell. Fish detect odors through the nostrils, called "nares," located between the eyes and in front of the snout.

Taste is another important sense for fish. It is less important, however, to those fish that locate food by sight. Unlike other vertebrates, fish can have taste buds outside the mouth. Catfish have them on their whiskers. This is possible because no part of the fish's body dries out in its watery world.

Fish are near-sighted, but this is no great

hardship.

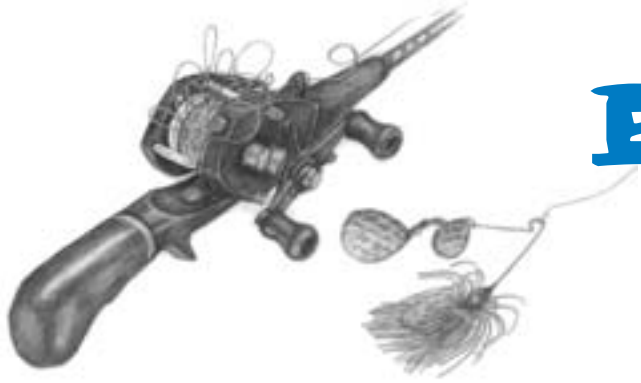
Most amazing, however, is that fish have a sense that no other vertebrate possesses - a lateral line system. This sense has been called "distant touch" and may be thought of almost as a form of underwater radar or sonar. Any motion in water causes vibrations of very low frequencies and creates pressures on different parts of the surface of

the fish. These pressures are detected by the lateral line, a series of tubular canals under the scales.

In Kansas, the largest fish on record was a flathead catfish weighing 123 pounds. It was caught on rod and reel in Elk City Reservoir in 1998. The most popular sport fish in Kansas is the channel catfish, but largemouth bass, crappie, and walleye are also very popular. Other sportfish include sauger, smallmouth bass, striped bass, and paddlefish.

Kansas also has hybrid sportfish. The saugeye is a cross between a sauger and a walleye, and the wiper is a cross between a striped bass and a white bass.





Backlash

by Mike Miller

Too Hot For Golf

Too hot to fish? Can it be? I must be getting old and lazy. If the temperature rises above 95 degrees, my fishing buddies and I spend more time complaining that it's too hot to fish than we do fishing. In my youth it was never too hot to fish. I fished whenever the wind died down and I could get a ride to the pond.

Some of my best fishing memories came on those hot days when staying home wasn't even considered. There were three options for mid-summer fishing trips when I was a boy. The first was to fish early in the morning. That meant a bikeride to the county lake before noon. Sleeping in was one of the true joys of summer vacation, and we fished early whenever we got out of bed before 10 a.m. Home for lunch by noon, then off to the swimming pool by 2. We truly knew how to enjoy the hot summer back then.

A second option was to fish the creek below the pond. It was shady and cool along the creek, and there were usually a few bullheads to catch. With any breeze at all, (like we ever had to worry that the wind wouldn't blow) it was an enjoyable way to spend the afternoon.

The third option was the pond — the one we chose most often, especially when we were old enough to drive. It didn't matter how sweltering the day, going fishing at the pond was choice one. Windows down and 60 mph down the old gravel road, warm air ruffed through hair that was too long by Dad's standards. I can still feel the anticipation that came as the rolling grassland hills that hid the pond drew closer.

We'd set up shop on the long, wobbly wooden dock that reached over deep water. First we'd cast for bass, just to make sure no lunkers were hanging out in the shade of the dock posts. That done, we'd strip down and plunge in. The cool, springfed pond water was the best heat squalcher I've ever found. To really cool off, you only had to dive three or four feet below the surface — sweet, cold water. A few backflips off the dock and some swim races out toward the middle of the pond and we'd flop down on the hot dock planks to dry off in the sun.

Refreshed, we turned our attention to channel cats. I can't explain why, but we caught some dandy channel cats during those hot summer days. Don't let anyone tell you channel cats only bite at night.

What a pity it is to lose youthful exuberance. Where I once could only imagine the fun of fishing, now I can only think how uncomfortable I'll be when it's 100 degrees. I know my boyhood memory banks retain the good trips and have erased the times we sweated it out and caught no fish. But I still can't think of a better way to spend a summer afternoon than skinny dipping and fishing at a favorite farm pond.

As I head toward middle age, time slips away ever faster. And that phenomenon may ultimately be responsible for my summer apathy. When I was 14, a single summer day could last an eternity. An afternoon — half an eternity — would never end if we didn't think of something fun to do. Now, I know that if I put off that July fishing trip, before I realize it, summer will be over and it will time to think about bowhunting. Then, I blink, and winter's almost over and I'm planning spring fishing trips. Oops, spring's over and it's too hot to fish again.

Oh, I get my share of trips, but I suppose I'm also more choosy these days. I'm willing to wait for a nice day so that I'll enjoy the whole experience more, even if that means fewer outings. If you had told me, when I was 13, that it was too hot to fish, I'd have thought you were, well, old and lazy. Now I understand that wisdom, but I hope I also have the wisdom to not procrastinate away good times. I read an Andy Rooney quote that said, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes."

You know, it might be too hot for golf, but fishing — never. Memories being what they are, I know I'll never find a pond as cool, refreshing, and full of fish as the one from my childhood. But it'll sure be fun trying. I'm driving, what time do you want to leave? 🍷

