



KANSAS

Wildlife & Parks

MARCH/APRIL 2011

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KANSAS *View*

by Robin Jennison



Possibilities

It's been said that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. I'd like to add another inevitable fact of life to that list – change. Our agency is a product of change. The agency started as the Kansas Fish and Game Department in 1905 and it has changed several times since then. One significant change was the merger of the Kansas Park and Resources Authority and the Kansas Fish and Game Commission in 1987 to form the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Today, another significant change is on the horizon.

One of Governor Sam Brownback's top priorities is to stimulate growth in the Kansas economy, and one of his strategies to accomplish that is to boost tourism in the state. Along with promoting all the wonderful travel and tourism opportunities in Kansas, Governor Brownback also recognizes the importance of hunting, fishing, and nature-based tourism to the Kansas economy. To bring his tourism vision to fruition, the Governor has signed an executive reorganization order (ERO) to move the Division of Travel and Tourism (DTT) from the Department of Commerce to KDWP and create the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. If approved by the Kansas Legislature, the move will take effect on July 1, 2011.

The move is designed to unite our resources and programs toward one goal – excite people about visiting Kansas to experience our scenic and historic sites, cities, cultural events, parks and outdoor opportunities like hunting and fishing. The talented staff of DTT will continue to market

and represent a wide variety of Kansas travel and tourism activities as they always have. KDWP and DTT have worked closely together in the past, so the move can only further energize our efforts.

The ERO also creates an Assistant Secretary for Parks and Tourism to oversee the Division of Parks and the DTT. Linda Craghead is slated to assume that role. Linda has a strong background in tourism, marketing and business development. Keith Sexson, current Assistant Secretary of Operations, oversees parks, wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement. The ERO changes that, as well. Keith's title will change to Assistant Secretary for Wildlife, Fisheries and Boating.

Change naturally brings uncertainty. My goal as we develop our role is to build on the successes of my predecessors, Steve Williams and Mike Hayden. These two secretaries should be commended for their exemplary management of the agency. Now, with the potential of adding tourism to our "game bag," we have the chance to do even more to serve our resident outdoorsmen and women and enhance tourism around the state.

Who could have imagined in 1905 that we'd be looking at such a broad scope of responsibilities in the 21st century? Nor could someone from that era have envisioned the outstanding natural resources and outdoor opportunities Kansas offers today. I avidly support tourism, and I think Kansas has so much more to offer than most folks realize. I'm looking forward to the challenges this prospective change will bring. I have no doubt the agency will adapt to the changes as well as it has before. ♡

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Front Cover: The abundance and variety of game fish in Kansas waters has never been better. Joe Tomelleri illustrations. **Back Cover:** Spending time teaching youngsters about hunting and the outdoors may be critical to the well-being of our children. Marc Murrell photographed his daughter Ashley's first turkey.



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

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

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Letters . . .

NONRESIDENT SUCCESS

Editor:

We had a good hunting season this year; both my sons and I harvested a buck during the gun season. One of my sons got a nice buck that weighed 235 pounds dressed and was not weighed for four days after harvest. A natural resource officer checked us at Rick's restaurant in Pratt. I was sure glad that all of our tags were good. We only had one buck at this time. He seemed like a nice young man. My oldest son and I also harvested a buck each although they were smaller but nice.

I am glad to tell you that we have seen a small herd of antelope just a few miles east of Coldwater on the south side of the highway on a wheat field. We have seen them twice this season.

We have noticed that we have not been seeing any mule deer where we hunt and haven't for several years now. We hunt in Kiowa, Comanche, and Edwards counties. We used to see quite a few while we were pheasant and quail hunting. A few years ago, we found several dead mule deer on one property and didn't see many after that year.

*Johnny Nichols
Pryor, Oklahoma*

BAIT DEBATE

Editor:

I've read numerous articles, such as the one in the Sept./Oct. 2010 issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* ["Kansas River Asian Carp Infestation Critical," Page 11] regarding various carp invasions. In most of these articles, it is stated in some form that "it is illegal for anglers to move bait from any body of water to another." So how is it that bait shops continue to sell bait? As a lifelong fan of trotlines and limb lines, catching bait (bullheads and bluegill) in the local farm pond is all part of the fun. Am I to understand that this is illegal now, if I take those

HUNTING HERITAGE

with Kent Barret

Meet The New Guy



In a year filled with "firsts", this will be my first chance to introduce myself to you. My name is Kent Barrett, and I have been tasked with the tremendous responsibility to follow Wayne Doyle at the helm of this program as coordinator. I realize that I have some big shoes to fill in this job, but the prospect of continuing to grow the program is exciting.

I come from Kansas. I was born in Hutchinson and raised in the central and western parts of the state. I have been an active hunter education instructor for more than 20 years now. For the last five years, I worked for KDWP as one of the Laser Shot guys, traveling around the state assisting with classes and working many other hunting-related events.

Like most hunters from my era, post Pleistocene but before hunter education, I started hunting with my father and grandfather. I owe them for their patience and perseverance in teaching me as we pursued pheasants, ducks, rabbits and squirrels, trying to keep the larder filled at my grandmother's house. We hunted, she cooked, and I ate. I didn't think it could get any better. I learned to fish for panfish in Kansas, northern pike in Minnesota,

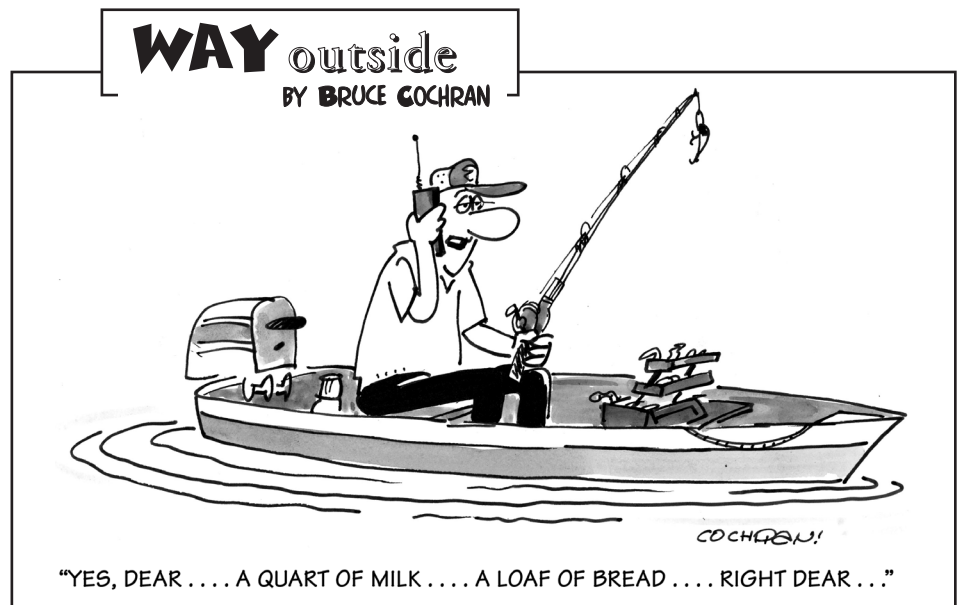
trout in Utah, and to spearfish for walleye on scuba in Nebraska. I was bitten by the archery bug when I built my first compound bow in the Browning factory in Morgan, Utah. I got started deer hunting out

west and continued when I came back to Kansas. I made my living as a sporting goods retailer in northwest Kansas where I have owned and operated my retail sporting goods store for more than 25 years.

My parents were both educators, and as a result, I have lived in different parts of the state and have chosen to be a teacher for much of my life. I have been a professional scuba diving instructor for 25 years and have taught math, science and physical education classes at the junior high, high school, community college and university levels. Education has always been an important component to my work.

I will spend most of my first year, traveling around the state, visiting hunter education instructors while they teach. By observing their hard work and preparation, I believe I can learn how to help improve our delivery of the Hunter Education Program. My goal is to make our service to students the best it can be.

If you have any questions about hunter education, either as a student, an instructor or a potential instructor, don't hesitate to call.



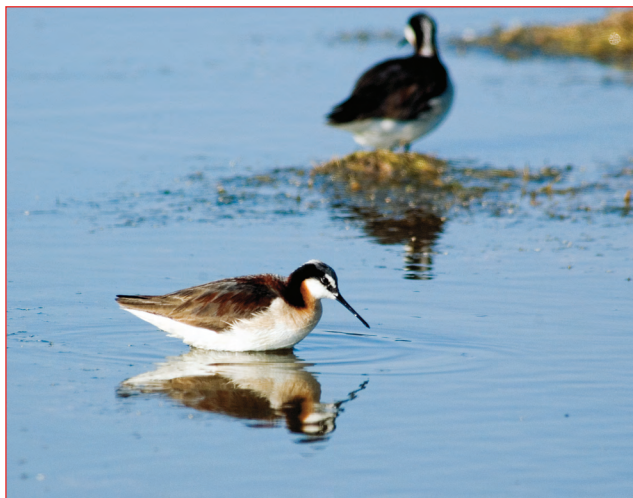
Spring Birding Opportunities in Kansas



Mike Blair photo

It is 10 degrees here in Pratt as I write this, so it's difficult to think of warm temperatures, spring and all the opportunities available to bird watch in Kansas, but I'll try. There are at least two annual organized Kansas birding events to look forward to.

The Wings & Wetlands Weekend will be held in Great Bend from April 29 through May 1, 2011. This bi-annual event is being organized by the staff at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and will be based from the Best Western Angus Inn in Great Bend. Activities include educational workshops on shorebird and waterfowl identification, bird photography and backyard birding; guided tours to both Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, including transportation and meals; and the opportunity to network and socialize with other birders from across Kansas and the nation. Participants in this event will typically observe more than 200 bird species over the weekend, and many experienced Kansas birders volunteer their time to show folks what great birding is available. This festival can handle approximately 200 participants and can fill up quickly. More information is available by calling (877) 243-9268 or on the web at www.wetlandscenter.com. The registration form can be found at the KWEC web address listed above or at the Great Bend Travel and Tourism web site www.visitgreatbend.com. Most of the shorebird and waterfowl species that have been observed in the state have been found at one or both of these great marshes.



The Wings & Wetlands weekend is held in odd-numbered years at Great Bend, with a sister event, the Kansas Birding Festival, held in even-numbered years in the Wakefield and Milford Lake area. Both offer the opportunity to see some of Kansas' finest birding locations and have knowledgeable guides to assist with identification of birds and travel to our natural landscapes.

The annual spring meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOWS) will take place in Elkhart on May 6-8. Elkhart is the gateway to the Cimarron National Grasslands, and the bird species list recorded for Morton County is one of the largest in the state. Its location in the extreme southwest corner of Kansas provides potential for seeing special species from the southwestern U.S. First state records from that area have included flammulated owl, lesser nighthawk, Williamson's sapsucker, American three-toed woodpecker, great kiskadee, gray vireo, juniper titmouse, canyon wren, hepatic tanager, and others. Many other special species can be found there, including lesser prairie chicken, ferruginous hawk, red-naped sapsucker, western wood-pewee, ash-throated flycatcher, Chihuahaun raven, curved-billed thrasher, Bullock's oriole and several species of western vireos, flycatchers, warblers, and sparrows. This field trip weekend draws participants from all over Kansas and some folks from adjacent states. You do not have to be a member of the Society to attend, but pre-registration is required. More information is available at the web site for KOS www.ksbirds.org

Spring birding in Kansas is obviously not limited to these events. Many other opportunities are available, such as Audubon field trips associated with the many clubs around the state, as well as National Migratory Bird Day activities in many locales. Check out the Natural Kansas web site www.naturalkansas.org and the KDWP website www.kdwp.state.ks.us, for information about other posted birding events this spring. Spring is the best time to see a large number of birds of different species in Kansas. Most are already in their breeding plumage, making them brighter and easier to identify. Don't let the season pass you by - get out there and have some fun birding!



baits to a creek or river?

The interpretation of the current rules seems very subjective to the local authority and the local fisherman. Assuming that bait shops are operating legally, is my only choice for goldfish to purchase them? Please help clarify by providing the document/statute reference regarding this "illegal" activity.

Let me add that I am a life long resident of northeast Kansas, a father, grandfather, and avid outdoorsman. I totally understand the need for these rules to preserve our native Kansas ecosystem, which I dearly love. I am also a big fan of KDWP. I am not worried about my mere inconveniences but more so the ambiguity of the current regulations and my desire to "play within the rules."

Great magazine, by the way. Keep up the good work.

*Greg Dekat
Wamego*

Dear Mr. Dekat:

Thank you for contacting KDWP. It is great to hear that you are enjoying our magazine as we enjoy writing about all of the great things Kansas has to offer.

The spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) through the collection and transport of wild-caught bait poses a serious threat to our natural resources. We are currently trying to effectively address the issue while working to preserve angler traditions. In fact, our agency mission is to protect and conserve fish and wildlife and their associated habitats while providing the wise use of these

IT'S THE LAW

with Kevin Jones

Non-Native Species

Exotic animals have fascinated people for centuries. Some desire to possess these animals for personal pleasure. In other cases, the animal may provide some benefit. History has shown that while some exotic animals are considered beneficial, others are nuisances, destructive and unwanted, particularly when they are released into the wild.

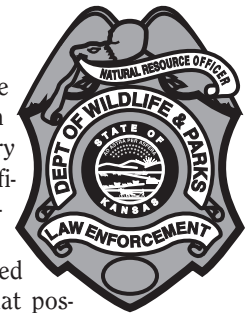
However, there are certain exotic animals that are considered so injurious or destructive to property or the environment that possession of them is prohibited. Current laws prohibit the possession or importation of 13 species of animals; eight fish, two mussels, one snail, one bird, and one mammal. Included on this list are bighead, black and silver carp; white perch; zebra mussels; diploid (fertile) grass carp; monk parakeets; and Asian raccoon dogs (a unique species of animal found in Asia). The specific regulation prohibiting importation and possession of these animals can be found in Kansas Administrative Regulation 115-18-10, which is available through the department's website <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Law-Enforcement/Regulations>.



Other prohibited species are included in the Dangerous Regulated Animal Act, which was passed by the Kansas legislature in 2006. The majority of animals listed in the Act are exotics to the state of Kansas. The possession of these animals is regulated under specific provisions, and the general possession of any of these animals is prohibited, unless the possession is allowed under a permit or exemption of the Act. The Act applies to all species of bears, the six species of large cats (tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and mountain lions), and all species of non-native, venomous snakes. The Act is found in Kansas Statutes 32-1301 through 32-1312 and associated regulations in Kansas Administrative Regulations 115-20-5 and 115-20-6. These laws can also be found through the Department's website.

The possession of all other exotic animals is regulated by Kansas Administrative Regulation 115-20-3. This regulation provides the general definition of an exotic animal and allows the unlimited possession of these animals, provided they are not listed in the aforementioned laws. While these exotic animals may be possessed, they must be confined or controlled at all times, and they may not be released to the wild. There have been occurrences of illegal releases occurring in Kansas as evidenced by alligators, boa constrictors and exotic fish such as pacu being found in the fields and streams of the state.

Many people do not understand the impacts that a seemingly harmless release of an animal may have. The reality is that non-native species such as white perch, silver carp and zebra mussels have altered our ecosystems, perhaps irreparably.





PRIVATE LANDS with Jake George

Getting To Know Your KDWP Wildlife Biologists

There's nothing regular about the regular duties of a KDWP district wildlife biologist or biological technician. The scope of responsibilities and services provided through these positions is impressive to say the least. From federal and state programs delivery to community interaction, the efforts put forth by these exceptional biologists have made Kansas the envy of many in the fisheries and wildlife management arena. The following is a sampling of the many services made available through their commitment to Kansas' natural resources.

Many of the programs delivered involve working with private landowners to improve wildlife habitat on their properties. KDWP's Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (State WHIP) allows for KDWP biologists and private landowners to work together in the development of habitat management plans. Since 2003, KDWP has also been a part of a contributory agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with the administration and delivery of the federal Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (USDA WHIP).

KDWP biologists also provide technical assistance on all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs. This includes the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. In addition to their offered expertise in the planning, development, and financial assistance for wildlife habitat improvement, district wildlife biologists have at their disposal various pieces of equipment available to landowners for habitat development. These include native grass drills, tree planting machines, weed barrier fabric machines, root plows, drip torches, and portable tanks and sprayers for controlled burns.

Public access program delivery also makes up a major portion of KDWP biologists responsibilities. As one of the agency's most successful programs, the Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA) program provides public hunting access to private lands through lease agreements between KDWP and landowners. KDWP biologists handle the sign-up and posting of these properties (more than 1 million acres). Likewise, the Special Hunts on Private Lands program, which provides limited public access, gives biologists an opportunity to work with landowners to develop hunt types and dates to meet their specific wildlife management needs.

KDWP wildlife biologists are also very active with recruitment and retention program efforts. These include assisting



with outdoor mentoring events such as youth pheasant, deer and turkey hunts; coordinating shooting opportunities for young and new hunters; and leasing WIHA and Special Hunt properties specifically for youth access opportunities. Many biologists also assist with Hunter Education Program classes on a regular basis.

KDWP biologists and technicians also complete annual surveys for northern bobwhite quail, pheasants, prairie chickens, Canada geese, mourning doves, whitetail and mule deer, pronghorn and turkeys. Population management efforts include wild turkey trap and translocations, Canada goose trap and transplants, and dove trapping/banding. Disease surveillance, including collecting samples, is also a part of their job duties.

Other services provided include presentations for civic groups, youth groups, and conservation districts; outreach and marketing through newspaper articles, radio spots, and farm programs; bobcat and swift fox tagging during trapping season; big game trophy scoring, equipment; direct assistance; technical assistance; contractor referral for nuisance animal complaints; and issuing of deer depredation permits to landowners with crop damage.

While this list is far from complete, you can see that the many services and varied job duties associated with being a KDWP wildlife biologist can make this job both interesting and challenging. However, if you were to ask them directly, you would likely find that along with the great challenges many find great reward in knowing that their efforts are benefiting the wildlife resources of our state.

If you would like to contact your local biologist regarding any of the services outlined here, or just to say thanks for a job well done, call 620-672-0760 for further information.

resources and associated recreational opportunities. As we have witnessed several ANS (such as Asian carp, zebra mussels, white perch, Eurasian watermilfoil, hydrilla, largemouth bass virus) enter our state and spread, it is clear that we need to act quickly to protect our natural resources and the citizens of Kansas from the wide variety of problems caused by these species.

You asked specific questions about the use of wild-caught bait, the use of bait from bait shops, and the regulations governing such practices. Perhaps we will start with the regulations. Our full regulation book can be found online at kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Other-Services/Law-Enforcement/Regulations. I will paraphrase from this document but encourage you to read the regulations in their entirety for specific wording.

- **K.A.R. 115-8-6.** This regulation outlines that fishing bait may be used only in the department-managed water where taken. "Department-managed" is outlined in the definition section of our regulation book but basically means any water where we have an established agreement.
- **K.A.R. 115-8-12.** This regulation outlines the structure for the legal release of wildlife. In summation, it states that the stocking or releasing of wildlife on department-managed water is prohibited unless it came from that water.
- **K.A.R. 115-20-3.** This regulation outlines that it is illegal to release any exotic wildlife into Kansas.
- **K.A.R. 115-18-10.** This is a list of species that are illegal to possess alive. Examples are zebra mussels, species of Asian carp, and white perch.

FISH SQUEEZER

with Tommie Berger

Shallow for Spring

It's spring, and every angler who's been cooped up all winter long has a bad case of cabin fever. There's nothing like a warm spring day to get anglers excited. The problem is finding fish when the water is still so cold it might have a glaze of ice around the shoreline in the early mornings.

We assume that fish will be in deep water when it's cold, but I am often amazed at how shallow some fish will move in the early spring in response to warming sunshine. The fishing is usually better midday through the middle of the afternoon during the early spring. As the sun warms the water and anything laying in or on it, bass and crappie often respond by moving to the shallow, upper ends of ponds and lakes. Rocks, logs, and even old aquatic vegetation will soak up some of that heat and warm the surrounding water.

I have had very good fishing in the far upper end of my favorite watershed pond in late February and early March using small chartreuse spinner baits for largemouth bass and smaller chartreuse Roadrunners and beetle spins for crappie. Not sure why chartreuse is the color for early spring, but it certainly works for me. My son Fritz and I hit a small pond last year in early March. There was one small piece of brush in about 4 feet of water right where the pond narrowed down in the upper end. It was about 3 p.m. when we started, and by 4:30 we had caught 31 bass off that piece of brush that weighed between 2 and 5 pounds each. I think every bass in that pond was lying in that spot, and they loved the chartreuse spinner baits we were casting. What a fishing trip to beat that fishing fever.

If you are a catfish angler, you will probably want to fish with stinky shad sides or shad gizzards in the early spring, and you'll want to fish the streams and rivers because they will warm up faster than the big lakes. If you fish smaller lakes and ponds, find where that warm water might be flowing in



from a stream or spring and fish in that area. Worms will catch early-spring fish, but they usually don't work as well as shad parts.

Many anglers do not get excited about fishing until mid-March when the walleye head to the dams of our reservoirs to spawn. That is when we see anglers coming out of the woodwork with visions of monster female walleye dangling on the end of their jig or floating Rapala. Walleye concentrate on the rocks this time of year, and anglers often line up elbow to elbow in the evenings to try for this tasty fish. Fishing is generally best as the sun goes down and during the first few hours of darkness.

According to creel surveys conducted this time of year, angler success rates are not high, and angling doesn't hurt our walleye populations. March walleye fishing requires lots of hours of casting to catch a few fish, but the better-than-average chance of catching a wall-hanger keeps anglers out in cool spring evenings. Some anglers keep only the smaller males and release any big spawning females.

In mid-April and into May, the white bass will start their spawning runs up the rivers, and that's when all heck breaks loose from a fishing standpoint. But by this time most anglers have beaten the fishing fever bug and are ready to relax and chase their favorite fish around their local fishin' hole.

Letters . . .

Using these regulation references, we often write that it is illegal to move bait between waters, and we use the nationally recognized logo, Don't Dump Bait. The other issue you raise is the use of bait from bait shops. We have an entirely separate set of regulations for bait dealers, and we are currently working to revise many of those. Basically, dealers only sell native species, and we are looking to require that all are disease free.

The vast majority of Kansans would not take actions to harm our aquatic resources, but the difficult thing with several ANS is that they can be unknowingly or accidentally spread. If someone collects bait from a zebra mussel-infested lake and transports the bait in that lake water, they could take zebra mussels to a new lake and not even know it. Asian carp can be found in several Kansas rivers and streams. When they are small, they closely resemble the baitfish gizzard shad. Someone could easily go to a stream, catch what they think are gizzard shad, and introduce Asian carp into one of our lakes.

Please note that Asian carp have recently been captured in farm ponds away from known wild populations; thus, we are working to evaluate the potential risk bait collection from farm ponds poses.

—Jason Goeckler, aquatic nuisance species specialist, Emporia

SCIENTIFIC COMPLIMENT

Dear Editor,

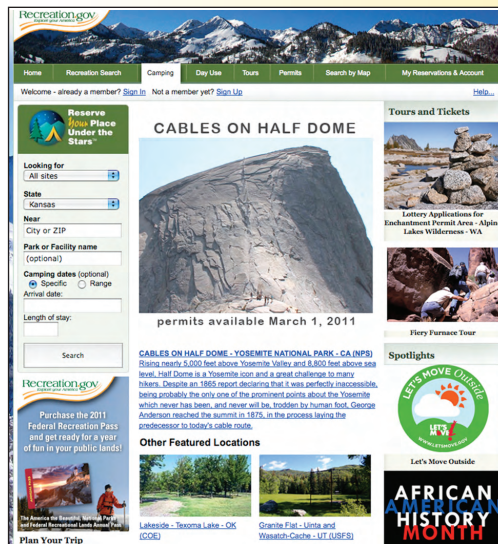
I was pleasantly surprised to read Ken Brunson's piece entitled "The Problem with Science" in the September/October issue. To then follow it up with "Upland Bird Mythbusters" by Jim Pitman was absolutely fantastic. Thank you for finding space to advocate and showcase good science in your publication.

Bryce Williams, Ph.D.

Ingleby Barwick, United Kingdom

On The Web with Mark Shoup

Re-create Topo Maps Online



RE-CREATE!

Outdoor recreation is one of the best ways to rejuvenate oneself, and for those who love a variety of outdoor activities, E-Gov provides a useful website for that next adventure. Their website – www.recreation.gov – provides links to federally-managed areas all over the country that offer a broad variety of recreational activities, including biking, boating, camping, climbing, educational programs, fish hatcheries, fishing, hiking, historic/cultural sites, horseback riding, hunting, lodging, museum/visitor centers, off-highway vehicle access, recreational vehicles, water sports, wildlife viewing, and winter sports.

Click on links for any of these activities, then click the "Find Recreation Areas With Fishing Activities" link. You'll be provided an alphabetical list with links to maps and information on fishing areas run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. You can also do more specific searches by state, zip code, or agency. I typed in my zip code for fishing and came up with 15 areas, five in Oklahoma, one in Nebraska, and the rest in Kansas. Listings also have

options for nearby camping.

While limited in that it only includes federal areas, this is a useful site for all outdoorsmen and women.

TOPO MAPS ONLINE

Many people enjoy using topographic maps when hunting, fishing, or hiking. While these may be purchased from many sources, such as the U.S. Geological Survey (topomaps.usgs.gov/drg), some online sites offer a free view of any area in the U.S., right on your browser.

One of these is www.digital-topo-maps.com. At this site, you're given an initial Google map view of North America. Click the hand cursor on Kansas, then zoom into the spot and resolution you want. Once you've focused in, you can drag the map around until you're exactly where you want to be, say Milford Reservoir. Now click "My Topo," and the topographical lines appear. River beds in lakes and reservoirs also appear. Print this page for a rough view of your area. (Make sure when printing to just print Page 1 in your printer options, or you'll print a couple pages of advertising you probably don't want.) A color printer will work best.

It's not a perfect topo map solution, but it's a good quick view. The site also includes advertisements for a number of topo map products.





Let's go BBQ



As winter loses its bitter grasp on the outer world, I am beginning to think about spring activities. Of these, most revolve around the hunter/gatherer in me. Thoughts of getting that garden tilled, deciding what I will plant this year, and processing deer meat from last fall's seasons into jerky or sausage occupy my thoughts.

One of my newest springtime hobbies is barbecue judging. About a year ago, my wife and I became certified by the Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) to judge barbecue competitions. We travel to events around the state and have had our eyes opened to really good barbecue.

Now, I have cold-smoked sausages and jerky but have not had much experience barbecuing or hot smoking game meat. This will change this year. I have enough venison backstrap to experiment with and

willing souls to try it out on. I hope to cook with a few competition teams and learn some tricks of the trade. Some I'll share, some I can't. Certain things I can, like smoker temperatures, woods used, and equipment that will help ensure success.

From what I gather, a smoker temperature of 225 degrees seems to be the sweet spot for smoking meat. Mixing types of wood used, typically fruit woods, is a consistent feature. Some even use hedge for its stable heating properties and other woods for the smoke. Digital thermometers for monitoring cooking progress can be purchased for about \$20 apiece. Famous smoker brands like Big Green Egg, Traeger, Green Mountain and the Kansas built Yoder Smokers offer many choices and are very popular with competition barbecuers, but quality barbecue can be created on a reliable Weber or homemade smoker. Combinations of injecting, basting, and rubbing are also important components to creating a good product.

I was most fascinated with a recipe that involves enough bacon, brown sugar, and barbecue sauce to induce a cardiac arrest. However, I figured I would tame the fat and carb intake with some lean backstrap from a doe I took in January. I don't know if it will work, but I won't know if I don't try. For some reason I am more interested in trying this BBQ thing with wild game than with beef, pork or chicken. Experimentation is the key to success when it comes to BBQ. Lots of trial and error will pay off in the end, and it will be worth it.

I bet by the end of spring, I can come up with a couple of keeper recipes of my own – and yes I will share.



Preparation is important to any outdoor adventure, and if you fish long enough, preparation will become nearly as much fun as the fishing. I suppose it's the anticipation of a coming trip that does it for me. But I've learned that preparation will help you catch more fish, and lack of preparation sets you up for disappointment.

I learned the hard way when a friend invited me to fish a pristine Flint Hills stream. He'd told lots of stories about big channel catfish and spotted bass. I'd caught only a handful of spotted bass and none from a Flint Hills stream, so I was excited.

Unfortunately, I didn't prepare, and I was very disappointed with the outcome. My reel had old line, and I lost several fish and lures when the old line broke. The old line didn't fill the spinning reel spool, so my reel didn't cast very well, and that cost me some fish. And I hadn't put much thought into lure selection. I caught some fish, and the stream lived up to its billing, but I would have had a much better day if I had spent

just an hour of preparation the day before.

My first order of business should have been to put new line on my reel. Old monofilament will break easier than new line, and old line has "spool memory," which inhibits casting and increases the likelihood of birdnests. It doesn't cost much to spool up new line. I usually remove about a third or half from a spool, then tie and reel on new line.

Next, I should have lubricated the reel. This could be as easy as adding a few drops of oil to turning-points on the reel or as involved as disassembling the reel and adding new grease and oil to the gears. Usually, oil is enough.

It takes about 30 seconds to look the rod over and clean the eyelets, which are often dirty. A cotton swab and some soapy water will do the trick.

And finally, I should have gone through my tackle box. I brought along a small tackle box and a fanny pack, but I didn't go through the box and had forgotten what was in it. I should have thought about what lures I wanted and made sure there were several each, taking into consideration water conditions.

Because of my lack of preparation, I lost a couple of the best lures and made due with what I had. It cost me fish on a rare fishing opportunity. In fact, I've never made it back to that stream. I'm still disappointed.

So this spring, spend some time with your equipment. Get your gear in order and you'll catch more fish, guaranteed.

PROFILE:

with Mark Shoup

Brent Konen



Brent Konen is living proof that exposure to just a little bit of the wild is infectious. He grew up in Hastings, Neb., a community with has more than 20 parks and recreational facilities. Most kids would have been content to amuse themselves with these and other distractions in this medium-sized college town, but Konen lived just inside the city limits. This accident of home location helped shaped his life.

"I was fortunate to live on the edge of town because I got to explore nearby fields and wetlands whenever I wanted," Konen says. "I spent most of my spare time catching snakes and turtles and whatever else I could find in the wild just outside my door. I had family who farmed in the area, too, and I always looked forward to times spent on my aunts' and uncles' farms exploring."

Of course, more than location determined Konen's interests.

"Although they weren't avid hunters and anglers, both my parents enjoyed the outdoors," he explains. "They saw this interest in their boys and cultivated it. They would take us out whenever they got the chance."

Two particular events, however, may have set the die for a career in the outdoors, and a focus on youth events infused in Konen's work as a wildlife area manager. The first was a Ducks Unlimited Day on the nearby Platte River.

"I will always remember that event," Konen recalls. "We got to shoot blue rock and archery and participate in a lot of other events. I won a pocket knife that I still use, and it was just great sitting around the fire by the river. This event, I think, had a profound influence on my career path and how I do my job."

This influence was solidified by a high school "life biology" class, which included outdoor classroom activities such as marking and later recapturing grasshoppers. "That class opened my eyes to the potential for an outdoor career."

As with most kids, however, Konen still wasn't sure about his future. His father had established a successful manufacturing business, and Konen went to work for him after high school, thinking that he might want to enter the family business. After two years, he wasn't satisfied, and he was off to Kearney State to pursue a degree in wildlife biology, which he earned in 1994.

While studying for a degree, he spent summers working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Montana, monitoring waterfowl nests, recording piping plover inventory, helping with wild land fire-fighting, and conducting predator control. After graduation, he worked full-time at Valentine National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska's Sand Hills region, with similar duties.

During this time, he applied for jobs in wildlife biology/land management wherever they came open, and eight months after graduation, he got a call from Steve Sorenson and Randy Clark in KDWP's Region 4 office. In January 1995, Konen landed a job with KDWP as a biologist technician, working for Clark, who had been assigned additional duties with the Natural Resource

Conservation Service in Hutchinson. It was here that Konen was instrumental in starting a program that would become one of the agency's most popular and successful – Walk-In Hunter Access, or WIHA. He held this job for 2 ½ years before becoming assistant manager at Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area in Linn County, once again focusing on waterfowl. He held this job for five years before accepting the position of manager of Council Grove and El Dorado wildlife areas and Chase State Fishing Lake in 2002.

"I've worked in a lot of different conservation fields," Konen explains. "I've always considered myself a generalist; I have an interest in fins, fur, and feathers."

If critters are Konen's interest, his passion is passing this interest on to youth. Each spring and fall, Konen, his crew at Council Grove, and a group of volunteers conduct waterfowl weekends, youth turkey hunts, women-only turkey hunts, and youth outdoor skills events.

"I've tried to produce events that get kids into scenic areas away from their normal surroundings," Konen explains. "I feed them well out there because everything tastes better when eaten outside. And I give them hands-on opportunities with patient and knowledgeable instructors and send them home with a 'tool of the trade' to encourage future participation."

"There's nothing like seeing the wide-eyed expression on the face of a kid who has shot his first turkey, but they all react differently. Some graduates of our events simply have a good time, some develop a lifetime love for the outdoors, and a few decide to pursue a career in wildlife conservation. That's pretty strong stuff, and it's something I am proud of."

Those who've inspired Konen include former Region 4 Fisheries and Wildlife Division supervisor Steve Sorenson, current Region 4 Public Lands supervisor Randy Clark, and Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area manager Karl Karrow.

"These guys – all with different interests and management styles – shared a common passion for the resource and the sportsmen, and that helped mold me."

"I believe public land managers provide an important function in getting kids outside, but we need to bring more user groups into the field," he explains, thinking to the years ahead. "If we can't turn things around – the decline in the number of hunters and, to a lesser extent, anglers – we may need to find ways to get other outdoor users involved in ways that make a real difference for the resource, as hunters and anglers have done for decades."

Konen embodies "Pass It On" and is driven to ensure that youngsters have the same opportunities he had. He knows from experience that it may only take one event to lead a kid into the outdoor world.

HUNTING SPOTS

with Marc Murrell

The Morel Of The Story

Turkey hunters look forward to the sights, smells and sounds of spring. Cardinals and other songbirds signal the coming of a new day and a barred owl hoots its own version of an early morning alarm clock. And often, this call elicits the sound every turkey hunter longs to hear: a turkey gobble erupting from the timber. Gobbler hunters will be heading to the woods in April in search of wild turkey. It's also at this time of year when hunters are looking for morel mushrooms, a tasty side dish to a roast wild turkey.

Turkey scouting or hunting go hand-in-hand with morel mushroom hunting. A stroll through the woods on a warm spring day allows hunters to soak up their surroundings and shake off the effects of a long winter. Nature is doing the same as turkeys become more active and morels pop up in response to warming temperatures and increased moisture.

Kansas turkey habitat yields plenty of mushrooms under the right conditions, and the dual hunting possibilities are popular.

"I've been hunting mushrooms in the spring since about 1992," said

Hutchinson resident Steve Adams. "I like being out in the woods and finding mushrooms, looking for turkeys and shed antler hunting, too."

Getting permission to hunt mushrooms is much easier than for hunting anything with feathers or fur, according to Adams. And some of these contacts might develop into turkey hunting prospects if a hunter is careful and conscientious of the land. The time to start looking for morels often depends on the weather.

"I always wait for a decent rain and then for the sun to come out about two days after that," Adams said. "And that's probably going to happen sometime in early April."

Mushrooms can pop up most anywhere in good turkey habitat. They often appear in the same or similar areas year after year. But Adams advises morel hunters not to specifically stick with one type of habitat.

"About the time I think I've got it figured out, I find them some place different," Adams said. "I generally find them in some areas that have cedar trees, big cottonwood trees and particularly some old ones that are losing some bark around the base."

Adams has read that mushroom hunters advise using a mesh sack to carry their morsels. Not only does it keep the mushrooms fresh, it allows the

spores to drop out as you walk, potentially providing seed for next year's crop.

"I don't know if that's true or not," Adams said. "I don't think anybody really knows."

If you're fortunate enough to find a few mushrooms and bag a spring turkey, there's not much better table fare than heaping helpings of both. Turkeys are easy enough to cook; be careful not to let the bird dry out because wild turkeys typically aren't as moist as store-bought birds. A roasting bag will keep the meat moist, and a meat thermometer will help prevent overcooking the bird.

And as far as the mushroom preparation, Adams keeps it fairly simple.

"I like breading them in some seasoned flour (or an onion ring mix is good, too) and deep frying them or just sautéing them in some butter," Adams said. "I've never had them any way that I didn't like them."



Marc Murrell photo



Marc Murrell photo

Geocaching Winners

KDWP's third geocaching contest ended in November 2010, with 24 people sending in entry forms. Of those, nine people found all of the caches and earned their choice of an annual camping permit or two nights' stay in a department cabin. Three found more than 18 caches, earning a 14-day camping permit or a one-night cabin stay, and seven earned the third place prize of two nights camping. Five more people entered but did not earn any prizes. Ken and Rosie DeWitt once again found all the caches first, traveling a grueling trek to do so.

From May 1 to November 1, 2010, two caches were hidden at each state park and some other department locations. The coordinates of the first cache site were posted on the KDWP website. Cachers had to find and open the first cache to get the coordinates of the second cache site. Upon finding the second cache site, participants signed a log sheet and had the cache certificate validated at a KDWP office. This year's contest offered more sites than past contests.

Although it is a relatively safe sport for the whole family, there are some hazards. Cache hunters should always be aware of their surroundings. Snakes and other wildlife may find shelter near the caches. Plants, such as poison ivy or stinging nettle, may be encountered during searches for the caches. GPS settings could be off and take the hunter into the wrong areas, which can be very rugged.

This fall, a woman searching for a geocache that was not part of the KDWP contest slipped into a cave formed by rocks



removed many years ago from an old quarry at El Dorado State Park. The cave concealed her entirely; she could not be seen from the roadway. The blustery November wind made it hard to hear her cries for help. Fortunately, her cell phone still found a tower from inside the cave, and she was able to phone a friend for help. That friend called the park, and officers from KDWP and Butler County Search and Rescue responded. Eventually, they located her, but getting her out of the cave took a great deal of time and required a State Park Division AmeriCorps member to crawl into the cave and maneuver her ankle out of the spot where it was wedged. Luckily, she was not seriously injured, but the incident could have had a worse outcome.

However the prizes came out, everyone who participated was a winner in spending time in our Kansas outdoors.

PAT SILOVSKY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Last fall, Pat Silovsky, director of KDWP's Milford Nature Center, was awarded the 2010 Master Front-Line Interpreter by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Silovsky received the award at an NAI national workshop in Las Vegas on Nov. 18.

The Master Front-Line Interpreter is presented annually to an NAI member who has worked for five or more years in the profession and whose current duties are at least 60 percent front-line interpretation. The recipient must demonstrate a mastery of interpretive techniques, program development, and design of creative projects.

Silovsky has been director of the Milford Nature Center since 1989, where she has developed and maintains dioramas of fish and wildlife, oversees exhibits of live animals, and conducts numerous educational workshops throughout the year, often using live animals – including both bald and golden eagles – that she cares for year-round. She also works throughout the state with interpretive events



and nature education competitions such as Eco-Meets and provides classroom presentations, among many other activities.

"Pat demonstrates a mastery of interpretive techniques," said Lisa Cole, education coordinator for the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area in Lewisville, Texas. "While her topics and themes are similar to what is available at many other nature centers, Pat's programs are loaded with unusual props, live animals, and plenty of engaging activities. In addition to being an excellent interpreter, she is a leader and mentor. Pat has served as Region 6 director and as the Kansas state coordinator. She is able to work with people of all ages and spark in them wonder and a greater awareness of Kansas' natural resources."

Through its awards program, NAI recognizes outstanding achievements and showcases the successes of NAI members and others working to advance the profession of interpretation. Members have been involved in the interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources in settings such as parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, aquaria, botanical gardens, and historical sites for more than 50 years. For more information on NAI, go online to www.interpnet.com.

—KDWP News

Ageing does have one benefit. It helps give one a sense of perspective. The huge majority of Kansan's are not old enough to recall when there were no deer or turkey here. They do not recall when we were avidly trying to propagate and expand goose populations. They are too young to have witnessed the near extinction of whooping cranes or bald eagles. They weren't here to see some of the streams before they were dammed or dewatered. They don't know that bluebirds and wood ducks were once very scarce. A quarter of the state's population is under 18 so was not even born yet when the Exxon Valdez ran aground on Prince William Sound's Bligh Reef, polluting a pristine Alaskan resource.

Our young people would have to dig a little to find out that at one time, there were heated ethical discussions about how many turkey we ought to be able to legally take in one day. Or whether we

ought to be able to shoot hen pheasants; we shoot hen quail after all. We still can't "bait" for waterfowl even though some goose populations have pegged out on the nuisance meter. We can put out a boxcar of corn for deer though and shoot them as they eat it. We can't use live ducks for decoys but can buy and use \$130 "robo" decoys. It's still illegal to use recorded calls for ducks, but you can play a recorded predator call for coyotes. There are even ethical rules about watching wildlife – rules that warn viewers about proper viewing etiquette. And as our technology to enjoy wildlife expands exponentially, so do the complications with ethics. Lurking in the background is always a money factor.

What stood as hard and fast ethical limits of just a decade or two ago are now subject to reconsideration. This isn't always a bad thing and might, as a matter of fact, be an issue of economic survival

for wildlife management. Such changes are inevitable and are demonstrated by attitudinal shifts over time. Handfishing (noodling), for example, is now a legal method of take for flathead catfish whereas a couple decades ago, it was absolutely rejected out of hand for purely ethical reasons. But things change. Changes which afford more resources and opportunities which, ultimately bring more people to nature can be mostly good. The downside is if we ignore the core ethics of our business. And this brings us to the obligatory Aldo Leopold quote: "Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient." Our abilities to inject change in our wildlife management ethics are not impeded by this precept. However, they should be well guided by it.

Outdoor Youth Event a Success

The Council Grove 7th Annual Outdoor Youth Event was conducted on Saturday, Oct. 9, at Council Grove Reservoir. Fifty-three youngsters attended. This special event provided participants with a free opportunity to learn shotgun, air rifle, and archery shooting and gun safety skills. The event is part of KDWP's "Pass It On" program, designed to recruit and retain Kansas hunters, particularly youngsters

The afternoon began with a hearty lunch provided by the Flint Hills Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation (QUWF), followed by a brief orientation. Participants were then divided into four groups before rotating among the four stations, spending nearly an hour at each one. Designed to provide as much hands-on instruction as possible, each station provided a brief orientation by a certified instructor and actual shotgun, air rifle, and archery skills training.

Two of the stations taught wing-shooting techniques with youth model 20-gauge shotguns and clay targets. A third station provided opportunities to develop or enhance skills in shooting youth compound archery equipment at life-sized Kansas game animal targets. The final station provided air rifles and swinging metal targets. At the conclusion of the live-fire portion of the event, an area master falconer gave brief a program on falconry and introduced participants to his hunting dog and falcon partners.

All participants were responsible, improved their shooting and safety skills, and most importantly, had fun. Many individuals were awarded door prizes, provided by QUWF, to encourage

them to take what they had learned one step further and hunt.

Gear and supplies – including shotguns, shells, bows, arrows, targets, and eye and ear protection – were provided by KDWP's "Pass It On" Program. Organizations providing other support included Flint Hills Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ace Hardware, Hodgdon Powder, and KDWP's hunter education program.

Instructors and volunteers included Mike Miller, Wayne Doyle, Monica Bickerstaff, Jim Kellenberger, Randy Benteman, Rick Sellers, Mike Lowry, Rick Haug, C.L. Henton, Don True, Faron Adams, Trent Siegle, Frank Siegle, Matt Fox, LeRoy Buchman, Doug Burt, Paul Frey, Dennis DeLay, Allan Cashman, John Paul, and numerous parents.

—Brent Konen,
Council Grove Wildlife Area manager



For more on Konen and his events, see "Profile" on Page 9.

2010 Waconda Lake Youth, Women, and Celebrity Pheasant Hunt

On Dec. 18, KDWP and Pass It On - Outdoor Mentors, Inc., sponsored the 2010 Waconda Lake Youth, Women, and Celebrity Pheasant Hunt at Glen Elder State Park and Wildlife Area. Approximately 100 participants braved cold weather but enjoyed the day and even bagged a few roosters. Weekend pheasant hunts and a Saturday trap shoot and supper provided youth and other beginning hunters an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy what Kansas has to offer.

Joan Wagnon (formerly Kansas Secretary of Revenue and mayor of Topeka) attended Saturday's hunt. Celebrities attending the event were Mark Arneson (St. Louis Cardinals football, 1972-'80), Wayne Hubbard (Urban American Outdoors TV), and Guy Caster (professional dragster driver, 1977-'91).

Saturday and Sunday's hunts began with a breakfast at the Hopewell Church in Glen Elder State Park sponsored by the local Waconda Struttin' Dusters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. After a safety and orientation meeting, the hunters were split into groups and dispersed to various locations around Glen Elder Reservoir. Eleven roosters were bagged and several hunters shot their first pheasant.

All groups enjoyed a hamburger and hot dog lunch provided by the Waconda Lake Association, which also presented a prize to the hunter who bagged the bird with the longest tail feather each day. Saturday afternoon, everyone was welcome to attend the free trap shoot.

Saturday evening, participants gathered at Memorial Hall in

Downs for a brisket and sliced pork supper donated and served by the Waconda and Osborne County chapters of Pheasants Forever. Prizes were given, autographs signed, and attendees listened to information about youth and mentor hunting opportunities, the importance of recruiting new hunters, and the work of conservation organizations.



Thanks to contributions by numerous donors, prizes were given to each young hunter attending. Major donors for the event included Brush Art - Downs; Sunflower Manufacturing - Beloit; Midway COOP - Osborne; and NexTech Television - Hays. Other donors included Cunningham Communications, Lake Side Convenience, and Wayne's Sporting Goods - Glen Elder; Culligan Water Conditioning, Miller Welding, Bob's Inc., Miller Hardware, Myers Sporting and Supply, State Bank of Downs, and Domoney Furniture - Downs.

*-Chris Lecuyer, manager,
Glen Elder Wildlife Area*

KDWP STAFF BLOG



Check out the new BLOG selection on KDWP's website.

Marc Murrell, part of the Information Production Section and manager of the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, will BLOG about his outdoor adventures on "The Great Outdoors With Marc Murrell." Find the blog at outdoorswithmarcmurrell.blogspot.com or click on "THE GREAT OUTDOORS WITH MARC MURRELL BLOG" in the "TOPICS" box on the KDWP homepage. Not many spend as much time in the field or on the water as Murrell, so his BLOG should provide good outdoor barometer.

Mike Blair blogs about the interesting things he finds while shooting the Kansas Outdoor Today video series, "Lens On Kansas." Go to lens-on-kansas.blogspot.com or click on the "LENS ON KANSAS BLOG" link from the KDWP website home page under "TOPICS." He often adds an interesting video clip with each blog.

And if you have an interest in passing our hunting and fishing heritage on, follow Mike Miller's blog, "Pass It On," at ks-pio.blogspot.com or click on the "PASS IT ON BLOG" link from the website. Miller, who coordinates the Pass It On program, will write about the value of our outdoor heritage and how mentoring youngsters can have profound impacts on their lives.

New look - Better Service

Starting mid-April, KDWP will roll out a new look for its cabin online reservation system. The system will make it easier and more convenient to book your favorite cabin. When you visit reserve.ksoutdoors.com, you will be redirected to a new site that will prompt you through the cabin reservation process.



Cabin reservations made before the switch will be automatically moved into the new reservation system, so visitors will not need to renew existing reservations.

The initial switch is for cabin reservations only. Campsites are not included in this initial roll out, but will be included in the next phase.

The new look is an introduction of a outdoor recreation management system (ORMS) that will make it easier and more convenient for visitors to buy park permits or reserve their favorite campsites, cabins or shelter houses at state parks, fishing lakes and wildlife areas. The complete and expanded site will be available mid-2011.

Behind the scenes, ORMS is much more than a camping and reservation system. It will help KDWP staff provide better customer service, enable KDWP to better manage its facilities, prevent double-booking, assist in emergency response, improve accounting accuracy, help staff better understand our constituents' needs, improve internal reporting and provide more accurate visitor information.

- Kathleen Dultmeier

Nemaha County Lion

On Dec. 16, a Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks biologist was contacted by a Kansas landowner about trail camera photographs of a mountain lion reportedly taken in Nemaha County on Dec. 7. Two biologists investigated the site the next day and were able to verify the legitimacy of the photographs, making this the fifth confirmed Kansas mountain lion sighting in modern times.

The landowner wishes himself and the location to remain anonymous in this case.

Prior to the five sightings since 2007, the last wild mountain lion documented in Kansas was killed in Ellis County in 1904. Although mountain lions have been confirmed in nearby states, no modern hunting season for mountain lions has been established in Kansas, and they may not be killed without reason. Landowners are permitted to destroy wildlife, including mountain lions, found in or near buildings on their premises or when destroying property, but they may not possess such animals with intent to use unless authorized.

Reports of big cats wandering through Kansas have increased over the last 20 years, probably due to expanding populations in South Dakota and other western states. The Cougar Network website – www.cougarnet.org/index.html – provides an excellent source of information on cougars. In addition to providing a map of verified reports, the “Puma Field Guide” found on the site is an excellent source of information on cougar sign identification, including tracks and signs of predation.

Late last October, an archery deer hunter caught a mountain lion on a trail camera he had set near his Republican County deer stand. After examining the site, biologists were also able to verify this mountain lion. Anyone who believes they have solid evidence of a mountain lion should contact the nearest KDWP office.



—KDWP News

2010 KANSAS STATE ECO-MEET

On Nov. 4, the 12th Annual State Finals ECO-Meet competition was held at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center and Camp Aldrich, northeast of Great Bend at Cheyenne Bottoms. The competition proved to be an exciting, hard-fought contest.

Twenty-five teams totalling 96 students from 20 high schools across the state competed at the event. An additional 10 students qualified as individuals from three other schools in the two test events. Nine regional qualifying competitions determined who represented each location at the state competition. Regional locations were Wilson Reservoir, Sternberg Museum in Hays, Milford Nature Center, Lakewood Discovery Center in Salina, Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Dillon Nature Center in Hutchinson, Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush, and Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe.

The Kansas ECO-meet committee is considering at least two new locations for 2011 to host regional competition, so there is potential for continued growth of this program.

Sponsors of the Kansas ECO-Meet include the Kansas Wildscape Foundation; the Kansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation; Pepsi Bottling of Hays; Simpson Farm Enterprises of Ransom; Manweiler Chevrolet and Superior/Essex of Hoisington; Great Bend CVB, Barton Community College, Sara Lee Bakery Outlet Store, Doonan Peterbilt/GMC, Wal-Mart, Dillon's, and Golden Belt Bicycle, all of Great Bend; Marency of Hutchinson; Owls Nest Campground of Junction City; Friends of Milford Nature Center; Mid-America Awards of Salina; Goodwin Sporting Goods of Hays; and the Wildlife Education Service Section of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Pratt.

To view the results from all regional events and the state competition or for more information about Kansas ECO-Meets, go online to www.kansasecomeet.org or contact Mike Rader at KDWP's Pratt Operations Office, email mike.rader@ksoutdoors.com or phone 620-672-0708.

—Mike Rader,
wildlife education coordinator, Pratt

RESULTS

OVERALL TEAM COMPETITION

FIRST PLACE — Blue Valley North High School Team A, Olivia Cowen, Sam Parker, Carrie Remillard, Austin Rice, and team coach Eric Kessler — \$300/student scholarship.

SECOND PLACE — Wakefield High School Team A, Brandi Bergmeier, Josh Keim, Matt Shandy, Spencer Mitchell, and team coaches Alby Adamson and Mark Mohler — \$200 student scholarship.

THIRD PLACE — Wilson High School Team A, Bryant Davis, Justine Dlabal, Lacey Major, Ashley Zelenka, and team coach Melanie Falcon — \$100/student scholarship.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

HERPETOLOGY — 1st Place, Sam Parker, Blue Valley North High School, \$200 scholarship and 2nd Place, Austin Rice, Blue Valley North High School, \$100 scholarship.

WOODLANDS ECOSYSTEM — 1st Place, Sam Parker, Blue Valley North High School, \$200 scholarship and 2nd Place, Ben Cortes, St. Marys-Colgan High School, \$100 scholarship.

The best times of your life just got less expensive



photo courtesy of Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation

She'll be 16 before you know it and off to college in the blink of an eye. Don't miss a single chance to be on the water with your daughter by purchasing a multi-year youth fishing license.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks offers resident multi-year hunting and fishing licenses for youth 16-21. For a one-time investment of \$42.50, you can give your teenager a hunting or fishing license that will last until they turn 21. A combination multi-year hunting/fishing license is \$72.50. Regular one-year licenses are \$20.50, so if you buy your daughter the multi-year fishing license for her sixteenth birthday, you'll save more than a hundred bucks!

And you'll be investing in more than time with your teenager. Your license dollars help fund Kansas' wildlife and fisheries management and conservation programs.

You can purchase a multi-year youth license wherever licenses are sold, through the website www.kdwp.state.ks.us or by calling 620-672-5911.

Resident multi-year licenses are perfect for:

- ✓ Birthdays
- ✓ Graduations
- ✓ Special celebrations
- ✓ Holidays



2011 Sportsmen's

TURKEY

2011 FALL TURKEY:

- Season: Oct. 1-Nov. 29, 2011 and Dec. 12-31, 2011; and Jan. 9-31, 2012.

BIG GAME

DEER:

- Youth/Persons with Disabilities: Sept. 10-18
- Archery: Sept. 19 - Dec. 31, 2011
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 19-Oct. 2, 2011
- Early Firearm (Subunit 19 only) Oct. 8-16, 2011
- Regular Firearm: Nov. 30 - Dec. 11, 2011
- Firearm Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season: Jan.1 - Jan 8, 2012
- Archery Extended Whitetail Antlerless Season (DMU 19 only): Jan. 9 - Jan. 31, 2012
- Special Extended Firearms Whitetail Antlerless Season: Jan. 9- Jan.15, 2012 (Open for unit 7, 8 and 15 only.)

ELK (residents only)

Outside Fort Riley:

- Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-Oct. 2, 2011
- Archery: Sept. 19 - Dec. 31, 2011
- Firearm: Nov. 30-Dec. 11, 2011 and Jan.1-March 15, 2012

On Fort Riley:

- Muzzleloader and archery: Sept. 1-Oct. 2, 2011
- Firearm Season for Holders of Any-Elk Permits: Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2011 Antlerless Only
- Firearm First Segment: Oct. 1-31, 2011
- Firearm Second Segment: Nov.1-30, 2011
- Firearm Third Segment: Dec.1-31, 2011

Antelope

- Firearm: Oct. 7-10, 2011
- Archery: Sept. 24-Oct. 2 & Oct. 15-31, 2011
- Muzzleloader: Oct. 3 - Oct. 10, 2011

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

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

- Season: Sept.1 - Oct. 31 and Nov. 5-13, 2011
- Daily bag limit: 15
- Possession limit: 30

EARLY TEAL

- High Plains Season:
- Low Plains Season:
- Daily bag limit: 4
- Possession limit: 8

EXOTIC DOVE

(Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves only)

- Season: Nov. 20, 2011 - Feb. 28, 2012
- Daily bag limit: No limit
- Possession limit: No limit

RAIL (Sora and Virginia)

- Season: Sept. 1 - Nov 9, 2011
- Daily bag limit: 25
- Possession limit: 25

SNIPE

- Season: Sept. 1 - Dec. 16, 2011
- Daily bag limit: 8
- Possession limit: 16

WOODCOCK

- Season: Oct. 15 - Nov. 28, 2011
- Daily bag limit: 3
- Possession limit: 6

SANDHILL CRANE

- Season: Nov. 9 - Jan. 5, 2012
- Daily bag limit: 3
- Possession limit: 6

Calendar

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

DUCK

To be set

CANADA GEESE

- Season:
- Area open: Statewide
- Daily bag limit: 3 (including Brant)

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

- Season:
- Area open: Statewide
- Daily bag limit: 2

LIGHT GEESE

- **Conservation Order: Feb. 14-April 30, 2011**
 - Area open: Statewide
 - No daily bag or possession limit
- During the conservation order, hunters may use unplugged shotguns, electronic calls and hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

FURBEARER HUNTING & TRAPPING

- Season: Nov. 16, 2011 - Feb. 15, 2012
- Badger, bobcat, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, swift fox, red fox, gray fox, striped skunk, weasel:

BEAVER TRAPPING

- Season Dates (statewide):
Nov. 17, 2010 - March 31, 2011

Running Season: March 1-Nov. 1, 2011

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

PHEASANTS

- Season: Nov. 12, 2011 - January 31, 2012
- Youth Season: Nov. 5-6 2011
- Daily bag limit: 4 cocks in regular season, 2 cocks in youth season

QUAIL

- Season: Nov. 12, 2011 - January 31, 2012
- Youth Season: Nov. 5 - 6, 2011
- Daily Bag Limit Quail: 8 in regular season, 4 in youth season

PRAIRIE CHICKEN

- Early Season (East Unit): Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2011
- Regular Season (East and Northwest Units):
Nov. 19, 2011 - Jan. 31, 2012
- Regular Season (Southwest Unit):
Nov. 19 - Dec. 31, 2011
- Daily Bag Limit: 2 (East and Northwest Units)
1 (Southwest Unit)
- Possession Limit: twice daily bag

SMALL GAME ANIMALS

SQUIRREL

- Season: June 1, 2011 - Feb. 28, 2012
- Daily bag limit: 5
- Possession limit: 20

RABBITS (Cottontail & Jack rabbit)

- Season: All year
- Daily bag limit: 10
- Possession limit: 30

CROW

- Season: Nov. 10, 2011 - March 10, 2012
- Daily bag/Possession Limit: No Limit

FISHING SEASONS

TROUT SEASON

- Oct. 15 - April 15, 2011
- Daily creel limit: 5
- Area open: Designated trout waters listed at www.kdwp.state.ks.us

PADDLEFISH SNAGGING SEASON

- March 15-May 15, 2011
- Daily creel limit: 2
- Season limit: 6 (Permit required)



2011 FISHING FORECAST

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

The 3-Year Average figure represents a three-year average in density ratings of a particular species. Not all lakes are sampled every year, so this column can help anglers evaluate a fishery that might not have been included in this forecast since current data was not available.

Lengths for high-quality, preferred- and lunker-sized fish are different for each species and are listed in parenthesis at the top of each column. This information will give you find lakes with high populations, as well as those which have larger fish. You may view these tables on the KDWP's webpage www.kdwp.state.ks.us or a brochure can be mailed or picked up at a KDWP office.

CHANNEL CATFISH

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>16") | Preferred Rating (>24") | Lunker Rating (>28") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>18") |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| CLINTON | 5.69 | 0.31 | 0.00 | 7.75 | G | 5.69 |
| LACYGNE | 4.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.97 | E | 4.17 |
| HILLSDALE | 4.08 | 0.42 | 0.08 | 10.54 | G | 4.08 |
| PERRY | 3.10 | 0.15 | 0.00 | 8.82 | G | 3.10 |
| WILSON | 2.75 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 6.81 | G | 2.75 |
| BIG HILL | 2.73 | 0.45 | 0.00 | 7.66 | G | 2.73 |
| GLEN ELDER | 2.68 | 0.27 | 0.05 | 10.99 | G | 2.68 |
| KANOPOLIS | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.02 | G | 2.50 |
| TUTTLE CREEK | 2.40 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 7.55 | G | 2.40 |
| MELVERN | 2.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.44 | G | 2.25 |
| LOVEWELL | 2.07 | 0.60 | 0.13 | 12.44 | G | 2.07 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| SABETHA CITY LAKE | 13.83 | 0.67 | 0.17 | 10.91 | G | 13.83 |
| EUREKA CITY LAKE | 12.17 | 1.17 | 0.17 | 10.36 | E | 12.17 |
| BOURBON CO. LAKE | 10.67 | 1.33 | 0.50 | 9.66 | E | 10.67 |
| CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST | 10.50 | 0.50 | 0.17 | 8.60 | G | 10.50 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 10.17 | 2.00 | 0.33 | 12.13 | G | 10.17 |
| TOPEKA - LK. HAMMOND (YMCA) | 10.00 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 5.17 | G | 10.00 |
| PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE | 9.00 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 12.46 | E | 9.00 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 8.50 | 0.67 | 0.17 | 19.22 | E | 8.50 |
| DOUGLAS SFL | 8.17 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 6.09 | G | 8.17 |
| MCPHERSON SFL | 7.33 | 1.00 | 0.33 | 8.46 | G | 7.33 |
| BOURBON SFL | 7.25 | 1.00 | 0.25 | 10.75 | G | 7.25 |
| CLARK SFL | 7.00 | 0.57 | 0.00 | 7.65 | G | 7.00 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 7.00 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 11.97 | G | 7.00 |
| CRITZER LAKE | 6.33 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 12.71 | E | 6.33 |
| MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 6.33 | 0.83 | 0.00 | 5.95 | G | 6.33 |
| CHASE SFL | 6.00 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 5.18 | G | 6.00 |
| WILSON SFL | 6.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.19 | G | 6.00 |
| NEOSHO SFL | 5.25 | 0.50 | 0.25 | 12.76 | G | 5.25 |
| BARBER SFL | 5.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.31 | G | 5.25 |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 5.25 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 8.71 | G | 5.25 |
| OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE | 5.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 5.59 | G | 5.00 |
| OSAGE SFL | 4.83 | 0.83 | 0.17 | 12.37 | E | 4.83 |
| MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.20 | G | 4.50 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.52 | E | 4.50 |
| JETMORE CITY LAKE | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.72 | G | 4.50 |
| GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE | 4.40 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 7.21 | E | 4.40 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 4.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.54 | F | 4.17 |
| MIAMI SFL | 4.17 | 1.00 | 0.17 | 7.97 | F | 4.17 |
| CRAWFORD SFL | 4.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 9.03 | G | 4.17 |
| BONE CREEK LAKE | 4.13 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 11.72 | G | 4.13 |
| LYON SFL | 4.00 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 9.48 | G | 4.00 |
| PRATT CO. LAKE | 4.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 5.31 | G | 4.00 |
| BUTLER SFL | 4.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 4.86 | G | 4.00 |
| GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH | 4.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 5.51 | E | 4.00 |
| WOODSON SFL | 3.83 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 6.81 | E | 3.83 |
| LEAVENWORTH SFL | 3.83 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 12.04 | G | 3.83 |
| BROWN SFL | 3.75 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 14.55 | G | 3.75 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 3.40 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 6.35 | E | 4.25 |
| WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE | 3.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.83 | F | 3.25 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 3.25 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 9.81 | F | 3.25 |
| OSAGE CITY LAKE | 3.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.50 | F | 3.20 |
| MIDDLE CREEK SFL | 3.17 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 10.76 | F | 3.17 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 3.00 | 1.00 | 0.25 | 13.23 | G | 3.00 |
| MADISON CITY LAKE | 3.00 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 8.38 | G | 3.00 |
| BELLEVILLE-ROCKY POND | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.40 | G | 3.00 |
| NEBO SFL | 2.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.85 | F | 2.75 |
| MARION CO. LAKE | 2.67 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 6.91 | G | 2.67 |
| SPRING HILL CITY LAKE | 2.67 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 4.22 | F | 2.67 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 2.60 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 5.07 | F | 2.60 |
| MELVERN RIVER POND | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.85 | E | 2.50 |
| ATCHISON SFL | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.52 | F | 2.50 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 2.33 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 7.28 | E | 2.33 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 2.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.46 | G | 2.33 |
| ALMA CITY LAKE | 2.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.12 | F | 2.25 |
| SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.85 | F | 2.00 |
| GRIDLEY CITY LAKE | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.03 | G | 2.00 |
| PLAINVILLE LAKE | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.43 | G | 2.00 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| OSAWATOMIE-BEAVER LAKE | 2.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.66 | F | 2.67 |
| WEBSTER-STILLING BASIN | 1.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.82 | F | 1.67 |
| CLINTON SP POND-LK. HENRY | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.49 | F | 1.00 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.74 | F | 0.67 |

FLATHEAD CATFISH

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>20") | Preferred Rating (>28") | Lunker Rating (>34") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>20") |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| LACYGNE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.72 | G | 0.50 |
| BIG HILL | 0.45 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 7.39 | F | 0.45 |
| COUNCIL GROVE | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.66 | F | 0.25 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.42 | F | 0.40 |
| TUTTLE CREEK | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.78 | G | 0.20 |
| KIRWIN | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.53 | F | 0.17 |
| LOVEWELL | 0.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.73 | G | 0.33 |
| MARION | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.64 | P | 0.17 |
| MILFORD | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.34 | G | 0.25 |
| PERRY | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.53 | G | 0.20 |
| WILSON | 0.05 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.52 | P | 0.20 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| CLARK SFL | 0.57 | 0.29 | 0.14 | 11.02 | F | 0.57 |
| BOURBON CO. LAKE | 0.50 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 7.43 | P | 0.50 |
| MIDDLE CREEK SFL | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.63 | F | 0.33 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 0.33 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 4.81 | F | 0.33 |
| THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW) | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.71 | P | 0.33 |
| OLPE CITY LAKE | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.98 | P | 0.25 |
| ALMA CITY LAKE | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.18 | F | 0.25 |
| GEARY SFL | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.44 | F | 0.25 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.25 | P | 0.25 |
| MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.87 | P | 0.17 |
| CHASE SFL | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 7.21 | F | 0.17 |
| WOODSON SFL | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 6.31 | P | 0.17 |
| WILSON SFL | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 4.80 | F | 0.17 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 6.50 | F | 0.25 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 12.13 | F | 0.25 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD | 0.13 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.68 | F | 0.25 |



BLUE CATFISH

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>20") | Preferred Rating (>30") | Lunker Rating (>35") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>20") |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| MILFORD | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.42 | G | 1.00 |
| LACYGNE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.30 | F | 0.50 |
| EL DORADO | 0.56 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6.15 | F | 0.56 |
| TUTTLE CREEK | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 6.40 | F | 0.50 |
| PERRY | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.46 | F | 0.20 |
| MELVERN | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.65 | F | 0.13 |
| CLINTON | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.37 | P | 0.25 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.01 | G | 0.33 |
| GRIDLEY CITY LAKE | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.86 | P | 0.33 |

BLUEGILL

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>6") | Preferred Rating (>8") | Lunker Rating (>10") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>6") |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| WEBSTER | 9.81 | 0.31 | 0.00 | 0.59 | G | 13.10 |
| HILLSDALE | 5.69 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | F | 5.42 |
| LACYGNE | 3.88 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.61 | F | 3.10 |
| LOVEWELL | 3.70 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.65 | F | 2.76 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 3.63 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 0.40 | F | 4.46 |
| BIG HILL | 2.75 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 0.34 | F | 3.46 |
| KIRWIN | 2.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30 | F | 1.38 |
| GLEN ELDER | 2.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.37 | F | 6.35 |
| PERRY | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.38 | F | 1.74 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| GARDNER CITY LAKE | 41.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.37 | F | 28.05 |
| LOUISBURG CITY LAKE | 34.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | F | 17.83 |
| LOGAN CITY LAKE | 31.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.40 | E | 53.67 |
| ROOKS STATE LAKE | 25.00 | 2.75 | 0.00 | 0.53 | E | 18.13 |
| BELLEVILLE-ROCKY POND | 24.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.31 | G | 8.89 |
| TOPEKA - LK. HAMMOND (YMCA) | 23.50 | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.44 | G | 16.25 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 17.50 | 2.25 | 0.00 | 0.53 | G | 15.75 |
| PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE | 17.50 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.48 | G | 12.42 |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 17.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.44 | F | 10.08 |
| GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE | 16.50 | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.54 | G | 12.50 |
| MCPHERSON SFL | 16.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | F | 10.13 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9 | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | F | 15.00 |
| BROWN SFL | 15.00 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.61 | F | 9.17 |
| LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA | 14.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.31 | F | 15.50 |
| EUREKA CITY LAKE | 12.50 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.41 | F | 12.58 |
| ATCHISON SFL | 12.25 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.43 | F | 7.08 |
| JETMORE CITY LAKE | 12.00 | 1.25 | 0.00 | 0.59 | G | 12.00 |
| DOUGLAS SFL | 11.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | F | 5.17 |
| CHANUTE CITY LAKE | 11.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | F | 5.00 |
| OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE | 10.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | F | 8.25 |
| SCOTT STATE LAKE | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30 | F | 6.88 |
| WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | P | 5.25 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 10.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.39 | F | 5.67 |
| NEOSHO SFL | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.35 | G | 7.58 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 9.88 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.36 | G | 14.13 |
| BOURBON SFL | 9.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.38 | G | 7.10 |
| CRITZER LAKE | 9.50 | 3.75 | 0.00 | 0.47 | F | 6.25 |
| COWLEY SFL | 9.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | F | 6.75 |
| GREAT BEND-VETS PARK LAKE | 8.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | F | 8.33 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 7.88 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.39 | G | 6.04 |
| JEWELL SFL | 7.50 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.54 | F | 4.00 |
| FORD SFL | 7.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | F | 7.25 |
| OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE | 6.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | F | 5.64 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 6.00 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 0.42 | P | 6.00 |
| NEBO SFL | 6.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | F | 3.50 |
| SABETHA CITY LAKE | 5.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | F | 13.75 |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1 | 5.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.29 | G | 19.58 |
| GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH | 5.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | G | 5.50 |
| SPRING HILL CITY LAKE | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.29 | F | 2.75 |
| LYON SFL | 4.50 | 3.50 | 0.25 | 0.66 | G | 11.50 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 4.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | F | 1.83 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | F | 3.47 |
| BLUE MOUND - CITY LAKE | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | G | 27.13 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 3.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | F | 5.33 |
| SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 3.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.33 | F | 8.92 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 3.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | E | 3.50 |
| CHASE SFL | 3.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | G | 3.97 |
| BOURBON CO. LAKE | 3.25 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.53 | F | 11.83 |
| ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | F | 1.88 |
| PLAINVILLE LAKE | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | F | 2.11 |
| MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 2.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.30 | F | 3.58 |
| MADISON CITY LAKE | 2.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | F | 6.42 |
| BUTLER SFL | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | F | 7.42 |
| ELLIS CITY LAKE | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.19 | F | 1.25 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.39 | F | 2.92 |
| GEARY SFL | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | G | 1.42 |
| MELVERN RIVER POND | 2.25 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.57 | E | 2.25 |
| BONE CREEK LAKE | 2.25 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.54 | G | 0.97 |
| WILSON SFL | 2.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | F | 7.50 |
| CLARK SFL | 2.22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | F | 4.55 |
| MIAMI SFL | 2.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.39 | G | 2.25 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 1.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | F | 2.17 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW | 1.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | F | 1.75 |
| OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.18 | F | 6.67 |

BLUEGILL

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>6") | Preferred Rating (>8") | Lunker Rating (>10") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>6") |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2 | 66.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30 | F | 66.50 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4 | 42.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30 | F | 42.50 |
| JEWELL CITY LAKE | 31.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | G | 68.44 |
| OSAWATOMIE-BEAVER LAKE | 17.50 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.38 | G | 33.50 |
| HORTON-LITTLE LAKE | 16.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | F | 9.25 |
| WEBSTER-STILLING BASIN | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | G | 10.00 |
| PARKER CITY LAKE | 7.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.36 | F | 4.50 |
| EDGERTON CITY LAKE | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | F | 3.00 |
| CLINTON SP POND-LK. HENRY | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.37 | F | 3.00 |
| SEVERY CITY LAKE | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | F | 4.88 |
| FALL RIVER SP. - KIDS POND | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.17 | P | 2.00 |
| HIAWATHA CITY LAKE | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | P | 1.00 |



REDEAR

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>7") | Preferred Rating (>9") | Lunker Rating (>11") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>7") |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| BIG HILL | 0.58 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.44 | F | 0.69 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| ATCHISON SFL | 15.50 | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.80 | G | 7.67 |
| LEAVENWORTH SFL | 13.25 | 2.75 | 0.00 | 0.85 | G | 7.75 |
| DOUGLAS SFL | 12.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.41 | F | 6.25 |
| NEOSHO SFL | 12.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.60 | G | 6.92 |
| JEWELL SFL | 10.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.47 | G | 6.88 |
| COWLEY SFL | 10.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.52 | G | 6.50 |
| OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE | 7.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.47 | F | 8.25 |
| BONE CREEK LAKE | 7.13 | 0.50 | 0.25 | 1.01 | G | 3.38 |
| BUTLER SFL | 4.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | F | 5.08 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 4.50 | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.92 | F | 5.58 |
| SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.47 | F | 1.83 |
| BOURBON SFL | 3.25 | 2.25 | 0.00 | 0.68 | G | 3.30 |
| MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 3.25 | 1.25 | 0.00 | 0.66 | F | 2.00 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 3.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.33 | G | 1.28 |
| LYON SFL | 3.00 | 1.75 | 0.00 | 0.71 | G | 6.42 |
| MONTGOMERY SFL | 3.00 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.68 | G | 4.50 |
| PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE | 3.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.57 | F | 2.42 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 2.75 | 2.25 | 0.25 | 0.90 | E | 2.75 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 1.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.46 | P | 0.58 |
| WILSON SFL | 1.25 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.58 | G | 3.67 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.44 | G | 1.00 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 1.00 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.68 | F | 1.00 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.53 | P | 0.75 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| SEVERY CITY LAKE | 9.00 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.58 | G | 6.50 |
| FALL RIVER SP - KIDS POND | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | P | 3.00 |
| JEWELL CITY LAKE | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.54 | P | 3.50 |
| OSAWATOMIE-BEAVER LAKE | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.63 | P | 1.50 |

| BLACK CRAPPIE | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>8") | Preferred Rating (>10") | Lunker Rating (>12") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>8") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| WEBSTER | 21.50 | 15.56 | 0.25 | 1.20 | G | 15.60 |
| KIRWIN | 4.25 | 0.63 | 0.06 | 1.65 | G | 3.47 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 3.00 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 1.14 | G | 9.38 |
| BIG HILL | 2.75 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.82 | G | 1.63 |
| GLEN ELDER | 2.48 | 0.28 | 0.04 | 1.27 | F | 1.03 |
| LOVEWELL | 2.40 | 1.60 | 0.10 | 1.19 | F | 5.16 |
| CHENEY | 1.47 | 0.47 | 0.07 | 1.09 | F | 1.19 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE | 30.25 | 3.75 | 0.75 | 1.16 | E | 20.00 |
| NEOSHO SFL | 22.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.43 | G | 14.17 |
| BROWN SFL | 19.50 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.73 | G | 13.08 |
| OSAGE SFL | 16.00 | 3.50 | 0.00 | 0.55 | F | 16.00 |
| FORD SFL | 12.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.36 | F | 12.50 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 11.33 | 7.00 | 2.33 | 1.26 | F | 11.33 |
| ALMA CITY LAKE | 9.25 | 3.25 | 0.00 | 0.54 | G | 10.38 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 9.25 | 1.75 | 0.25 | 0.89 | G | 7.67 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 9.00 | 2.00 | 0.25 | 0.93 | G | 20.50 |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 7.38 | 0.38 | 0.00 | 0.53 | G | 19.92 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 6.50 | 1.75 | 0.75 | 1.49 | G | 3.58 |
| SHERIDAN SFL | 6.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.57 | G | 4.00 |
| OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE | 6.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.71 | F | 3.83 |
| BOURBON SFL | 5.75 | 5.25 | 0.75 | 1.25 | G | 6.48 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 4.63 | 0.63 | 0.00 | 0.69 | G | 2.79 |
| BLUE MOUND - CITY LAKE | 4.50 | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.63 | F | 6.00 |
| GRIDLEY CITY LAKE | 4.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 1.12 | F | 4.50 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 3.50 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.71 | F | 3.71 |
| GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH | 3.00 | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.68 | G | 3.00 |
| MONTGOMERY SFL | 3.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.64 | F | 2.33 |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1 | 2.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.45 | F | 3.58 |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2 | 2.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | F | 2.58 |
| MIAMI SFL | 2.75 | 2.25 | 0.25 | 1.14 | G | 8.75 |
| COWLEY SFL | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.48 | F | 2.33 |
| WILSON SFL | 2.50 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 0.91 | G | 2.08 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9 | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30 | F | 2.50 |
| DOUGLAS SFL | 2.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.88 | P | 1.13 |
| SABETHA CITY LAKE | 2.25 | 2.25 | 1.75 | 1.36 | F | 27.88 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 2.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.68 | G | 2.00 |
| GREAT BEND-VETS PARK LAKE | 2.00 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.49 | F | 2.00 |
| KINGMAN SFL | 1.75 | 1.25 | 0.25 | 1.23 | F | 3.75 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 1.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.53 | G | 1.50 |
| LYON SFL | 1.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.36 | P | 1.33 |
| WOODSON SFL | 1.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.37 | F | 1.25 |
| LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | F | 0.67 |
| MIDDLE CREEK SFL | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | P | 1.93 |
| BUTLER SFL | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | P | 4.83 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 1.00 | 0.50 | 0.25 | 0.78 | F | 0.83 |
| GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | F | 1.00 |
| KIOWA SFL | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.40 | F | 0.63 |
| PLAINVILLE LAKE | 1.00 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.73 | F | 1.33 |
| ATCHISON SFL | 1.00 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.82 | P | 2.08 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 0.88 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.73 | P | 0.46 |
| GARDNER CITY LAKE | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.49 | P | 2.18 |
| MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 0.75 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 1.33 | P | 1.33 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 0.75 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1.08 | P | 0.58 |
| SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 0.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | P | 0.58 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 0.75 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.68 | P | 0.42 |
| CRITZER LAKE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | F | 0.50 |
| MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 0.50 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1.17 | P | 0.33 |
| MCPHERSON SFL | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | P | 0.50 |
| CHANUTE CITY LAKE | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.39 | P | 1.00 |
| LEAVENWORTH SFL | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.45 | F | 0.88 |
| CRAWFORD SFL | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.20 | F | 0.67 |
| BONE CREEK LAKE | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.57 | G | 0.44 |
| JEWELL SFL | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.77 | P | 1.13 |
| CLARK SFL | 0.11 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | P | 0.25 |
| ELLIS CITY LAKE | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.21 | P | 0.00 |
| GMAN SFL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.11 | P | 0.00 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4 | 2.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.44 | F | 2.00 |
| WEBSTER-STILLING BASIN | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.42 | P | 1.50 |
| HORTON-LITTLE LAKE | 1.50 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.77 | F | 2.75 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2 | 1.50 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.54 | F | 1.50 |
| OSAWATOMIE-BEAVER LAKE | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.50 | 0.88 | P | 1.00 |
| HIAWATHA CITY LAKE | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.24 | P | 1.00 |

| WHITE CRAPPIE | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>8") | Preferred Rating (>10") | Lunker Rating (>12") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>8") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| HILLSDALE | 32.38 | 10.81 | 0.50 | 1.00 | G | 26.00 |
| PERRY | 30.75 | 6.92 | 0.46 | 1.19 | G | 32.38 |
| CLINTON | 18.50 | 5.25 | 0.33 | 1.03 | F | 8.71 |
| MELVERN | 17.00 | 8.57 | 1.64 | 1.32 | E | 17.00 |
| KIRWIN | 13.00 | 5.88 | 0.63 | 1.55 | G | 11.16 |
| LOVEWELL | 11.90 | 3.20 | 0.70 | 1.28 | F | 12.86 |
| MARION | 11.13 | 3.25 | 0.13 | 0.96 | G | 10.06 |
| ELK CITY | 9.38 | 6.31 | 2.06 | 1.27 | G | 4.71 |
| GLEN ELDER | 8.88 | 5.72 | 1.68 | 2.18 | G | 6.01 |
| BIG HILL | 7.00 | 4.25 | 0.17 | 0.86 | G | 13.17 |
| TUTTLE CREEK | 6.56 | 0.69 | 0.25 | 1.26 | F | 3.65 |
| COUNCIL GROVE | 5.13 | 3.25 | 0.56 | 1.31 | G | 6.71 |
| KANOPOLIS | 4.94 | 1.81 | 0.19 | 1.23 | G | 16.65 |
| MILFORD | 4.38 | 2.00 | 0.50 | 1.13 | F | 4.42 |
| FALL RIVER | 4.19 | 4.13 | 1.75 | 2.20 | G | 14.33 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 3.88 | 3.13 | 0.25 | 0.89 | F | 5.42 |
| TORONTO | 2.69 | 1.44 | 0.88 | 2.65 | G | 7.03 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE | 78.50 | 50.50 | 4.00 | 1.18 | E | 40.13 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 65.67 | 21.67 | 5.67 | 1.79 | G | 65.67 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 47.38 | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.64 | G | 17.29 |
| NEOSHO SFL | 47.00 | 5.00 | 0.50 | 1.72 | G | 26.08 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 44.50 | 27.75 | 1.25 | 1.60 | E | 36.42 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 42.00 | 7.00 | 4.25 | 2.20 | G | 29.75 |
| PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE | 41.50 | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.85 | G | 22.65 |
| EUREKA CITY LAKE | 40.25 | 14.00 | 3.75 | 1.14 | G | 39.08 |
| ANTHONY CITY LAKE | 32.50 | 10.50 | 1.25 | 1.32 | G | 24.54 |
| WOODSON SFL | 27.75 | 6.75 | 1.50 | 1.10 | G | 27.75 |
| CHASE SFL | 27.50 | 2.75 | 0.00 | 0.59 | G | 13.83 |
| SABETHA CITY LAKE | 25.00 | 7.25 | 3.50 | 1.46 | G | 23.50 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD | 20.25 | 5.38 | 0.63 | 1.05 | G | 27.44 |
| SCOTT STATE LAKE | 19.00 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.65 | G | 29.00 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9 | 18.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.53 | G | 18.50 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 18.00 | 13.25 | 4.25 | 1.27 | G | 23.75 |
| MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 17.00 | 9.25 | 3.75 | 2.31 | G | 33.17 |
| SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 16.50 | 4.75 | 1.25 | 1.42 | G | 26.25 |
| HORSETHIEF | 14.00 | 4.75 | 0.50 | 1.13 | F | 14.00 |
| GEARY SFL | 13.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.65 | G | 7.08 |
| OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE | 12.00 | 7.00 | 1.50 | 1.06 | F | 26.08 |
| SPRING HILL CITY LAKE | 10.00 | 2.00 | 0.50 | 0.88 | F | 16.50 |
| OSAGE SFL | 9.00 | 6.00 | 2.00 | 1.59 | G | 9.00 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 8.75 | 1.50 | 0.25 | 0.89 | G | 4.33 |
| MARION CO. LAKE | 8.50 | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.71 | G | 15.17 |
| SHERIDAN SFL | 8.50 | 4.75 | 0.25 | 1.27 | G | 13.58 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW | 8.13 | 1.63 | 0.13 | 1.08 | G | 5.85 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 8.00 | 4.00 | 3.50 | 1.52 | G | 8.00 |
| CLARK SFL | 7.44 | 3.11 | 0.00 | 0.83 | F | 7.53 |
| MCPHERSON SFL | 7.00 | 2.50 | 0.50 | 1.40 | F | 5.63 |
| GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE | 6.75 | 3.50 | 0.25 | 0.97 | G | 3.08 |
| CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST | 6.75 | 1.50 | 0.25 | 0.86 | F | 15.42 |
| CRITZER LAKE | 6.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.43 | G | 4.13 |
| PLAINVILLE LAKE | 6.67 | 6.33 | 2.67 | 1.00 | G | 5.00 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 6.50 | 2.50 | 0.00 | 0.58 | G | 6.59 |
| BOURBON CO. LAKE | 6.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.37 | G | 6.75 |
| ELLIS CITY LAKE | 6.00 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 1.42 | F | 4.28 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 6.00 | 2.50 | 0.25 | 0.81 | F | 6.00 |
| GREAT BEND-VETS PARK LAKE | 5.67 | 1.33 | 0.67 | 1.09 | F | 5.67 |
| LOUISBURG CITY LAKE | 5.50 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.49 | F | 3.75 |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 5.25 | 0.88 | 0.25 | 0.89 | F | 3.13 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 4.75 | 2.25 | 0.50 | 0.89 | F | 3.08 |
| OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE | 4.50 | 1.75 | 0.25 | 0.93 | F | 6.89 |
| OSAGE CITY LAKE | 4.00 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.44 | F | 4.00 |
| CRAWFORD SFL | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 | F | 4.27 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 3.88 | 0.75 | 0.13 | 0.82 | F | 2.29 |
| GRIDLEY CITY LAKE | 3.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.64 | F | 3.50 |
| CHANUTE CITY LAKE | 3.50 | 2.00 | 1.50 | 1.15 | P | 4.00 |
| MEADE STATE LAKE | 3.40 | 0.80 | 0.40 | 1.95 | F | 4.20 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4 | 37.50 | 2.00 | 0.50 | 0.87 | G | 37.50 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2 | 17.50 | 9.00 | 0.50 | 1.92 | F | 17.50 |
| HIAWATHA CITY LAKE | 9.50 | 1.00 | 0.50 | 1.11 | F | 9.50 |
| HORTON-LITTLE LAKE | 7.00 | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.83 | F | 19.00 |
| EDGERTON CITY LAKE | 6.50 | 4.50 | 1.50 | 1.12 | F | 6.50 |
| CLINTON SP POND-LK. HENRY | 6.00 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.53 | F | 6.00 |

| NORTHERN PIKE | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>21") | Preferred Rating (>28") | Lunker Rating (>34") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>21") |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| KINGMAN SFL | 2.50 | 1.25 | 0.50 | 11.12 | E | 8.25 |

| SPOTTED BASS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>11") | Preferred Rating (>14") | Lunker Rating (>17") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>11") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 14.58 | 4.86 | 0.00 | 2.38 | G | 14.00 |
| MELVERN | 8.21 | 0.55 | 0.00 | 1.10 | F | 4.09 |
| WILSON | 1.18 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.79 | P | 1.18 |
| EL DORADO | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 1.12 | F | 0.72 |
| CEDAR BLUFF | 0.35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.06 | F | 0.35 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| WILSON SFL | 23.02 | 8.73 | 0.00 | 2.31 | G | 17.32 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 13.73 | 3.92 | 0.00 | 1.43 | F | 18.24 |
| BOURBON SFL | 12.00 | 2.86 | 0.00 | 1.34 | E | 40.57 |
| WINFIELD CITY LAKE | 9.64 | 6.02 | 0.60 | 2.60 | G | 14.24 |
| CHASE SFL | 8.61 | 0.86 | 0.00 | 1.49 | G | 16.88 |
| EUREKA CITY LAKE | 7.84 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.18 | P | 7.84 |
| CRAWFORD SFL | 4.20 | 1.26 | 0.00 | 1.86 | F | 4.05 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.75 | P | 0.60 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES. | 1.68 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.64 | P | 1.68 |

| SMALLMOUTH BASS | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>11") | Preferred Rating (>14") | Lunker Rating (>17") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>11") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| GLEN ELDER | 20.34 | 14.46 | 3.19 | 3.75 | G | 20.34 |
| WILSON | 19.12 | 7.94 | 0.29 | 2.87 | G | 19.12 |
| EL DORADO | 6.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.07 | F | 4.69 |
| MELVERN | 4.38 | 3.83 | 0.00 | 1.83 | E | 4.23 |
| MILFORD | 3.87 | 1.69 | 0.48 | 2.89 | G | 4.69 |
| BIG HILL | 2.68 | 1.34 | 1.01 | 3.20 | G | 7.24 |
| CLINTON | 1.51 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.85 | P | 0.75 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2 | 4.16 | 2.50 | 0.00 | 2.22 | G | 4.72 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 4.12 | 1.76 | 0.00 | 1.44 | F | 2.23 |
| JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE | 3.65 | 0.91 | 0.00 | 1.29 | G | 3.34 |
| BOURBON CO. LAKE | 3.03 | 2.02 | 0.52 | 2.65 | G | 6.84 |
| GEARY SFL | 2.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.27 | F | 1.20 |
| CRITZER LAKE | 1.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.66 | F | 1.14 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 0.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.73 | P | 0.65 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 2.18 | P | 0.92 |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 2.75 | P | 0.57 |
| ATCHISON SFL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | P | 0.33 |





LARGEMOUTH BASS

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>12") | Preferred Rating (>15") | Lunker Rating (>20") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>12") |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| LAKES (continued) | | | | | | |
| ALMA CITY LAKE | 52.33 | 15.30 | 0.81 | 4.03 | G | 62.77 |
| COLDWATER LAKE | 51.47 | 11.76 | 0.00 | 2.23 | F | 35.92 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 50.98 | 12.75 | 0.00 | 2.87 | G | 55.32 |
| MADISON CITY LAKE | 50.00 | 29.41 | 5.88 | 5.95 | E | 56.54 |
| KIOWA SFL | 50.00 | 22.00 | 0.00 | 2.61 | F | 48.40 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 49.02 | 18.95 | 0.65 | 5.36 | G | 66.90 |
| MOUND CITY LAKE | 47.73 | 22.16 | 1.70 | 5.62 | G | 47.73 |
| BOURBON CO. LAKE | 44.44 | 20.20 | 1.01 | 5.83 | G | 41.86 |
| LOUISBURG CITY LAKE | 46.88 | 39.06 | 0.00 | 4.10 | G | 43.25 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 46.08 | 4.90 | 0.00 | 3.46 | F | 59.30 |
| MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 41.18 | 1.96 | 0.00 | 1.82 | F | 68.63 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9 | 41.18 | 5.88 | 1.96 | 5.23 | F | 41.18 |
| CHANUTE CITY LAKE | 40.44 | 21.32 | 2.94 | 5.00 | F | 27.27 |
| SPRING HILL CITY LAKE | 40.00 | 26.25 | 2.50 | 6.18 | F | 51.34 |
| EUREKA CITY LAKE | 39.22 | 12.75 | 0.98 | 4.41 | G | 59.15 |
| GARDNER CITY LAKE | 39.06 | 12.50 | 0.52 | 4.83 | F | 54.33 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 38.24 | 19.41 | 0.59 | 5.29 | G | 48.97 |
| GREAT BEND-VETS PARK LAKE | 37.84 | 21.62 | 0.00 | 3.78 | F | 38.95 |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2 | 37.44 | 9.98 | 0.00 | 3.84 | F | 48.43 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 35.54 | 7.23 | 0.00 | 2.73 | E | 36.77 |
| LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA | 33.75 | 17.50 | 1.25 | 4.33 | G | 75.20 |
| PRATT CO. LAKE | 33.00 | 18.00 | 0.00 | 3.75 | G | 33.00 |
| BONE CREEK LAKE | 32.77 | 17.23 | 0.00 | 3.69 | G | 47.59 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 31.63 | 22.09 | 0.50 | 5.00 | G | 32.47 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 31.33 | 27.11 | 1.20 | 5.73 | E | 39.21 |
| GMAN SFL | 30.41 | 24.33 | 3.65 | 5.37 | F | 46.04 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 29.76 | 11.16 | 0.00 | 3.87 | G | 37.33 |
| NEOSHO SFL | 29.41 | 13.45 | 0.00 | 4.75 | F | 44.44 |
| GEARY SFL | 27.62 | 7.18 | 0.00 | 3.09 | G | 21.42 |
| BOURBON SFL | 26.86 | 4.00 | 0.00 | 3.16 | G | 43.69 |
| MIDDLE CREEK SFL | 26.56 | 6.25 | 0.00 | 2.43 | F | 21.29 |
| SCOTT STATE LAKE | 26.44 | 8.05 | 0.00 | 4.55 | F | 44.28 |
| CRAWFORD SFL | 22.69 | 13.45 | 1.26 | 5.68 | F | 14.59 |
| WILSON SFL | 22.22 | 11.11 | 0.00 | 3.75 | G | 22.98 |
| MONTGOMERY SFL | 21.66 | 7.22 | 0.00 | 4.35 | G | 25.00 |
| CHASE SFL | 21.51 | 11.19 | 0.00 | 2.80 | G | 23.59 |
| OSAGE CITY LAKE | 21.17 | 4.89 | 0.00 | 4.50 | F | 18.78 |
| WOODSON SFL | 20.26 | 2.74 | 0.00 | 3.11 | F | 11.93 |
| LOGAN CITY LAKE | 17.78 | 4.44 | 0.00 | 3.28 | G | 33.40 |
| JETMORE CITY LAKE | 17.65 | 1.47 | 0.00 | 1.96 | G | 16.45 |
| KINGMAN SFL | 17.06 | 12.94 | 0.00 | 4.54 | F | 23.36 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 15.00 | 8.75 | 0.83 | 5.40 | F | 35.48 |
| OLPE CITY LAKE | 11.76 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.68 | P | 11.76 |
| CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST | 11.76 | 4.90 | 0.00 | 2.43 | P | 16.34 |
| ATCHISON CO. LAKE | 11.54 | 8.97 | 0.00 | 4.35 | F | 11.54 |
| HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST | 11.05 | 6.40 | 0.58 | 4.98 | G | 12.52 |
| BARBER SFL | 10.58 | 1.76 | 0.00 | 3.00 | G | 10.58 |
| THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW) | 9.80 | 7.84 | 0.00 | 2.86 | F | 27.90 |
| JEWELL SFL | 9.80 | 4.90 | 0.00 | 2.97 | F | 4.90 |
| ELLIS CITY LAKE | 9.65 | 3.51 | 0.88 | 5.93 | F | 8.91 |
| ANTHONY CITY LAKE | 9.43 | 4.13 | 0.59 | 4.88 | F | 13.64 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD | 8.48 | 3.64 | 0.00 | 3.71 | F | 7.56 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 8.47 | 5.93 | 0.00 | 4.08 | P | 7.66 |
| PLAINVILLE LAKE | 8.33 | 3.13 | 0.00 | 5.13 | F | 9.07 |
| DOUGLAS SFL | 5.73 | 5.73 | 0.00 | 3.19 | F | 12.11 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| YATES CENTER KIDS PONDS | 204.82 | 54.22 | 0.00 | 2.95 | E | 135.02 |
| SEVERY CITY LAKE | 120.59 | 26.47 | 0.00 | 3.97 | G | 142.09 |
| HORTON-LITTLE LAKE | 85.29 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 3.37 | G | 82.65 |
| EMPORIA-JONES PARK - EAST POND | 80.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 5.40 | G | 80.00 |
| NEW STRAWN CITY LAKE | 79.82 | 39.16 | 0.00 | 2.73 | E | 87.00 |
| EMPORIA-JONES PARK -NORTH POND | 70.00 | 10.00 | 0.00 | 2.20 | G | 86.67 |
| OVERBROOK LAKE | 64.26 | 10.04 | 2.01 | 4.72 | E | 67.00 |
| EMPORIA-PETER PAN PARK | 44.00 | 36.00 | 0.00 | 3.97 | G | 54.35 |
| WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES. | 42.02 | 26.89 | 2.52 | 5.95 | G | 42.02 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2 | 41.18 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.13 | F | 41.18 |
| OVERBROOK KIDS POND | 30.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.52 | F | 30.12 |
| HIAWATHA CITY LAKE | 20.45 | 2.27 | 0.00 | 1.85 | F | 20.45 |
| JEWELL CITY LAKE | 19.61 | 7.84 | 0.00 | 2.15 | F | 25.62 |
| EDGERTON CITY LAKE | 18.75 | 12.50 | 0.00 | 4.43 | F | 25.63 |
| ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4 | 18.18 | 2.27 | 0.00 | 1.60 | F | 18.18 |
| OLPE-KIDS POND | 11.76 | 5.88 | 0.00 | 3.09 | P | 11.76 |
| EMPORIA-JONES PARK - WEST POND | 10.00 | 10.00 | 0.00 | 2.20 | G | 30.00 |
| FALL RIVER SP - KIDS POND | 9.80 | 6.54 | 0.65 | 5.07 | F | 9.80 |

LARGEMOUTH BASS

| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>12") | Preferred Rating (>15") | Lunker Rating (>20") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>12") |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| LACYGNE | 52.20 | 26.83 | 1.46 | 8.92 | E | 72.34 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 50.00 | 11.81 | 0.00 | 4.40 | G | 31.74 |
| WILSON | 26.76 | 4.41 | 0.00 | 3.97 | G | 35.69 |
| BIG HILL | 24.83 | 3.36 | 0.67 | 5.51 | G | 19.21 |
| PERRY | 16.62 | 9.56 | 0.74 | 6.21 | G | 24.70 |
| HILLSDALE | 12.27 | 4.23 | 0.08 | 4.64 | F | 17.57 |
| WEBSTER | 8.59 | 0.78 | 0.00 | 3.73 | F | 4.51 |
| CEDAR BLUFF | 7.90 | 5.62 | 0.18 | 4.65 | F | 10.18 |
| MARION | 4.71 | 2.35 | 0.00 | 2.15 | F | 4.71 |
| LOVEWELL | 4.12 | 1.76 | 0.00 | 2.36 | P | 4.12 |
| TUTTLE CREEK | 3.09 | 1.76 | 0.00 | 3.35 | F | 4.62 |
| CLINTON | 3.02 | 1.29 | 0.22 | 4.46 | P | 4.06 |
| MELVERN | 2.74 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.52 | F | 2.68 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE | 163.46 | 90.38 | 11.54 | 7.47 | E | 130.31 |
| BUTLER SFL | 155.77 | 70.57 | 7.75 | 6.40 | E | 114.37 |
| GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH | 151.46 | 46.47 | 0.86 | 5.34 | E | 122.75 |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1 | 147.92 | 22.29 | 0.00 | 4.02 | E | 142.79 |
| LYON SFL | 124.42 | 16.63 | 0.67 | 6.39 | G | 127.42 |
| COWLEY SFL | 114.46 | 14.63 | 0.00 | 2.95 | G | 81.81 |
| BROWN SFL | 103.92 | 20.59 | 0.98 | 5.64 | G | 90.75 |
| SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 95.59 | 33.82 | 4.41 | 5.62 | E | 90.29 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 92.91 | 23.62 | 2.36 | 5.41 | G | 60.70 |
| MCPHERSON SFL | 87.39 | 58.82 | 1.68 | 5.72 | E | 82.32 |
| GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE | 78.95 | 44.53 | 0.00 | 3.46 | E | 102.92 |
| BELLEVILLE-ROCKY POND | 75.63 | 55.46 | 0.00 | 4.39 | G | 68.57 |
| OSAGE SFL | 75.30 | 4.52 | 0.00 | 5.20 | G | 48.32 |
| MELVERN RIVER POND | 73.63 | 31.46 | 0.00 | 2.76 | E | 67.38 |
| MEADE STATE LAKE | 70.59 | 45.10 | 1.96 | 4.52 | F | 54.55 |
| SHERIDAN SFL | 69.24 | 22.82 | 0.00 | 5.03 | G | 87.11 |
| NEBO SFL | 67.44 | 39.53 | 10.59 | 8.36 | G | 57.90 |
| OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE | 66.96 | 37.50 | 0.00 | 5.18 | G | 66.89 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 65.69 | 23.53 | 4.90 | 7.05 | E | 52.94 |
| MIAMI SFL | 64.71 | 30.39 | 0.00 | 4.47 | G | 70.87 |
| ATCHISON SFL | 60.50 | 23.53 | 0.84 | 4.82 | G | 58.86 |
| SABETHA CITY LAKE | 59.80 | 26.47 | 0.98 | 5.63 | G | 54.13 |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 59.80 | 47.55 | 1.47 | 5.60 | G | 67.84 |
| ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN | 59.06 | 15.75 | 0.00 | 4.08 | G | 59.06 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 56.29 | 13.22 | 2.56 | 6.65 | G | 55.38 |
| CLARK SFL | 56.21 | 32.68 | 1.96 | 7.04 | F | 59.24 |
| LEAVENWORTH SFL | 56.20 | 9.49 | 0.00 | 4.03 | G | 60.56 |
| MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE | 54.90 | 14.71 | 0.98 | 5.73 | G | 96.08 |
| GRIDLEY CITY LAKE | 54.22 | 2.58 | 0.00 | 2.47 | F | 44.45 |
| GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE | 52.94 | 21.01 | 0.00 | 3.71 | G | 53.36 |
| OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE | 52.50 | 13.13 | 0.63 | 5.60 | G | 59.75 |
| ALMA CITY LAKE | 52.33 | 15.30 | 0.81 | 4.03 | G | 62.77 |

| WALLEYE | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>15") | Preferred Rating (>20") | Lunker Rating (>25") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>15") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| WILSON | 4.75 | 1.20 | 0.15 | 5.74 | G | 4.75 |
| CHENEY | 3.80 | 0.30 | 0.05 | 5.92 | E | 3.80 |
| EL DORADO | 3.78 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 5.29 | F | 3.78 |
| GLEN ELDER | 3.68 | 0.95 | 0.05 | 6.44 | G | 3.68 |
| MILFORD | 2.25 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 5.39 | F | 2.25 |
| HILLSDALE | 2.08 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 4.98 | G | 2.08 |
| CEDAR BLUFF | 1.70 | 0.70 | 0.10 | 7.82 | G | 1.70 |
| KIRWIN | 1.58 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 4.20 | G | 1.58 |
| LOVEWELL | 1.47 | 0.53 | 0.07 | 5.31 | G | 1.47 |
| WEBSTER | 1.42 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | G | 1.42 |
| MARION | 0.94 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 5.49 | G | 1.00 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.03 | F | 0.60 |
| MELVERN | 0.50 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 5.16 | G | 0.50 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 5.75 | 3.38 | 0.75 | 7.47 | G | 5.75 |
| ALMA CITY LAKE | 2.50 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 4.93 | G | 2.50 |
| CRITZER LAKE | 2.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.86 | F | 2.33 |
| SCOTT STATE LAKE | 2.17 | 1.33 | 0.00 | 5.50 | G | 2.17 |
| YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE | 1.60 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 2.89 | P | 1.60 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW | 1.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.56 | F | 1.50 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 1.25 | 0.38 | 0.13 | 5.42 | F | 1.25 |
| BARBER SFL | 1.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.00 | F | 1.25 |
| BROWN SFL | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 4.87 | F | 1.00 |
| CLARK SFL | 0.86 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 3.59 | G | 0.86 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 0.83 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.79 | F | 0.83 |
| BOURBON SFL | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 5.61 | F | 0.75 |
| PRATT CO. LAKE | 0.75 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 3.31 | F | 0.75 |
| LEAVENWORTH SFL | 0.67 | 0.50 | 0.33 | 6.54 | F | 0.67 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 0.50 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 5.68 | F | 0.50 |
| BONE CREEK LAKE | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.13 | 5.25 | P | 0.50 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 0.50 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 4.46 | F | 0.50 |
| SHAWNEE SFL | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 5.46 | P | 0.33 |
| JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.71 | F | 0.33 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 5.16 | F | 0.33 |
| MELVERN RIVER POND | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 2.71 | F | 0.25 |
| GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 3.42 | P | 0.25 |
| JEWELL SFL | 0.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.26 | P | 0.25 |
| ATCHISON SFL | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.00 | 2.99 | F | 0.25 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| WEBSTER-STILLING BASIN | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.01 | P | 0.33 |

| SAUGER | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>11") | Preferred Rating (>14") | Lunker Rating (>17") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>11") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| PERRY | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.30 | 2.33 | F | 0.50 |
| CLINTON | 0.38 | 0.31 | 0.13 | 3.23 | P | 0.50 |
| MELVERN | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 1.81 | F | 0.13 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE | 0.25 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 1.42 | F | 0.25 |

| SAUGEYE | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>14") | Preferred Rating (>18") | Lunker Rating (>22") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>14") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| KANOPOLIS | 7.00 | 0.58 | 0.42 | 5.33 | G | 7.00 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 3.60 | 0.50 | 0.20 | 6.38 | G | 3.60 |
| COUNCIL GROVE | 0.75 | 0.17 | 0.08 | 3.70 | F | 0.75 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE | 11.25 | 1.50 | 0.75 | 6.98 | G | 11.25 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 6.00 | 2.67 | 1.33 | 5.11 | G | 6.00 |
| WELLINGTON CITY LAKE | 4.00 | 0.25 | 0.13 | 4.87 | G | 4.00 |
| GARDNER CITY LAKE | 2.33 | 1.50 | 0.50 | 4.39 | F | 2.33 |
| SHERIDAN SFL | 2.25 | 0.75 | 0.00 | 3.01 | G | 2.25 |
| WELLINGTON - HARGIS CREEK LAKE | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.39 | F | 2.00 |
| MARION CO. LAKE | 1.50 | 1.17 | 0.67 | 5.12 | F | 1.50 |
| GEARY SFL | 1.50 | 0.75 | 0.50 | 4.03 | F | 1.50 |
| OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE | 1.33 | 0.67 | 0.00 | 3.15 | F | 1.33 |
| LYON SFL | 1.17 | 1.00 | 0.17 | 3.75 | F | 1.17 |
| EUREKA CITY LAKE | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.33 | 7.16 | F | 1.00 |
| CRAWFORD SFL | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.00 | 3.93 | F | 1.00 |
| HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST | 0.90 | 0.20 | 0.10 | 3.80 | F | 0.90 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 0.88 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 4.17 | F | 0.88 |
| POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.50 | 4.34 | F | 0.75 |
| MADISON CITY LAKE | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.33 | 6.61 | P | 0.67 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 0.67 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 3.26 | F | 0.67 |
| OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.25 | 4.66 | F | 0.50 |
| OLPE CITY LAKE | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.25 | 4.41 | P | 0.50 |
| CHASE SFL | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.40 | F | 0.50 |
| HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.53 | P | 0.40 |
| MIDDLE CREEK SFL | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.86 | F | 0.33 |





| WHITE BASS | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>9") | Preferred Rating (>12") | Lunker Rating (>15") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>9") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| KANOPOLIS | 30.00 | 15.33 | 2.83 | 2.60 | E | 30.00 |
| WEBSTER | 18.33 | 16.58 | 0.08 | NA | G | 18.33 |
| GLEN ELDER | 13.50 | 11.86 | 0.36 | 2.66 | G | 13.50 |
| CLINTON | 11.81 | 10.81 | 1.44 | 2.19 | G | 11.81 |
| CEDAR BLUFF | 11.20 | 10.10 | 2.30 | 2.01 | E | 11.20 |
| PERRY | 10.10 | 4.70 | 0.75 | 2.58 | G | 10.10 |
| HILLSDALE | 9.08 | 7.33 | 0.00 | 1.54 | F | 9.08 |
| LOVEWELL | 6.93 | 5.00 | 0.80 | 1.81 | F | 6.93 |
| BIG HILL | 5.91 | 4.09 | 0.73 | 1.98 | G | 5.91 |
| EL DORADO | 5.56 | 3.00 | 0.33 | 2.07 | G | 5.56 |
| KIRWIN | 5.33 | 5.08 | 0.08 | 1.89 | G | 5.33 |
| MELVERN | 5.25 | 4.38 | 0.38 | 2.25 | E | 5.25 |
| COUNCIL GROVE | 5.00 | 2.58 | 0.08 | 2.18 | G | 5.00 |
| WILSON | 4.65 | 4.40 | 1.40 | 3.33 | F | 4.65 |
| MARION | 4.56 | 2.31 | 0.19 | 3.46 | E | 4.56 |
| MILFORD | 4.45 | 2.15 | 0.30 | 2.13 | F | 4.45 |
| FALL RIVER | 3.83 | 3.08 | 1.08 | 3.31 | F | 3.83 |
| TUTTLE CREEK | 3.05 | 2.80 | 1.50 | 3.51 | F | 3.05 |
| CHENEY | 2.75 | 1.55 | 0.60 | 2.37 | F | 2.75 |
| LACYGNE | 1.58 | 0.42 | 0.17 | 1.43 | F | 1.58 |
| TORONTO | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 2.76 | F | 0.67 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| CLARK SFL | 11.29 | 7.86 | 0.29 | 1.74 | G | 11.29 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW | 8.25 | 5.00 | 0.00 | 1.74 | F | 8.25 |
| MELVERN RIVER POND | 7.50 | 7.50 | 2.25 | 2.20 | G | 7.50 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 4.83 | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.84 | F | 4.83 |
| CHASE SFL | 4.17 | 2.33 | 0.50 | 1.63 | F | 4.17 |
| COWLEY SFL | 3.00 | 3.00 | 1.25 | 2.27 | P | 3.00 |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD | 2.88 | 2.75 | 1.88 | 2.89 | F | 2.88 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 2.88 | 2.63 | 0.00 | 1.08 | G | 2.88 |
| YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW | 2.50 | 2.17 | 0.33 | 1.70 | F | 2.50 |
| SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE | 2.25 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 1.15 | P | 2.25 |
| HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST | 2.20 | 1.30 | 0.00 | 1.44 | G | 2.20 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 1.50 | 1.50 | 0.83 | 2.52 | F | 1.50 |
| GARDNER CITY LAKE | 1.17 | 1.17 | 0.00 | 1.42 | F | 1.17 |
| WILSON SFL | 1.17 | 1.17 | 0.50 | 2.20 | P | 1.17 |
| CENTRALIA CITY LAKE | 1.13 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 1.18 | F | 1.13 |
| OSAGE SFL | 1.00 | 0.67 | 0.17 | 1.57 | P | 1.00 |
| MARION CO. LAKE | 1.00 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.84 | F | 1.00 |
| MIDDLE CREEK SFL | 0.83 | 0.67 | 0.17 | 1.91 | F | 0.83 |
| JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 | 1.60 | P | 0.50 |
| DOUGLAS SFL | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 1.87 | P | 0.33 |
| OSAGE CITY LAKE | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 1.65 | P | 1.00 |
| MIAMI SFL | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 1.11 | P | 0.17 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 2.16 | P | 0.17 |
| GEARY SFL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | P | 0.00 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| SEVERY CITY LAKE | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.56 | P | 0.33 |

| WIPER | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>12") | Preferred Rating (>15") | Lunker Rating (>20") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>12") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| MILFORD | 8.70 | 6.80 | 2.20 | 5.65 | G | 8.70 |
| SEBELIUS (NORTON) | 8.50 | 3.00 | 0.80 | 4.77 | G | 8.50 |
| KANOPOLIS | 7.92 | 0.25 | 0.17 | 5.63 | G | 7.92 |
| MARION | 6.69 | 3.56 | 0.50 | 4.01 | E | 6.69 |
| CHENEY | 4.45 | 3.05 | 1.20 | 5.80 | G | 4.45 |
| GLEN ELDER | 3.73 | 3.73 | 0.18 | 5.82 | G | 3.73 |
| WEBSTER | 3.17 | 2.92 | 0.33 | | G | 3.17 |
| KIRWIN | 2.42 | 1.25 | 0.17 | 6.29 | G | 2.42 |
| CLINTON | 2.19 | 2.19 | 0.69 | 5.23 | F | 2.19 |
| COUNCIL GROVE | 2.17 | 1.08 | 0.00 | 2.41 | F | 2.17 |
| LACYGNE | 1.83 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 4.20 | G | 1.83 |
| CEDAR BLUFF | 1.80 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 13.36 | G | 1.80 |
| EL DORADO | 1.56 | 1.56 | 0.22 | 4.72 | G | 1.56 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW | 13.50 | 8.13 | 0.25 | 4.59 | G | 13.50 |
| GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE | 12.50 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 3.07 | G | 12.50 |
| WELLINGTON CITY LAKE | 12.38 | 1.25 | 0.13 | 5.19 | G | 12.38 |
| JEFFREY EC - MAKE UP LAKE | 11.83 | 4.50 | 0.83 | 4.71 | E | 11.83 |
| DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE | 5.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 3.33 | F | 5.00 |
| OTTAWA SFL | 4.83 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 3.54 | F | 4.83 |
| SHERIDAN SFL | 4.75 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 3.58 | F | 4.75 |
| JETMORE CITY LAKE | 4.25 | 2.75 | 0.00 | 1.74 | F | 4.25 |
| SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE | 3.75 | 0.63 | 0.25 | 4.32 | F | 3.75 |
| OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE | 3.50 | 1.67 | 0.17 | 4.69 | F | 3.50 |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 2.67 | 2.50 | 0.00 | 2.95 | G | 2.67 |
| MELVERN RIVER POND | 2.50 | 2.00 | 0.50 | 6.04 | G | 2.50 |
| LEAVENWORTH SFL | 2.33 | 2.33 | 0.00 | 3.23 | F | 2.33 |
| PAOLA CITY LAKE | 2.33 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 2.62 | F | 2.33 |
| SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE | 2.17 | 1.50 | 0.00 | 4.25 | G | 3.25 |
| GRIDLEY CITY LAKE | 2.00 | 1.67 | 0.00 | 2.80 | F | 2.00 |
| LEBO CITY LAKE | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 5.09 | G | 2.00 |
| KIOWA SFL | 1.75 | 1.25 | 1.00 | 4.48 | F | 1.75 |
| MARION CO. LAKE | 1.67 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 2.86 | F | 1.67 |
| HARVEY CO. LAKE - EAST | 1.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.22 | F | 1.40 |
| PONDS | | | | | | |
| SALINA-LAKEWOOD LAKE | 0.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.03 | F | 0.67 |

| STRIPER | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| IMPOUNDMENT | Density Rating (>20") | Preferred Rating (>30") | Lunker Rating (>35") | Biggest Fish (lbs.) | Bio Rating | 3-Year Average (>20") |
| RESERVOIRS | | | | | | |
| WILSON | 2.90 | 0.05 | 0.00 | 8.86 | G | 2.90 |
| LAKES | | | | | | |
| PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.53 | P | 0.17 |

KANSAS MOST UNWANTED



Aquatic Nuisance Species

Aquatic nuisance species threaten our native species, as well as our water-based business and recreation. Dealing with zebra mussels will cost water-related businesses more than \$1 billion a year. Anyone who uses our state waters should learn about these species and how we can avoid spreading them.

by Mike Miller

editor, Pratt and

Jason Goeckler

aquatic nuisance species specialist, Emporia

The acronym ANS is easier to say and write than “aquatic nuisance species.” It’s also an inoffensive way to refer to non-native animals and plants that are anything but inoffensive. Maybe we should have come up with a more ominous name like Non-native Aquatic Species Threatening You, or NASTY. Then we might take them more seriously because the threat of aquatic nuisance species is real, and it’s here in Kansas. Unless anglers, boaters, and any others who use our waters take the threat seriously, our lakes,

rivers, and water-based recreation will never be the same.

Aquatic nuisance species are non-native animals and plants that threaten the diversity and abundance of native species, as well as the commercial, agricultural, and recreation activities dependent on our waters. Man has introduced some non-native species intentionally, including the common carp. Our waters and native species would be better off without common carp, but they have become a perma-

nent part of the ecosystem. However, most modern aquatic nuisance species have been introduced accidentally, and most have damaging effects on our native aquatic species.

Perhaps the most famous nuisance species, at least in the Midwest, is the zebra mussel. This tiny mollusk, native to the Caspian Sea in Asia, was discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit



Jason Goeckler photos

This photograph shows the fantastic densities of adult zebra mussels at El Dorado Reservoir. This photo was taken when shoreline areas were exposed during low water. Zebra mussels will attach to any hard surface, even each other, building layers up to 6 inches thick.



Asian silver carp have a unique reaction to motorboats passing over them: they leap out of the water, often traveling several feet in the air. Boater strikes are not uncommon.

in 1988, believed to have been transported in the ballasts of transoceanic ships. Since that time, they have spread to all the Great Lakes, as well as lakes in other states. Currently, zebra mussels have been documented in 10 Kansas reservoirs and lakes, as well as the rivers feeding into and out of these lakes. There is no way to control or eradicate zebra mussels once they become established. We can only control our activities that cause their spread.

So what's so scary about a "clam" no bigger than a quarter? Well for one thing, an adult female can produce up to 1 million eggs per year. Colonies of zebra mussels attach to all types of living and non-living surfaces, including

native mussels, crayfish, turtles, boats, boat trailers, docks, buoys, and water intake pipes and structures. They even attach to each other, forming dense layered colonies up to 6 inches thick. Zebra mussel densities of up to 1 million per square meter have been recorded in Lake Erie. The economic impact to municipal water suppliers, power plants and other water-related business will be \$1 billion a year. And we'll all have to pay those costs.

In addition to the economic damage they cause, the feeding activities of zebra mussels remove beneficial plankton that native fish depend on. Dense populations of zebra mussels can disrupt a lake's entire food chain. In Kansas lakes,

biologists have documented a decrease in body condition and abundance of several game fish species after zebra mussels became established. The feeding habits of zebra mussels may also increase the potential for blue-green algae blooms since they remove competing algae and alter the chemical composition of the water. Dangerous blue-green algae blooms have caused problems at several Kansas lakes in recent years, and these problems may increase if zebra mussels spread. Dense mats of living zebra mussels make wading and swimming along shoreline dangerous because of their sharp shells. As zebra mussels die, the odor and shell fragments that wash up make any shoreline activities unpleasant.

The final straw with zebra mussels is that in the larvae stage, called veligers, they are microscopic and free-floating in water. While a mollusk attached to a boat hull or motor might be obvious, you can't see the larvae in water transported in a livewell, bait bucket, or bilge. Veliger densities in Kansas lakes have been recorded as high as 300 individuals per liter of lake water. That means that a typical water bottle filled with lake water could hold 150 larval zebra mussels too small to see with the naked eye. While the veligers can easily pass downstream and infect other waters, only one lake in Kansas was infested this way. John Redmond Reservoir was contaminated when zebra mussel veligers from Marion Reservoir arrived via the Cottonwood River. This means that all other infestations could have been prevented.

Recently, another aquatic nuisance species has garnered headlines: Asian carp. The Asian carp group includes silver, bighead and black carp. Bighead and silver

carp have been found in the Kansas, Missouri, Wakarusa, and Big Blue rivers and their tributaries. All are native to Asia and have been imported to the U.S. primarily by the commercial aquaculture industry to help control conditions in rearing ponds. These fish are highly adaptive, prolific spawners, and will directly compete with desirable native fish for food and space. They are plankton feeders and do not provide angling opportunities. If these fish are transported to a Kansas reservoir, the first sportfish to be negatively impacted will likely be cattie and walleye.

Silver carp also pose a threat to boaters because of their tendency to leap several feet out of the water when a boat passes over. Imagine having a 10-pound fish smack you in the face as you cruise at 30 mph in your motorboat or jet ski. In fact, last summer a kayaker competing the Missouri River 340, a canoe and kayak race from Kansas City to St. Louis, was struck in the head by a 30-pound leaping silver carp and was unable to continue the race.

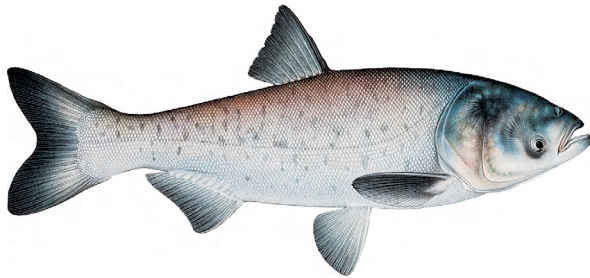
KDWP biologists first recorded spawning silver and bighead carp in 2010 during spring floods. Anglers reported extremely dense

concentrations of young carp below low-water dams on the Kansas River. The young carp were 3-5 inches long and so concentrated that they were easily caught with a dip net. Anglers, not knowing what these abundant bait-sized fish were, saw them as perfect catfish bait. KDWP biologists were concerned that moving these fish in bait buckets would spread them to other rivers and reservoirs. Signs were posted, area patrols were increased, and a media campaign attempted to inform anglers of the potential dangers. All three species of the Asian carp are on the prohibited



This photograph clearly shows how similar young bighead carp (top), silver carp (middle) and gizzard shad (bottom) appear. Fisheries biologists are concerned that anglers collecting catfish bait from a river with nuisance species will inadvertently move them to a reservoir.

PROHIBITED FISH SPECIES



Bighead carp



Fertile grass carp



White perch



Silver carp

It is illegal to possess any of these fish species alive.

Joe Tomelleri illustrations

species list, which means it is illegal to possess them alive. It is imperative that these fish are not transported to uninfested waters.

Another fish species that's on the prohibited list is the white perch. White perch are native along the east coast of North America. They resemble white bass but don't get as big in Kansas waters. They are prolific and efficient predators, and they may damage gizzard shad populations, our game fish species' main forage. White perch found their way into Cheney and Wilson reservoirs, and within a few years became abundant. In Cheney, white perch became so numerous initially that few grew longer than 8 inches – too small for most fishermen to catch and keep. White bass, crappie and walleye populations suffered. In the clear waters of Wilson, predatory game fish have

somewhat controlled white perch numbers, but they are still a concern. Regulations have been implemented at Cheney and El Dorado reservoirs to enhance predatory control. Minimum length limits for walleye and wipers are 21 inches, and the creel limit is two for each species.

White perch have spread to a number of other lakes, most likely as bait. And the potential for spreading white perch, as well as other ANS species, in bait buckets is a serious concern. Like all species discussed this article, they are on the prohibited species list, it is illegal to possess live white perch. They can be killed and used as cut bait, or put on ice to be kept for eating, but anglers cannot keep them alive.

KDWP staff believe the potential for the spread of ANS species or the introduction of new ANS

species by anglers is serious enough that a review of the regulations governing fish bait is underway. Commercial bait dealer regulations are also under scrutiny and have been discussed in a public forum at Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission meetings. Discussions concerning regulations that will help prevent the spread of nuisance species in bait buckets is ongoing.

There are other nuisance species to be concerned about. The full list of prohibited species includes, walking catfish, silver cap, bighead carp, black carp, snakehead fish, round goby, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, white perch, fertile grass carp, and New Zealand mudsnail. Several nuisance plant species are also causing problems, including Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, hydrilla and saltcedar.

New Zealand mud snails have not been found in Kansas, but they are a potential threat. These tiny snails disrupt the food chain by consuming algae in streams and competing with native bottom-dwelling invertebrates. A population crash of invertebrates can follow the introduction of these snails, which reduces fish forage. With a decrease in food availability, fish populations may decline as well.

Eurasian watermilfoil has been found in several Kansas lakes. The aquatic vegetation forms dense mats on the water's surface. It will shade out native vegetation and reduce oxygen levels during decomposition. Dense mats of Eurasian watermilfoil also hinders recreational activities. It reproduces by fragmentation, and plant fragments can be transported by boaters. Hydrilla was found in a Kansas City community lake.

Purple loosestrife is established at several locations in Kansas. This wetland plant restricts native plant species, including some federally endangered orchids, and reduces habitat for waterfowl. It is highly tolerant to disturbance and

reproduces through the dispersal of thousands of tiny seeds.

Saltcedar is a small tree or shrub that produces pink flowers May through October and can be found in 49 Kansas counties. It forms dense monocultures and dramatically changes vegetation structure and animal species diversity. Saltcedar accumulates salt in its tissues, which is later released, making soil unsuitable for many native plant species. Infestations of saltcedar can reduce or eliminate water flow in streams.

So what can we do to ensure their favorite lakes are not irreparably damaged by unwanted exotic species? There are some easy steps. First, never transfer fish or water from one body of water to another. Never dump your bait bucket into the lake at the end of the day's fishing. If you're planning to fish several lakes in within a day or two, take these steps:

- Clean your equipment, removing any vegetation, mud or animals attached to the boat or trailer.
- Drain your equipment. Make sure your livewell, baitwell or bait

buckets are empty before leaving the lake. It's also a good idea to trim the motor all the way down and drain water from the prop and lower unit. Remember, larval zebra mussels are invisible to the naked eye and could be in just a cup of water.

- Dry your boat and trailer for at least five days. If you plan to use it sooner, wash your equipment with hot water. Ideally, 140-degree water should be used, as it only requires 10 seconds of contact time to kill all life stages of zebra mussels as well as harmful viruses

None of these steps will take much time, but ignoring them could have long-lasting, damaging effects on our lakes, streams, and native species. Fishing and boating may never be the same. The number of nuisance species is growing, and it's impossible to predict where the next one will show up. It's best to practice these basic measures after each lake outing regardless of which lake you visit. Remember, don't transport live fish or water and **CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY** your equipment. ♡



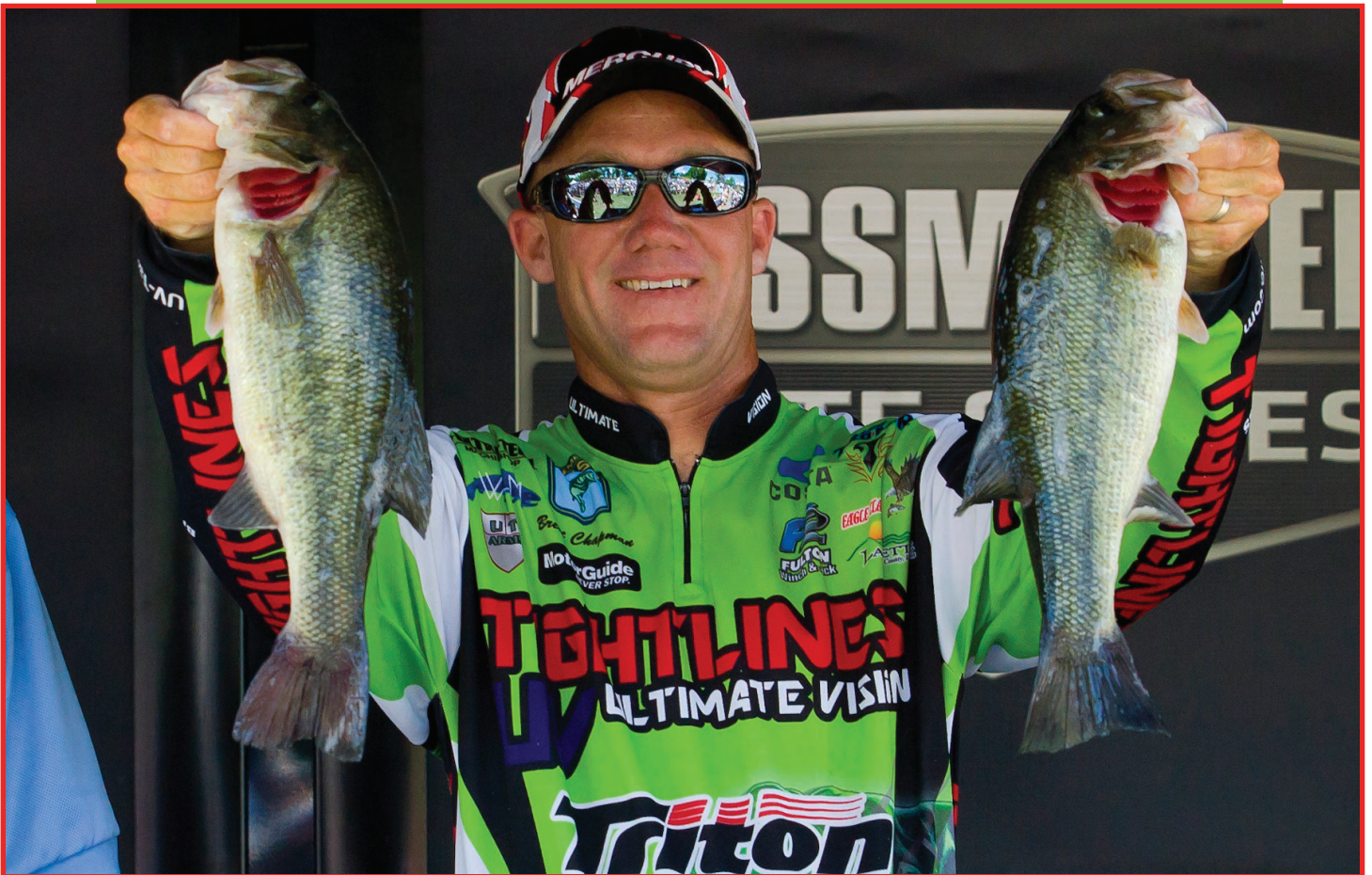
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!



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Homegrown Bass Champ

by Kathleen Dultmeier
public information officer/marketing specialist, Topeka

Brent Chapman is living the dream as a big-time bass tournament angler, but he's never forgotten his Kansas roots. He still lives in Kansas, even though that means traveling many miles to reach tournament destinations. Kansas has too much to offer for Chapman and his family, so they've stayed put.

Kansas may be better known for crappie and catfish than for bass fishing, but the state has produced a bona fide national bass fishing tournament contender: Brent Chapman. When Chapman tells people on the professional fishing circuit that he is from Kansas, the typical response is, "Wow, I did not realize you have good fishing there. I knew you had great hunting!"

Chapman's titles are impressive, and he isn't even 40 yet: 10-time BASS Master Classic Qualifier, including the 2011 Classic; Bassmaster 2005 Busch Shootout Winner; BassFan.com Top Gun Champion 2005; and four-time FLW Championship qualifier.

The 38-year-old husband and father of two, is a professional angler who might have easily immigrated to Florida or Texas, two states known for outstanding bass fishing opportunities. Instead, Chapman prefers to keep his roots in his home state of Kansas.

"We [Chapman and his wife, Bobbi] debated moving to a 'closer' location for our competitions on the BASS circuit. Many of our tournaments are more toward the south/southeast. We debated moving to Nashville or somewhere in Alabama. Many of our friends have relocated to Alabama for the proximity to our events. We love Kansas. We decided that it will be worth having a long commute to stay here. Our families live in Kansas. I hunt in Kansas. We want to raise our kids in Kansas.

"This is such a great place. Not only do we have some of the most envied outdoor activities but we also have plenty of big city

perks while maintaining the good ole small town atmosphere. Kansas is filled with good, generous, kind people. After months on the road touring this amazing country, it is great to come home to Kansas."

When Chapman was a teenager, his family moved to a lakefront property at Lake Quivira. While his love for fishing was already fully fueled, living at a lake provided Chapman the opportunity to perfect his technique. "I was able to go fishing almost every day then, and I was able to take fishing to a whole different level," Chapman said.

Chapman still calls Lake Quivira home, but for five months out of the year, the Chapman family calls a 35-foot RV home. Chapman, his two kids and his wife, Bobbi, travel

across the country participating in professional fishing tournaments. Chapman meets lots of people, many who are familiar with Kansas' hunting but not its fishing. Chapman enjoys being the Kansas angler. In fact, this role caught the attention of James Zaleski, Labette County Director of Tourism. Zaleski met Chapman during a fishing tournament, and when he learned Chapman was from Kansas, he instantly recognized that Chapman could complete Labette County's marketing strategy.

"We were lucky enough to find someone to take Kansas to the next level. Brent is not only one of the best professional anglers, he's an avid hunter as well," Zaleski continues, "Outdoor Life magazine



Native Kansan Brent Chapman has qualified for the Bassmasters Classic, the most prestigious bass competition in the world, 10 times. He's also qualified for the FLW Championship four times.

named Labette County the number seven best place for white-tailed deer hunting in the United States. Brent is an angler, bowhunter and a proud Kansan. Brent is the glue that holds our marketing plan together."

Chapman agrees that the Labette County partnership has been positive. "We [Zaleski and Chapman] got to talking, and he recognized I am in front of a lot of faces. It's been a pretty good fit."

While Chapman has fished all over the world, he does have some favorite fishing spots in Kansas: "A lake that's been good to me, that I really enjoyed five or six years ago, is Cedar Bluff. Melvern Lake has a place in my heart because that's where a big love of fishing happened. It's where I saw my first bass tournament weigh-in, and I thought, 'How cool would that be, you know, to compete in bass tournaments.' And Labette County's Big Hill Lake is a wonderful

You can meet Brent Chapman at the 2011 Kansas State Fair. He will be there courtesy of Labette County and will also host fishing demonstrations at KDWP's mobile aquarium.

fishery. That's one thing about Kansas, we have a lot of wonderful lakes.

"A bass is a bass no matter where I go in the country, and they all tend to live in the same areas and bite the same lures. It's just learning to read new water bodies and rivers then understanding how the fish respond to habitat that's there as opposed to here.

"This is the perfect job for me. Fishing is my job but hunting is my passion."

Recently, Chapman went pheasant hunting in western Kansas, and he had this to say

about Kansas Wildlife and Parks' Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA) program: "It's probably one of the neatest things ever. There is some incredible walk-in hunting out there. The neat thing is it's a big attraction for our state. You realize how good it is with our local economy.

"I love just driving in Kansas because you never know what you will see over the next hill. It could be a herd of deer or a mess of pheasants, you just never know."

Chapman's kids are ready to go hunting with dad. "I can tell that it's really going to snowball. They are already begging me to go," he said.

Chapman loves Kansas and Kansans. "Once you get off those major interstates, Kansas is an amazing state," he said, "The state of Kansas is a big part of me. I like to experience it. I love the people here. I'm passionate about the state I live in and supporting it. ♡



Chapman recently competed in the 2011 Bassmaster Classic, the ultimate competition for professional bass fishermen. And for the second year in a row, he placed fifth. Chapman was in position for the win after the second day, holding second place behind the eventual winner, Kevin VanDam. While Chapman weighed in a five-fish limit of bass on Sunday, his total weight fell just short.

Who is Robin Jennison?

by Kathleen Dultmeier

public information officer/marketing specialist, Topeka

Robin Jennison was appointed as Acting Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in January. Find out a little about the man and where he comes from.



"I had rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world"
- George Washington

Governor Sam Brownback appointed Robin Jennison Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in January. That means this one-time farm kid from western Kansas and former Speaker of the Kansas House is managing a state agency that has almost twice as many employees as his hometown has residents.

Jennison, who was born in Healy, likes thinking big, and his ideas and endless energy have taken this small-town Kansan around the world.

The middle of three children, Jennison grew up working with his family on their Lane County farm. His family, the land and western Kansas heritage has made Jennison the sportsman and outdoor resource advocate he is now. "I consider myself a conservationist, but I'm not an environmentalist by any stretch of the imagination," he explained, "I think the natural resources are here for us to use and also to protect."



Jennison comes from a long line of Kansans. One of his ancestors, Charles Jennison (far right), organized the 7th Kansas Cavalry. They were known as “Jennison’s Jayhawkers” and served during the Civil War.

The Jennison family moved to Lane County in 1887. “Our family was here [in northeast Kansas] during statehood and then some moved out west,” he explained. Jennison proudly displays a civil war era photo on his office wall. The picture features Charles Jennison a colonel in the Union Army and relative of the Secretary. “Charles Jennison had the first volunteer cavalry from Kansas, and they were named Jennison’s Jayhawkers,” he said.

Jennison’s grandfather home-

sted the farm in Healy, and each generation has grown the operations. Remnants of the grandfather’s sod home are still present. Jennison’s great grandfather homesteaded a farm north of Healy. In 1906, Jennison’s grandfather was involved with starting a local bank.

Growing up on the farm provided Jennison the opportunity to learn to hunt but it did much more for him. Hunting was a way to spend quality time with his immediate family, mainly his

father, uncle and cousins. “Opening day in western Kansas was like Christmas to us,” he said.

“My uncle Jack gave me an appreciation for hunting dogs and double-barrel shotguns. He took great pride in hunting with my son and his grandson. When we really hunted pheasant in the traditional sense, it was with Uncle Jack. Uncle Jack started with my generation – my brother, me and his son – then my son was the oldest of the next generation,” he said. “Uncle Jack was excited to

have three generations in the field. Opening weekend is a family affair.”

In western Kansas, pheasant was the most plentiful game, but when he was introduced to quail hunting, Jennison was immediately hooked. “If there had been quail in Healy, I would have never gotten anything done,” he said.

His high school senior class had 13 graduates. After high school, Jennison left western Kansas, determined to make a name for himself.

Following in his older brother’s footsteps, Jennison attended Kansas State University, but the color purple didn’t stick. On the first day of class, he was sitting in a class of approximately 150 students. While reviewing the class roster, the professor spotted Jennison’s name and located him sitting in the midst of the students. “The instructor looked over his glasses at me and said, ‘Robin Jennison. How are you related to Dick [Robin’s older brother]? I looked at the young man sitting next to me and said, ‘I’m out of here.’”

His desire to make his own name uprooted Jennison out of Wildcat territory and into Fort Hays State University. While at FHSU, Jennison joined the rough and tumble life of intercollegiate rodeo. “That was the most fun I’d ever had in my life,” he said. “I rodeoed for about four years, and that’s why my body is in such bad shape,” he joked.

While rodeoing fueled his youthful need for excitement, it was less than kind to his body. Jennison has a screw placed in his right shoulder from being bucked off a bronc. He switched to riding



Jennison grew up hunting pheasants around the family farm near Healy. Pictured: Todd Workman (left) Jennison (middle) Scott Workman (right)

bulls and eventually hurt his knee which required surgery.

“My dad said he would buy me a new roping horse as long as I would stop riding bulls until I paid him for the new horse. I never got him paid off, and I never got back on a bull,” he said.

With his college days and rodeo pastime behind him, Jennison returned to the farm, but he wouldn’t stay there long.

The journey from a small-town resident to the Speaker of the House and now the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is a path with many turns of fate. His career consists of an outdoor radio show, involvement in various farm associations and of course, the Healy farm.

When he was 36-years old, Jennison ran for House District 117 and was elected. During the next several years, he transitioned from a freshman legislator to assistant majority leader to chairman of the appropriations committee, then majority leader. During the 1999-2000 legislative session, Jennison was elected

Speaker of the House.

Todd Workman, Jennison’s hunting and fishing buddy, was complimentary of both Jennison’s character and his outdoor abilities. “The State of Kansas is lucky to have him there,” Workman said. “You meet a lot of guys who you think might be stand-up guys; Robin is one of those unique individuals who is a stand-up guy. If he says he is going to do something, he does it. And, he is as honest as the day is long. He is a good guy.”

The only humorous hunting story Workman would share with readers didn’t even happen in the field. According to Workman, he and Jennison were preparing to hunt on the Healy farm. Jennison thought they could hunt a thicket that was relatively close to the house. Because there was a power outage in the area, a generator was being used for electricity. Before hunting, Jennison needed to check the generator. While he checked it, the generator sprayed Jennison’s face with oil. A determined Jennison loaded up the

truck with Workman, and the two were on the road toward the thicket. Jennison's glasses were oily, so he removed them and asked Workman to clean them. Unable to see without his glasses, Jennison high-centered his Suburban. The unlucky duo walked several miles to the farm house intending to get the flat-bed truck to free the Suburban. Except the flatbed truck had a dead battery. By the time Jennison freed the Suburban, it was too late to hunt, so the friends decided to watch some television. But the television screen darkened, and then stopped working. Jennison declared Workman was bad luck.

In 2001, Jennison retired from

public service and split his time between the Healy farm and his newly-founded Topeka lobbying firm. Most notably, he successfully lobbied for the Boot Hill Casino in Dodge City and Horse Thief Reservoir in Jetmore.

He was operating his businesses when Governor-elect Sam Brownback approached him. "The Governor wanted to boost the Kansas tourism industry. I was initially skeptical, but when I learned the plan was to transfer Tourism to KDWP and showcase the Kansas outdoors, I was completely on board," he said.

Jennison resolutely compliments previous KDWP leadership. "I've said it on practically every occasion, Steve (Williams) and

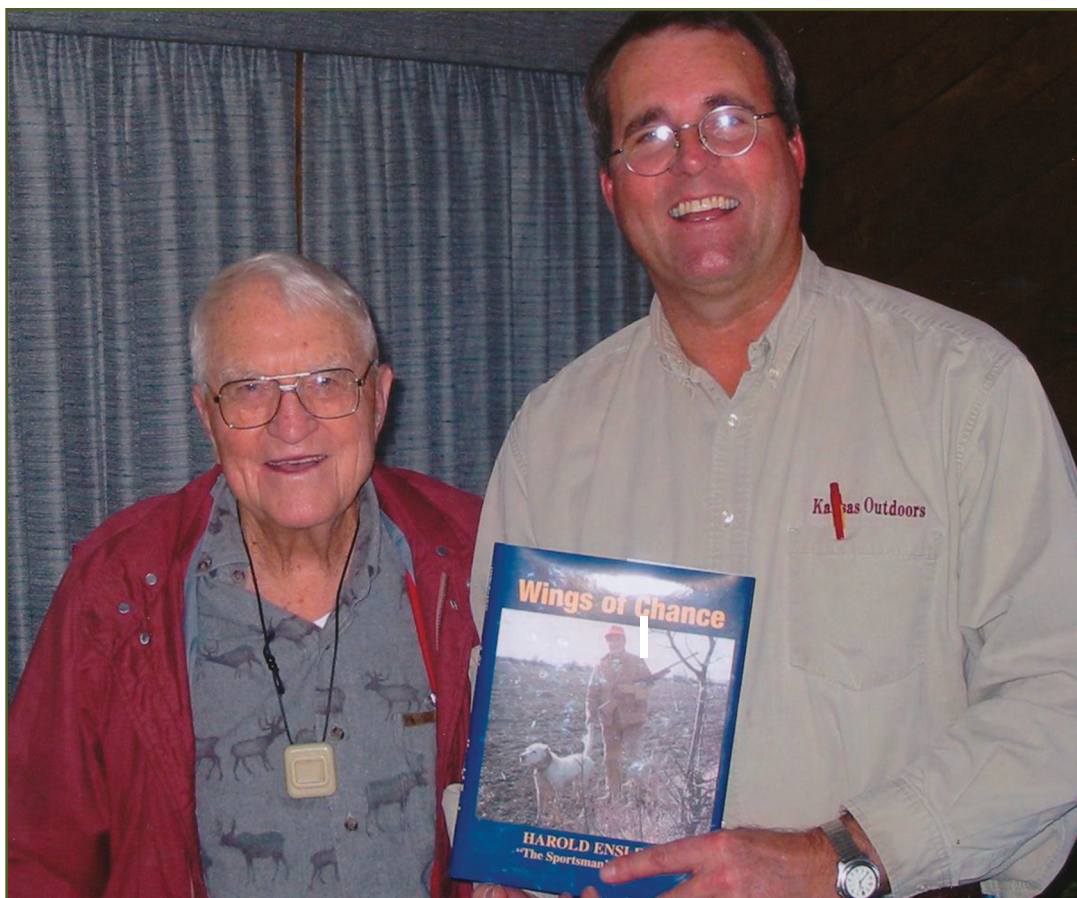
Mike (Hayden) have both left this agency in great shape - especially when you think about the limited resources that were presented to them. They have done a great job and should be commended."

The new appointment will change Jennison's involvement in the family farm. "I did most of the planting," he explained. "You know, it's funny. I used to always hate running the tractor. I just got bored. But in later years, I've gotten to where I really enjoy it. But the tractors have changed a lot. When I started driving, it was an open cab. It was hot. The cabs now are really nice and with a cell phone, I can still transact business."

This self-proclaimed "cell-phone addict" sticks mainly to email and texting and says, "If you took my computer away, I would be fine. But if you took away my cell phone, I'd be helpless."

Jennison lives with his wife, Coleen. She is the director of government affairs for Cox Communications. The couple married six years ago in Ireland.

Jennison has two grown children from a previous marriage and has a four-year old granddaughter. Does Grandpa Jennison plan to take his granddaughter hunting? "I think spending time fishing with Grandpa might be better," he chuckled, "But I guess if she wants to, I will." ♡



The late Harold Ensley, fellow Healy native and outdoor television pioneer, autographed a copy of his book, *Wings of Chance*, for Jennison at a Healy centennial celebration.

*A little of your time . . .
the time of their life*



PASS IT ON



by Mike Miller
editor, Pratt

Pass It On is the department's hunter recruitment and retention program. Through special seasons, special hunts and outdoor skills events, Pass It On has introduced thousands of youngsters to the Kansas outdoors since 2001.



Marc Murrell photo

The 11-year-old looked every bit the country girl. She wore boot-cut jeans, roper boots, and a flannel jacket. I would not have been surprised if she had told me she was an avid hunter and shooter. Although she appeared apprehensive when she stepped into the shooting stand, her eyes sparkled with excitement. She was one of the nearly 60 youngsters attending the Council Grove Pass It On Outdoor Skills event, and she was about to shoot a shotgun for the first time.

As I do with all students, I asked her if she'd shot a shotgun before. "Nope," she said looking tentatively at the youth model 20-gauge Beretta in my hands.

"How about a BB gun or .22?" I followed. She assured me that she'd shot her brothers' BB guns but never a shotgun. Her eyes told me that she couldn't wait.

She asked if the shotgun was going to "kick." I told her that we use semi-automatics because they have low recoil and assured her it would be more of a surprise than a "kick." Our first exercise, before we shot, was to "point" at the target with a finger instead of a shotgun. After explaining what I wanted her to do, I released a target from the machine. A long floating incoherer came at us, and while she pointed the finger on her left hand at the target, I said "bang" to let her know when I would want her to shoot it.

"It's simple as that," I said with a wink. "If you mount the gun correctly, it will shoot where you're looking. If you keep both eyes open and focus on the target, it will break."

She looked disbelieving at me

from the corner of her eye, but I was confident that she would break a target. I loaded a shell in the gun, closed the action and helped her mount the gun properly. I told her to follow the target but not to shoot until I said "bang." I looked over her right shoulder as the target approached, and I could tell this student would require a little more attention. The gun barrel was pointing a foot to the left, rather than at the bottom edge of the target. I told her not to shoot, and we talked about eye dominance. She was left-eye dominant and right handed.

"No problem," I assured her. "We'll just scrunch your left eye before you shoot." She did as I asked, and I could tell by looking over her shoulder that the muzzle was in line this time. I said "bang," and the target exploded. I usually get more excited than the students when this happens, but her smile told me she was thrilled. When I asked her if she wanted to shoot again, she nodded enthusiastically.

I always like to have shooters mount the gun under their dominant eye, and youngsters who haven't shot much can usually



Providing youngsters with outdoor skills training is one facet of the Pass It On program. Wingshooting has been emphasized because of Kansas' bird and waterfowl hunting traditions. Trained instructors conduct 50-60 clinics each year.



photo courtesy of Manuel Torres

Waterfowl biologist Faye McNew teaches youngsters about waterfowl ID at a one-day waterfowl hunting event hosted annually at Scott State Park. Attendees learn all facets of waterfowl hunting, including wingshooting and can enter drawings to win guided hunts.

learn to shoot with either hand, so I convinced her to switch and shoot left handed. I got that “I’m not sure about this” look again as I adjusted the gun to her left shoulder. I reminded her to keep both eyes open this time and loaded the gun. As the target floated in, I could see the muzzle was right in line. I said “bang” and this target was powdered. Her eyes lit up again, and I told her she was a natural.

“When you go home tonight, tell your brothers you can shoot left- and right-handed. I’ll bet none of them can do that,” I said as she left the stand beaming.

For the past 10 years, I’ve been working with the department’s Pass It On program, which is designed to recruit young hunters and retain current hunters. One of the program’s points of emphasis has been outdoor skills training – exposing youngsters to the skills necessary to enjoy hunting. Since Kansas has such a strong upland bird hunting tradition, wingshooting has been a big part of the skills training. A wingshooting clinic is easy to accommodate. All we need is an open area with a 300-yard downrange safe zone, a mowed or cleared

shooting area and some young shooters. KDWP has trailers and trained instructors who will show up and in about 30 minutes have a shooting station set up and ready to go. The shooting trailers include shotguns, shells, targets, mechanical remote-release traps and safety equipment. Safety is a priority with every set-up.

In addition to the outdoor skills events, special youth hunts are also part of the Pass It On program. A youth hunt is often a special event held during the youth season. Some take place on private land while others take

place on public land that's not usually open to public hunting. A limited number of young hunters are accepted to participate, and they and an accompanying parent or guardian are paired up with a local guide. The special youth hunt events are driven by KDWP field staff – natural resource officers, biologists, park managers and wildlife area managers. Field staff coordinate Pass It On events for two reasons: first, they strongly believe in passing on our hunting heritage and second, they are interested in working with people in their communities. The events are outstanding PR for KDWP and

the areas we manage, and they get kids outside and exposed to hunting-related recreation. Every successful event requires lots of hard work, as well as help from community volunteers. More often than not, local conservation organization chapters such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, the Wild Turkey Federation, Hunter Education Program instructors and local civic groups get involved. Eventually, the annual events become largely community efforts, which ensures longevity and success.

The Pass It On program was established in 2000 in response to a declining trend in resident

hunting license sales. It was a trend seen nationwide, but it was particularly troubling in Kansas because our outdoor heritage is so strong. We consider Kansas to be largely rural and agricultural, and in that environment, hunting is a natural part of life. But the number of hunters is declining in the heartland, and there's more at stake than our hunting heritage. Money from the sale of hunting licenses and permits, as well as the federal money from excise taxes on hunting equipment, pays for all of our wildlife conservation programs. Fewer hunters mean less conservation funding for all wildlife species. And fewer



Brent Konen photo

Council Grove Wildlife Area manager Brent Konen organizes an annual event each fall that provides wingshooting, pellet gun and archery shooting instruction. The event has grown to attract more than 60 kids, who spend the afternoon learning about shooting and having fun.

hunters means youngsters aren't learning about our hunting heritage.

Over the last 11 years, we've learned a lot about Kansas hunters. One thing that may surprise people is that Kansas' population is becoming largely urban. There has been a steady, long-term migration of people from rural communities to urban communities, and it has only accelerated in recent years. Research has shown that youngsters growing up in small rural communities are much more likely to hunt. However, we've also learned the just living in a rural community isn't a guarantee that you'll get the opportunity to hunt. Kids in rural communities are just as vulnerable to the modern distractions of computers, video games, and an endless list of extra curricular activities that compete for their time.

In 2000, we knew we were selling fewer hunting licenses in a given year, but we didn't know much about hunters' buying patterns. Since 2005, KDWP has sold licenses through an automated system, and we now have five years of electronic data on our constituents. Mining that data, we've learned that we weren't losing hunters as fast as we thought. We've learned that many of our hunters may only buy a permit or license once every three years. We can't gauge the number of hunters by looking at single-year license sales. We know everyone is busy these days, but we've also made buying a license or permit easier and more convenient than it's ever been. In fact, you can get everything you need from your home the night before you plan to hunt. And, unfortunately for



Brent Koenen photo

All of the outdoor skills events stress hands-on activities and keep kids moving and busy. KDWP staff couldn't do the events without the help of volunteers, including hunter education instructors and conservation organization members.

license revenues, if the weather turns bad or you get busy, you can postpone buying a license.

The most common reason given by those who don't hunt as avidly as they once did is "not enough time." People simply have more things to do these days. And just as a hunter can postpone buying a permit or going hunting in a given year, parents can get busy and postpone taking their children hunting, even though they think it's important.

Many of today's parents who grew up hunting with family members want the same experiences for their children. However, many of them have moved to urban communities and have lost touch with the people they grew up hunting with. And there are far fewer family farms today. Thirty years ago, many people had a relative who farmed, and that provided a connection for access to private land for hunting. Without that

link, the prospect of getting permission to hunt on private land can be intimidating, and it takes time. There is a common perception that public land will be crowded or overhunted.

And that's where the Pass It On programs come in. Parents can bring their kids to events, knowing they'll have a safe environment in which to learn. If the kids like it, they can commit more time and resources to getting in the field. Youth-only seasons also play a valuable role. Kansas offers deer, waterfowl, pheasant and quail, and spring turkey youth seasons. A youth season typically opens prior to the regular season, providing parents a perfect opportunity to take kids hunting on public land knowing it won't be crowded and hasn't been hunted.

Over the years, I've developed a theory about kids and hunting and fishing. I believe that the drive to pursue these outdoor activities is in all of us



Marc Murrell photo

The ultimate Pass It On event is the youth hunt. This doe was taken during the annual Harper County Youth Deer Hunt, which was started in 2000. Each year the Anthony community comes together to host up to 20 youngsters for a youth season deer hunt.

to certain degrees. If you take 50 youngsters on a youth hunt, I believe 10 might think that hunting is the best thing they've ever done, and they'll want to go again. Twenty will think that hunting is fun and they'll go again if their friends go. And the rest will enjoy the experience but decide that they enjoy soccer, football or video games more. Our time isn't lost on those who decide hunting isn't for them, though. They'll have a better understanding of hunting and be more likely to support KDWP conservation issues in the future.

Outdoor skills days and youth hunts are essential to reaching the 20 percent of youngsters who will discover a lifelong passion for the outdoors. We have to expose them and their parents to the experience and convince them that spending time teaching their kids about hunting and/or fishing is valuable time. We need to capture the young boys who can't get

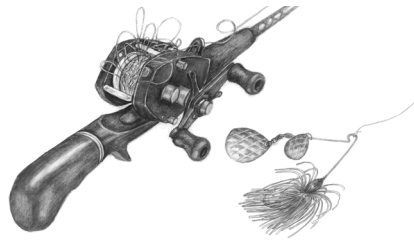
enough of hunting or fishing. We need to show 11-year-old girls that they can shoot a shotgun, rifle or bow or cast a lure as well as their brothers and that, against our cultural stereotypes, they can enjoy hunting and fishing.

I don't know if the young girl I worked with at the Council Grove event ever hunted. I hope she got the chance if she wanted it. She came back for several more turns with the shotgun that afternoon, and she showed lots of promise. I hope her mother, father or other adult mentor took the time to teach her about hunting. Whether she turns into an avid hunter or not, she deserves the chance to learn. The ultimate goal of the Pass It On program is for her to become a hunter and purchase hunting licenses when she's older. However, I think it's more important that her family took time to teach her about hunting and the outdoors. That time will

help ensure that she grows into a healthy, well-rounded teenager while strengthening the family bonds.

You see, I have another theory about the kids who attend our events. I have attended dozens of hunts and outdoor skills events over the past 11 years, and I have not been around a kid who misbehaved. I know that some of them got into trouble before and after the event, but while I was working with them, they were polite, respectful and fun to be around. I've decided that kids respond in an especially positive manner to the one-to-one instruction we provide. They appreciate the time the adult instructors take with them, and they are outside and doing something that is fun and exciting. I believe that teaching youngsters about the outdoors, to hunt and fish, is a great way to connect and build trusting relationships. We need to pass on our outdoor heritage to our youth for the sake of conservation, but more importantly for the sake of our young people.

That's what Pass It On is really all about. There isn't a silver bullet that will dramatically turn the tide in hunter numbers. It requires every single event, each skills day that attracts 50 kids, each youth hunt that accommodates 20 kids, and each individual mentoring effort. As I've worked in the Pass It On program, I've learned how lucky I was to grow up hunting with my dad and granddad. I guess I used to think everyone had that in their lives, but I've learned that's not the case. But it's not too late. We can make a difference, one kid at a time. ♡



Backlash

by Mike Miller

One Good Dog Leads To Another

I know, I know, you're thinking, "Here he goes again, getting all sappy about a hunting dog." Well, yeah, maybe.

A good friend called me today to tell me he had to put his 10 ½-year-old Lab down. We made small talk at first, but the real reason for his call finally came up: He'd lost a good friend, and he wanted to tell someone who would understand.

I'd met Huck several times, as the dog was the man's constant companion, criss-crossing the state with him to trap shoots and fishing trips. He was great dog, as most Labs are, happy to greet anyone who would scratch his ears and give him attention. But the dog was much more than a pet to the man. And as the old saying goes, "The only bad thing about good dogs is that we always outlive them."

After we talked about the health problems and attempts to find cures before the final decision was made, we talked about the dog. Huck had been by his side for almost 11 years, bringing comfort through some particularly difficult times. I didn't blubber, but almost. I could easily relate because I've been down the exact same path several times and will undoubtedly go down it again.

Our conversation reminded me that my Lab, Creede, is 10 years old now. As I write this, he's in great shape physically. After a year of rehab on his surgically repaired knee, Creede hunted pheasants with me several times last fall. The best day was when we left the Brittany pup home with sore feet. Creede appeared quite happy with this arrangement, and he hunted beautifully. I was lucky enough to knock down a limit of roosters for him to retrieve.

The first bird might have been the most satisfying. I could tell he was working a running bird, and while he usually works very close, his pace was picking up. I told my cousin to hustle with me and keep close in case the bird flushed wild. As we jogged a short distance, Creede suddenly changed direction toward us, and the bird flushed between my cousin and me. We both shot, and Creede was on the bird in an instant. I pulled out a camera as Creede retrieved his first bird in almost two years. But rather than bring the bird straight back to me like usual, Creede pranced around my cousin and then



made a circle around me, showing off his prize and fetching style, before placing the rooster in my hand.

I couldn't have enjoyed the day more. I was hunting my old boyhood stomping grounds in Kiowa County with my cousin who is also one of my best friends, and Creede was having a great day. I appreciated it then, but after talking to my friend about losing his Lab, I had to relive the day.

Creede has been my shadow since the day I brought him home. I've never had a more loyal dog. He won't win any field trial contests, but he is a great companion, happy doing whatever I'm doing. I wrote earlier this fall about making sure I treasured my time with him this fall, and I was lucky enough to get the chance.

I feel so much empathy for my friend, and I hope he'll get another puppy. As I've said before, you don't replace a good dog. It's more like starting over, beginning a new journey with a new personality because they're all different. My friend attributed a great quote to his veterinarian, who said after they had made the decision to put Huck down, "Huck was a great dog, and I hope he leads you to another."

My sentiments, exactly. ♡

