

# KANSAS

*Wildlife & Parks*

MARCH/APRIL 2014

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# KANSAS *View*

by Robin Jennison



## MANAGING LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKENS

This March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will announce its decision on whether or not to add the lesser prairie chicken to the federal list of threatened species. While it may seem strange, staff at the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism are hoping the species is not listed. In fact, our biologists have worked diligently for the past two years to collaboratively assemble a range-wide, comprehensive lesser prairie chicken conservation plan that could dissuade the USFWS to list the species. Why? Because with this conservation plan and our private landowner and industry partners, we're confident we can ensure a viable, sustainable lesser prairie chicken population.

We have two species of prairie chickens in Kansas, the lesser and the greater. The greater inhabits the native prairie in the Flint Hills of east-central Kansas and the Smoky Hills of northcentral Kansas. The lesser prairie chicken historically occupied sand sagebrush, shinnery oak, and mixed grass vegetation types of the southern Great Plains. In Kansas, they occupy the southwest quarter of the state, with populations as far north as far north as Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego and Ellis counties, where suitable habitat exists. Lesser prairie chickens and their habitat have diminished across their historical range by about 90 percent. In 1998, the USFWS determined that the lesser prairie chicken was warranted for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) but was precluded because of higher listing priorities. In December 2012, the USFWS released a proposed rule indicating the agency was considering listing the lesser prairie chicken as "threatened" under the ESA, with a final determination to be made by September 2013 (postponed until March 2014). The Range-wide Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation Plan (RLPCCP) was developed to provide voluntary conservation for lesser prairie chickens and to preclude the need for final listing.

The RLPCCP is the initiative of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), which coordinated an interstate working group to develop a conservation plan that would increase the population of the lesser prairie chickens across the original range. State wildlife agencies involved include Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado. Because most of the current lesser prairie chicken habitat is on privately owned land, representatives from state agencies believed voluntary habitat enhancement

projects would be more attractive to landowners if the species was not listed. The agencies also believe they can implement this plan and manage the species locally.

While the USFWS endorsed the final draft of the range-wide plan, it is not known what influence it will have on the final decision. Some of the plan's focal points include:

- Identifies range-wide and sub-population goals for lesser prairie chickens, the first benchmark being a 10-year average of 67,000 birds range-wide.
- Identifies desired habitat amounts and conditions to achieve the population goal within the first 10-year timeframe.
- Enhances programs and cooperative efforts to encourage and expand voluntary landowner cooperation in the development and maintenance of the desired habitat conditions, while providing sign-up bonuses and cost-sharing payments to enrolled landowners.
- Promotes agreements designed to avoid and minimize impacts to lesser prairie chicken habitat from various development activities and where avoidance is not possible, mitigate impacts.
- Establishes a mitigation framework that could be used by any entity and administered by WAFWA that will offset impacts to lesser prairie chicken habitat with offsite mitigation.
- Identifies research needs and implements monitoring.
- Maintains management authority with the affected state wildlife agencies even if the bird is found to be warranted for federal protections

Overall, the RLPCCP will allow for economic development to continue in a seamless manner by providing an efficient mechanism to voluntarily conserve the lesser prairie chicken and/or comply with the ESA, if the final determination is to list the species. The RLPCCP encourages participants to immediately enact proactive and voluntary conservation activities in response to the proposed listing. Goals and objectives associated with population levels, habitat conservation objectives using short and long term agreements, and funding streams will be reviewed, and adjusted accordingly through an adaptive management process. ♡



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**Front Cover:** Rex Schmidt, Greensburg, holds a 4-pound wiper taken from Milford Reservoir last fall. Mike Miller photo. **Back Cover:** Spring is the time for the white bass run. Whites usually start up the reservoir feeder streams in late March and early April, and it's Time for light tackle and fun fishing. Marc Murrell photo.



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

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# Letters . . .



Bob Gress photo

## CORRECTION:

On Page 16 of the January/February 2014 issue of the magazine, the photo of the killdeer was incorrectly credited to Danny Brown. The photo was taken by Bob Gress. Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine apologizes for the error.

—editor

## SUNFLOWER SELF-ESTEEM

Editor:

I had the joy of spending about three years in Kansas – some of the time with a regular job enjoying all that Kansas had to offer and part of the time finishing my ME degree at KU. I was always amazed at the low esteem Kansans held for their state. I loved my time there and I am one of those strange souls who drives from North Carolina to southwest Kansas every year to hunt quail and pheasants. Knee replacement surgery has shut me down for a couple of years but I'll be back soon.

I agree wholeheartedly with Robin that Kansas is a beautiful state with wonderful experiences to offer. I hope your readers will take this admonishment to heart and recognize the value of the Kansas outdoors. I will continue to help straighten out those folks who think they know what Kansas is like by having had the experience of viewing only about a

mile-wide strip of the state as they have driven across on I-70.

Thanks for this editorial. I hope it has the desired effect.

Winston Dixon  
New Bern, NC

## INSPIRED YOUNG BOWHUNTER

Editor:

In sports, specifically outdoor sports, there are all kinds of safety procedures to be followed. In the article "In the Blink of an Eye" even though Mr. Umbarger had a safety vest on, you can never predict when something is going to happen. Hunters can never be too safe when it comes to bowhunting from a tree stand.

I for one can relate to this article, and it also has taught me a very important lesson. I am a young bowhunter – this is my third year of bowhunting, and I do not wear a vest when I'm in a treestand even though many people have told me I need to. I tell them that there is no way I can fall out. Reading this article made me realize that it can happen at any time in a blink of an eye.

This article is one of the most inspirational stories, how Mr. Umbarger had the most positive outlook on life. Even when nothing was going his way, he just kept up the most positive attitude on what he was doing. It helped that he has a great

friend who helped him with hunting. I have the most respect for Mr. Umbarger and his outlook on life and his passion for hunting.

Cooper Brown



Tod Marder photo

## SUBTLE BEAUTY

Editor,

My name is Tod Marder. I was raised on a farm in Bucyrus, Kan. I have been living in Alaska for 13 years, and before that Wyoming was home for a decade. I am coming to Kansas this spring to hunt turkeys with my elderly father and 4-year-old son.

In the Jan/Feb issue Robin Jennison wrote about "Improving Our Self-esteem." I have lived many places filled with dramatic scenery, but I've always maintained that natural beauty can be found anywhere, as long as you are receptive. Kansas is full of subtle beauty and I look forward to introducing my son to it, firsthand.

Tod H. Marder  
Anchorage, Ak.



## LEUCISTIC CARDINAL

Editor:

I took this pictures of a leucistic Northern cardinal in our front yard and thought you might like to see them.

Julie Newberry  
Wellington

# BIRD BRAIN

with Mike Rader

## LET THE BIRDING BEGIN

the winter residents and migrants all inhabiting Kansas together for a short time. Warblers, vireos, buntings, orioles and other assorted migrants and summer residents show up in mid- to late April, as well, making spring the most exciting season for birding in our state.

The small community of Wakefield, on the north end of Milford Lake, will host the Kansas Birding Festival, April 25-27 this spring. Attending birders will enjoy a variety of birding opportunities with prime access to areas on Ft. Riley, typically inaccessible to the public. The Fort has a sizable population of greater prairie chickens, upland sandpipers, Henslow's sparrows and other grassland species highly sought after by birders. More information on this festival can be found at: [www.kansasbirdingfestival.com](http://www.kansasbirdingfestival.com)

The annual spring field trip/meeting of the Kansas Ornithological Society will be held the first weekend of May in Junction City. Those who can attend both should find it interesting to see changes in species and numbers that occur from one weekend to the next as migration continues. More information on this event can be found at: [www.ksbirds.org](http://www.ksbirds.org). Make plans to attend at least one of these great events and also take time to get out as much as you can in the spring – as a birder, you will not be disappointed!



## BECOMING AN OUTDOORS-WOMAN WORKSHOP IN MAY

If you've ever wondered what baits catch what fish, how to start a fire with your bare hands, or even have thought about coasting a creek in a canoe, you should sign up for the 2014 Spring Becoming An Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop this May. Held at Rock Springs 4-H Center May 16-18, the workshop will offer participants courses on everything from wood-carving and GPS basics, to rifle marksmanship and fly fishing.

Offered through the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP), BOW is a non-profit, non-membership program designed to teach women outdoor skills. The workshop will offer over 25 different classes thanks to a core of volunteer instructors, including KDWP employees, law enforcement officials, and even past participants, all of whom are considered to be experts in their field.

Cost for the three-day workshop is \$250, which includes lodging, meals and class supplies. Three \$100 scholarships are

available to first-time participants based on financial need.

Early registration will be open to first-time participants through March 15. If spots still remain, past participants may register beginning March 16. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as the spring workshop is limited to 48 participants and the application period will close May 2. To register, visit [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), click "Services/Education/Becoming an Outdoors Woman," and download a registration form.

For questions, contact Jami McCabe at (785) 845-5052 or [kansasbow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kansasbow@sbcglobal.net).

—KDWP News



# IT'S THE LAW

with Kevin Jones



## PREPARE BOATS FOR SAFETY

With winter behind us, I'm sure that everyone is ready for the spring's outdoor activities to begin. It's time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, and for some boating will play a big role in your activities. Whether boating is part of your fishing trip, waterskiing or you simply enjoy cruising on the water, it's a good idea to check out your boat and equipment before you go to the lake. Experienced boaters know that making sure a boat is mechanically sound and ready to run, plus knowing required safety equipment is on board, accessible and serviceable, provides peace of mind. Every year our officers experience numerous situations where problems, even tragedies, could be avoided if only boat owners and operators had taken a moment to make sure they were ready to launch.

As the name implies, the department's boating safety enforcement program focuses on and emphasizes safety while boating. Safety is the priority. That is why the law requires safety equipment to be on board and readily accessible for use. Our officers

are also instructed to observe a zero tolerance policy on certain safety violations, particularly enforcing the requirements for personal flotation devices, AKA life jackets. Annually the most common boating violation cited is for insufficient and unserviceable life jackets. It is sad to say, that the overwhelming contributing factor in the loss of life due to drowning is the fact that the person was not wearing a life jacket. Too often people misjudge their swimming ability.

There are a number of other safety items that should not be overlooked. Fire extinguishers, sound devices and navigation lights, for operation after sunset, are also very important. All of this equipment is required to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time on the water.

Not only is safety equipment important, so is the maintenance of the boat and motor. Conditions frequently change on the water. A calm lake early in the day may quickly change to rough, white-capped water when winds pickup. Having a watercraft that is reliable and capable of handling the conditions is necessary to get everyone safely off the water if necessary.

Sometimes our officers are criticized for simply doing their job. There are no ticket quotas to be met, nor do officers desire to take the fun out of someone's day. However, our officers strive to make sure everyone is safe on the water. It's better to deal with someone's consternation rather than deal with the survivors of a tragedy that could have been prevented. This is a sobering message, but it is intended as a reminder that with just a little planning and attention to detail, everyone can have a good day on the water.

## 15TH ANNUAL STATE FINALS ECO-MEET A SUCCESS

A total of 23 teams consisting of 88 students from 21 Kansas high schools participated in the 15th Annual State Finals ECO-Meet on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013 at the Dyck Arboretum at Hesston College. Schools represented at the competition include: Blue Valley Center for Advanced Professional Studies, Chapman, Goddard, Goodland, Haven, Lakewood Middle School of Salina, Maize, McLouth, Mission Valley, Olathe South, Palco, Pratt, Salina South, Shawnee Mission South, St. Mary's-Colgan of Pittsburg, St. John's of Beloit, St. Xavier of Junction City, Tescott, Wakefield, Wilson Junior High and Wilson High School.

ECO-Meets are a series of quiz bowl-type competitions based on knowledge of Kansas plants and animals. Winners were awarded scholarship prizes. The event proved to be an exciting, hard-fought contest, with the following results posted:

### OVERALL TEAM

**1st place:** Olathe South HS, (\$300/student scholarship)  
Stephen DeHart, Rachel Meyers, Hannah Parrinello, Nadia Qureshi  
and team coach Rene Gloschen.

**2nd place:** Shawnee Mission South HS, (\$200/student scholarship)  
Jessica Jurczak, Jake Morrissey, Joe Petty, Ashleigh Smith  
and team coach P.J. Born.

**3rd place:** Maize HS, Team A, (\$100/student scholarship)  
Sam Urban, Skyler Roth, Ben Emerson, Kris Super,  
and team coach Jay Super.

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

#### Mammalogy

**1st Place:** Stephen DeHart,  
Olathe South HS (\$200 scholarship)

**2nd Place:** Jake Morrissey,  
Shawnee Mission South HS (\$100 scholarship)

#### Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem

**1st Place:** Stephen DeHart,  
Olathe South HS (\$200 scholarship)

**2nd Place:** Kris Super,  
Maize HS (\$100 scholarship).

Eight regional qualifying competitions were held to see who claimed the honor of representing their location at the state finals. The regional locations were: Wilson Lake in Russell County, the Sternberg Museum in Hays, Milford Nature Center near Junction City, Lakewood Discovery Center in Salina, Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Dillon Nature Center in Hutchinson, Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, and the Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe. The Kansas ECO-Meet committee is considering at least one new location (Garden City) for 2014 and also a return to the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush to host the regionals, so there is potential for continued growth of this program.

—KDWP News



# ELECTRICITY (IT'S A LOVE/HATE THING)

Electricity can be a wonderful thing, but I had to remind myself of that not too long ago. A friend brought two show horses over to my house because there was no boarding space available at the horse show. I had ample acreage, so I had no problem having horse guests. The horses were beautiful. The corral my friend created had the horse trailer as a covered stall and a yellow ribbon around the outside to serve as a fence. It didn't look like a very sturdy corral to me, but he told me the horses were affectionate and loved apples.

I went inside and got two apples to feed the horses – I felt kind of like a horse whisperer. One horse spied the apples and immediately trotted over to the corral ribbon. I don't know horse breeds, but it was a big, black, shiny one. He nickered appreciatively as I offered him an apple, but it turned out he wasn't as gentle as he looked. He grabbed the whole apple and a bite of each of my fingers. I jerked my hand back and looked down bug-eyed, trying to assess the damage to my digits caused by this rude, carnivorous beast. Then, my hand struck the pretty yellow ribbon.

I shouted in pain and threw the other apple as the ribbon of death electrocuted me. High voltage traveled through my body, and the smell of baked apples and burnt internal organs permeated the air. I crumpled to the ground. My whole body ached, and I got up clutching myself, trying to run off the pain. Both horses were nickering – which sounded a lot like chuckling. I can't stand a chuckling horse. Electricity can be bad.

I hate getting shocked, but the advent of the shock collar for training dogs came at an opportune time. The day I bought my collar, I was optimistic that I might at last be able to hunt my dog with other people. Up until that time, I could only hunt an area that was unoccupied for a square mile.

My English setter, Ace, loved to hunt – just not with me. If Ace had a calendar, he would have marked the day I strapped a shock collar on him with a skull and crossbones. As I put the new shock collar around Ace's neck for the first time, he was straining against me, wanting to get a head start on hunting a spot just past the horizon. With the collar firmly in place, I released him, and he bolted off the tailgate in a swirl of black and white hair. I began yelling for him to whoa, but by the third "Ace, whoa!" command, he was an eighth of a mile away and still accelerating – heading north to Ontario, Canada to hunt partridge, I guess. I finally leaned on the full power button and he yelped dog curses at me, realizing that the collar I had attached to his neck was some sort of medieval device. He had always outrun any problem before, so he cranked up to warp speed to avoid the shock. It didn't work, but he still made a 200-acre yelping semi-circle before arriving at my feet. With a defiant look, he began rolling in the mud in an attempt to destroy the collar.

When Ace figured out he couldn't destroy the collar, he

began devising new plots. His best idea was to test the strength of the device hourly. When the batteries eventually got too low to make him uncomfortable enough to hunt for me, he would head off to the next county to hunt for himself, always returning right before I fired up my truck to leave him. By the time collar technology finally enabled me to keep him in check for an entire hunting trip, Ace had a permanent negative charge. Anybody who petted Ace received a residual jolt. When he discovered that he could give as well as receive voltage he became vengeful. He would sneak up behind me while cleaning his pen or talking to the neighbors and touch his nose to the back of the leg. The resulting tingle was impressive. "Yeah Bob, tell your wife that the cake she sent over was AAAiiiiieee! Mangy mutt!" Neighbor relations are overrated anyway.

Ace is gone now and I am sure there is a wide expanse of the universe that he hunts voltage free. I still use shock collars on my hunting dogs. My current dog Deuce only needs a tone to keep her in check. However, I am sure she has had discussions with my Golden Retriever Shadow, who has on two occasions buried my remote control in the yard, hoping to have me mow it over with my tractor. The only thing keeping this from happening is that Shadow always buries it with the antennae sticking out of the ground. Sometimes I lie in bed at night and wonder if I have seriously underestimated the intelligence of dogs.

Good or bad, electricity is fascinating. When I worked for the cable company, three of us were at a job site with a bucket truck working on a main line issue. More accurately, Dale was working in the bucket while Mike and I were preoccupied, watching a very powerful fence charger, servicing a pasture fence that ran next to the high line. This charger was periodically arcing with an audible "snap" to a piece of barbed wire a foot away. Fascinated by the awesome power of the small box, we engaged in a scientific experiment to gauge the distance that the electric fence would arc to a roll of ground wire mounted to the bucket truck. I was vaguely aware of the sounds of a river dance coming from the bucket above us, but too mesmerized to put the pieces of this puzzle together. We backed farther and farther back and guessed that it would arc 2 feet.

"Holy cow this thing is hot; there is a lot of dang voltage on this line," Dale exclaimed as he peered over the edge. "It's shocking the bejeebies out of me!" As luck would have it, at that moment we set a new arc record, the blue line snapping as Dale, with one hand on the line, looked at us all googly eyed and did his river dance encore singing a song from his ancestors. As the circuit was broken, a pair of channel lock pliers came rifling down from above, a harbinger of tools to come. My partner and I ran down the road as the bucket descended. Electricity can be funny and dangerous – and can lead to a good cardiovascular workout. It was a 7-mile run back to work.

*A stressor is a chemical or biological agent, environmental condition, external stimulus or an event that causes stress to an organism.*

Stressors are common among boaters. The topic is generally discussed in conjunction with boating under the influence as the symptoms can mimic drug or alcohol use. Stressors can also add to the effects of alcohol. Stressors affect behavior and reaction time, making response to emergency situations slower. Many boaters greatly underestimate the effect these stressors have on fatigue. While perhaps not fatal themselves, stressors may weaken your body and mind enough to increase the chances of an accident.

Stressors are divided into two categories: medical and environmental.

- Examples of medical stressors include seasickness, vertigo, and insulin shock.
- Examples of environmental stressors include nighttime boating, glare from the sun, heat exhaustion, vibration, noise, and fatigue.

In general, when we teach about stressors in boating we are talking about environmental stressors.

Operating a boat at night has its own set of stressors. Background lights affect a boater's ability to navigate by obstructing their view of other vessels or navigation aids. The strain of trying to pick out objects at night can result in an increased respiration rate. Not being able to see landmarks and objects, which are prominent during daylight hours can also be a stressor.

The sun's glare causes eyestrain, which inhibits vision and slows reaction time. Heat will also affect a boater's attention, perception, and motor functions.

Our bodies cool by sweating, which causes dehydration if fluids are not replaced. Dehydration increases fatigue and the

# Boat SAFE

with Erika Brooks

## Boating Stressors



chances for a boating accident. The best way to minimize the risk of dehydration is to drink plenty of water –before, during, and after a day on the water. A good rule of thumb while you are boating in warm weather is to drink water every 15-20 minutes. Boaters should know that drinking alcohol will not replace the fluids your body needs while under heat stress, any more than drinking alcohol will warm you up in the winter.

Simply riding in a boat can cause stress. The average outdrive unit undergoes a minimum of two G forces when riding on calm water. The force increases as wave height increases. This vibration to the body while on a boat is considered a stressor. Noise creates changes in the heart rate and blood flow, which can result in loss of balance, tunnel vision, a decrease in mental performance, and interference with verbal communications.

Fatigue, due to long hours of being in a boat, also slows reactions and inhibits reasoning ability. A fatigued boater operating at a speed of 30 mph will travel 70 feet further in reacting to visual stimulus than a rested operator.

A day on the lake should be fun and relaxing, but boaters need to be aware of the cause and effect of stressors. For information on how make your boating outings safe and fun safely visit [www.ksoutdoors.com/boating](http://www.ksoutdoors.com/boating).





## Wildlife Encounters

On my last visit to my son's family in Dallas, I picked up a magazine lying on his desk. My son is a landscape architect and this particular magazine was all about space. I took a few moments to see what could possibly interest landscape architects. I was pleasantly surprised to see an article regarding living things, and the title captured my attention: "Duck, Goose." It was about how wildlife, particularly geese, impact the modern urban space.

The author, Constance Casey, wrote with powerful emotion about geese, "The V-shaped flocks of migrating Canada geese marked the change in seasons. We used to love them." Holy smokes, we used to love them? What changed? She further explains, ". . . it was a lot easier to express our admiration and awe when they all flew back to Canada in the spring. Now crowds of the majestic birds hang around, grazing and, let's face it, crapping on our lawns."



This morning I read about feral turkeys roving around Staten Island, New York becoming a mess-making, traffic-stopping scourge, attacking people, fouling yards with droppings, and devouring gardens. In Kansas we are blessed to live close to nature, but some wild species have become accustomed to humans and interactions are not always pleasant.

It is estimated that 4 million Canada geese reside in our parks, on our golf courses and on athletic fields around the country - pretty much any place with grass and water. Population projections show that if nothing is done, resident goose flocks can double in number every five years. Experts say the wild turkey population across the nation has rebounded from a low of about 300,000 in the early 1950s to an estimated 7 million.

Fouled water and nibbled crops and lawns are definitely a nuisance, but one that some residents will tolerate. But human-bird encounters can be dangerous. The world watched transfixed when US Airways flight 1549 flew through a flock of geese less than three minutes after take-off from La Guardia Airport. A goose can do a number on a jet engine, and jets don't fly well when both engines are taken out at the same time. Fortunately this event ended with no human casualties. The same can't be said of the goose population. After this incident, USDA Wildlife Services officers and New York City Parks Department staff rounded up and euthanized more than 1,000 geese living close enough to airports to cause a threat.

But this does not seem to be a viable long-term strategy for either the geese or the turkeys. One option is harassment. Many different tactics have been tried to persuade resident geese to relocate either to a "no conflict" area or to a "desirable conflict" area - an area that allows hunting. Hunters harvest about 2.6 million geese each year in North America. I am not suggesting that hunting is the only answer. It may never be an appropriate response in urban New York City, but here in Kansas, hunting is an important management tool. Ms. Casey came to a similar conclusion writing, "Emotions predictably run high when Canada geese are culled," but "like the white-tail deer overpopulation, large flocks of Canada geese are not going away anytime soon." She continues, "We've been giving them easy access to food. Is it so foolish to suggest that we complete the circle by eating them?"

Hunters can be proud of our participation in the natural order of this world. We can expect to continue hunting if we remember to conduct the hunt in a way that meets society's expectations of proper hunting methods and behavior. We can even sleep soundly at night knowing that we are protecting the traveling public both in the air and on the ground. That makes sleeping so much better on these cold winter nights.

## 2013 BIRDING BIG YEAR RESULTS

Fifty-four participants competed in the inaugural Birding Big Year competition in 2013. First place in the Adult Division, James Malcom, Topeka, spotted and identified 319 bird species, setting quite a benchmark for future competitors.

Results for age categories are below:

### Adult Division

- 1st place: James Malcom, Topeka - 319 species (high overall)
- 2nd place: Jeff Calhoun, Dodge City - 314 species
- 3rd place: Matt Gearheart, Shawnee - 284 species

### Youth Division

- 1st place: Sam Schermerhorn, Wamego - 152 species
- 2nd place: Joshua Keating, Milford - 98 species
- 3rd place: Jacob Keating, Milford - 86 species

### Senior Division

- 1st place: Earl (Mick) McHugh, Shawnee Mission - 255 species
- 2nd place: Dan Larson, Berryton - 200 species
- 3rd place - Judith Collins of Salina - 174 species

Designed to get more folks outdoors and watching birds, the

The Kansas Birding Big Year competition came about after Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Secretary Robin Jennison saw the popular movie "The Big Year," depicting avid bird watchers trying to see as many species as they could in a calendar year. Secretary Jennison thought it would be a great way to get more Kansans interested in bird watching, so the competition took flight and continues to gain altitude and popularity as we soar into its second year.

Prizes were provided by sponsors, including Cabela's, Bonner Springs, Bass Pro Shops, Olathe, Walmart, Pratt, Bushnell Optics, Overland Park, JanSport, Alameda, Calif., and Acorn Naturalists of Tustin, Calif.

Although the 2014 competition began Jan. 1, there is still plenty of time to sign up and participate; simply visit [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com) and click "Services," "Education," then "Birding Big Year Competition" and start recording.

—KDWP News



## SMALL GAME LESSONS

the year, and most never makes it past January. The few ducks and geese my son and I took have already been consumed. We didn't hunt pheasants or quail this year, but we did manage to take three deer, and late in the season, a couple of fall turkeys and a few squirrels went into the freezer.

I hunted squirrels when I was a boy, taking to the woods with my squirrel call and my lever-action .22. Looking back, I see that hunting squirrels was a perfect way for me to learn about hunting and taking care of game meat. This past fall, my son Hunter was determined to take a buck and a turkey with his new crossbow, so we spent most of our time in deer and turkey blinds. However, Hunter purchased some Judo points with birthday money just in case we had a chance at small game. On one of our last turkey hunts, he had that opportunity on a couple of squirrels.

After the hunt, I taught Hunter how to dress them, and a few tears were shed as he struggled to skin the pair of bushytails. I assured him that, as with most things in life, he would get better with practice. And as with most hunting, the work begins after the shot, whether it's a deer or squirrel.

Once the squirrels were in the fridge soaking in salt water, Hunter relived the hunt in animated fashion. I waited until he had

After hunting seasons end, I take inventory of the game meat my family harvested. We eat a lot of wild game throughout

forgotten the hard work of cleaning them before I suggested we try another squirrel hunt. He was ready.

I figured since Hunter did the shooting and cleaning, he should do the cooking. I conjured up a simple crockpot recipe: with the squirrels in the pot, he added 2 cups of water and 3 beef bullion cubes along with half an onion. Then he covered the top with three or four slices of bacon. The pot was covered and refrigerated until the next morning. Before he left for school, Hunter started the crockpot on high setting. At noon I returned home to reduce it to the low setting. By 5:30 that evening the meat was tender enough to remove from the bones. I had planned on mixing it with barbecue sauce and making shredded squirrel barbecue sandwiches, but young hands kept sneaking strands to taste test, and before we knew it, the squirrel was nearly gone.



Next year, I think we'll take the .22 rifle and hunt some bushytails earlier in the fall. It will be a good lesson for Hunter to stalk and call squirrels. Although the fun for me will be watching my son hunt them - and clean them, I will more than happy to get the crockpot out and help him eat them; even if I have to hide enough squirrel meat to make a barbecue sandwich.



### FISHIN' with Mike Miller

#### FISHING HOMEWORK

Last October a friend and I enjoyed a beautiful day fishing for wipers on Milford Lake. Rex had never caught a wiper, and I had caught enough to become a huge fan of the hard-fighting fish, which is a striped bass/white bass hybrid. Fishing was slow the first couple of hours, but I was confident we'd find success, so we kept moving and searching.

At 1 in the afternoon, my sonar showed schools of shad with larger fish below. When a small school of shad skittered across the surface as if something below was chasing them, I knew what that something was and I knew we were in the right place. For the next hour, Rex and I eased around the cove casting white jigs to the edge of flooded brush, and we were rewarded with jarring strikes and amazing battles with wipers weighing 1.5-4.5 pounds. Not big by Milford standards, but just what we were looking for. I was happy and Rex was a converted wiper addict.

So, why did I choose to drive three hours to Milford that day

and stay optimistic after several hours of fruitless fishing?

I had done my homework. I first looked at the 2013 Fishing Forecast and found that Milford ranked No. 1 in the state for wipers. The Density Rating was 11.3, which is the number of wipers 12 inches long or longer caught per unit of sampling effort. The Preferred Rating, which is the number of these wipers longer than 15 inches was also tops in the state at 9.8, and the Lunker Rating for wipers at Milford was No. 1 at 2.35. The Lunker Rating is the number of wipers longer than 20 inches. That's pretty much the trifecta on wipers, putting Milford solidly in first place.

Next I checked out the Weekly Fishing Report on the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism website. The report mentioned that wiper fishing was good and that anglers were following gulls and catching fish in shallow water on jigs and rattling crankbaits. But I didn't stop there. I made a couple of phone calls to anglers I knew fished Milford that fall and asked some questions about the general location and depth of water they fished. It can also be a good idea to call a local KDWPT office, a marina or bait shop. You may not find everything you need to know at any one of these sources but together, the information can provide a good picture of the fishing.

There are no guarantees when fishing a large reservoir, but with a little homework, you can increase your odds of catching fish. The 2014 Fishing Forecast starts on Page 28, and you'll find it and weekly reports at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com).



# Accidental HUNTRESS

with Nadia Marji

ACCIDENTALHUNTRESS.BLOGSPOT.COM/

## A Huntress and Her Harvest: *Easy-Peasy Pheasant Stroganoff*

I'll be the first to tell you that cooking wild game can be pretty daunting for a new hunter. There's no label on the back of a package to tell you the ideal cooking method, no sauce packet included on the side, and there's certainly no going to the store to buy more if you mess up.

I didn't grow up hunting and eating wild game, so when it came time for me to begin cooking my harvests, I had no experience to go off. In fact, prior to becoming a hunter, the closest I probably ever came to "preparing" anything "wild" was smearing a spoonful of duck liver pâté onto a Triscuit (and it was probably a farm-raised duck, at that).

Prior to my huntress days, I used to be a Tyson/Butterball/Jennie-O type of gal, looking at meat as nothing more than a package and a price tag. It never really sunk-in with me that these were once living, breathing animals with eyes and ears and heartbeats and breaths. Like many others, I didn't want to face that so-called "reality." But now that I'm a hunter, and have experienced what it means to harvest my own food, from start to finish, I realize that a package of boneless, skinless, chicken breast tenderloins isn't "reality" at all. In fact it's like cruising through the meat-eating world from the backseat of a Honda Civic hatchback when you could be experiencing it through the driver's seat of a decked-out Maserati. Okay, maybe not a Maserati, but there's definitely

something to be said for plucking a bird out of the sky first thing in the morning to plucking its feathers that night. It's a type of connection to nature you can only get by hopping in the driver's seat and experiencing it for yourself.

My latest hunting adventure led me to the wonderful meat that is pheasant. I had never cooked pheasant prior to this point, but I hopped in the driver's seat and drove it like I stole it. After all, cooking wild game should be just as much part of the adventure as the hunt itself. And I've learned that if you try cooking game a certain way and you hit a dead end, you can always hit reverse and try again. If you find a good recipe that works for you, mark that baby on your GPS and keep moving forward.

So here's an Accidental Huntress' take on *Easy-Peasy Pheasant Stroganoff*.

You'll need:

- 2 lbs. pheasant meat, cubed**
- 1- 12 ounces package egg noodles**
- 2 cups beef broth**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- 6 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced**
- 1 onion, chopped**
- 1/4 cup butter**
- 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour**
- Salt and pepper to taste**

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Submerge egg noodles in boiling water until cooked (about 8 minutes). Drain and set aside.



**Pheasant is a versatile lean, white meat. Apart from savory flavorings, pheasant is also great when paired with fruits such as apples and pomegranates.**

In a large skillet, combine two tablespoons butter, mushrooms and onions over medium heat. Cook until mushrooms and onions are soft. Remove from pan.

Next, take your remaining butter and pheasant meat and cook until browned. Pour in beef broth and add flour, mixing as you add. Sauce will become slightly thickened.

Now add back in cooked mushrooms and onions, followed by the sour cream. Season with salt and pepper and then continue cooking until sauce is hot, but not boiling.

Ladle sauce over egg noodles and enjoy!

Generally, those of us who spend time outdoors are an innovative bunch. We're always looking to make our hunting and fishing pursuits more successful and more enjoyable - I guess you could say we're always looking for a better mousetrap. And it's this ingenuity that sparked a crafty idea for avid outdoorsman Jim Reid.

Reid, 64, lives to duck hunt. But since duck season only lasts a few months, he's got other items on his "To Do" list the rest of the year. Recently, while cleaning his garage after the "build-up" from hastily stashed hunting gear during hunting season, he developed an idea.

"I came across these deer racks and shed antlers that were taking up space," Reid said. "I set them aside to figure out something to do with them."

Reid, who admits he's never been especially crafty, may have hit on the idea for his project one day in an attempt to quench his thirst.

"I grabbed a beer from the garage fridge and went to get an opener and saw the antlers lying there," Reid said. "That was the genesis of the bottle opener."

The tool would be simple, composed of nothing more than a paint can opener they give away at the paint store that is cut in half. Reid, using a hacksaw, then cut off antler tines, drilled a hole in the end and then epoxied (JB Weld) the opener into the



end. Each opener is unique as no two deer antlers are alike.

"It's more fun to open a beer with a deer antler opener than it is a store-bought one," Reid laughed of the novelty.

Reid thought of ways to utilize the remaining parts of the deer antlers and came upon another idea. Reid enjoys the comfort of fire, whether in his home fireplace on a winter night, in the chiminea on his patio or during a summer camping trip. However, he's never been a big fan many of the store-bought fire pokers.

"They're usually too short, or too small for a really righteous fire," Reid said. "And the handles were usually cheesy, too."

So Reid went to the local hardware store and bought a piece of steel rod roughly 3 feet long. He says he prefers 3/8-inch rod, but 5/16-inch will work, too. He took it home, put it in a vice and bent a 90-degree angle on one end that was 3-4



inches long.

"I'd take the base of the antler and cut it off to fashion a handle for the poker," Reid said. "Each base was a bit different, but you can often find one that fits your hand and using the brow tine you can get some that are really comfortable to hold, and they fit well."

Reid drilled a hole in the end of the antler base and used JB Weld to secure the steel rod into the antler. A little black spray paint finishes a functionally-customized, personal fire poker that will last for years.

"These are fun projects," Reid said of his antler crafts. "They're inexpensive, easy to do and they made good use of the antlers I had lying around the garage."

"I give them to friends and family as gifts," he concluded. "They seem to enjoy using them and they really like them."

## When It's A Full Moon

*What do deer remains, a trailer fire, a poacher, and a stolen vehicle all have in common? It turns out that it was just one Kansas game warden's shift during a full-moon.*

I'll be the first to tell you that it doesn't matter what part of the state an officer works in, when a Kansas game warden wakes up in the morning, there's no telling what the day, or night, might hold.

One evening during the 2013 deer rifle season, I found myself in a series of peculiar events that truly ran the gamut of my responsibilities. While disposing of deer remains, I received a phone call regarding a suspected poacher who was also thought to be trespassing.

The caller informed me that the truck was mobile and one of the witnesses of the poaching was currently following the vehicle. I immediately began pursuit, only to come over a hill and notice a fire at a local controlled shooting area. The fire appeared to be in it's beginning stages, but it was quickly engulfing a semi-trailer loaded with hay bales. I called local dispatch, prompting immediate

response by local volunteer firefighters and county deputies. Then I began helping the owners move vehicles and other farm equipment away from the fire. With that under control, I resumed my search for the suspected poacher, who according to the informant, was still mobile.

I called another warden to assist as the vehicle was headed into his county of responsibility, but I lost the vehicle in a rural town. I then began heading back to my county of responsibility when dispatch reported a stolen vehicle. At the time, mine was the only law enforcement vehicle in the south end of the county where the stolen vehicle was reportedly heading. I prepared to meet the stolen vehicle on the highway, but the driver had other plans, and he ended up taking another route out of town, getting involved in a police chase, and inevitably wrecking.

Kansas game wardens work tirelessly to protect our natural resources, but they never know what a call might bring. So the next time you see a full-moon, remember that animals aren't the only ones working in the night.

- WCO Landen Cleveland

## GET OUTSIDE, GET SMART?

Want to make your kids smarter? Take them for a walk in a park, leaving all electronic devices behind (or at least turned off). Research indicates that attending to events that incite excitement – “you’ve got mail” – stimulates the brain’s prefrontal cortex much like the rapid approach of a hungry saber-toothed tiger. Our brains are hard-wired to attend to no more than four objects of focus at once, but our “instant response” society insists that we bounce back and forth from email to phone to text to announcements in rapid succession throughout the day, leaving our minds and bodies poised for flight from that tiger.

Time spent in nature turns down the volume of demands. In the softer heart of nature, where we can focus on whatever we want, our minds and bodies relax, replenishing the exhausted prefrontal cortex. This relaxation, combined with the physiological effect of exercise, allows us to return to tasks refreshed and alert, enabling us to make better decisions. Though much research has been done on a three-day nature fix, research also shows that three hours or even 30 minutes spent outside has major benefits. When outdoors is impossible, time spent viewing photos from an area or event significant to you or even just taking a quick jaunt down memory lane will help.

This improvement in the ability to make decisions is especially critical for those under 30, as well as in older adults. The prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain that is responsible for evaluating circumstances, making decisions and controlling impulses, is not completely developed until the mid-20s. Too much stimulation in the early years, such as the overload of technology and stresses of modern life, can prevent the cortex from ever devel-



oping to its potential, often leading to a lifetime of poor choices.

Unplugged time in nature can allow this development to take place. Time in nature also increases creativity by 50 percent, leading to better problem-solving as well as artistic expression.

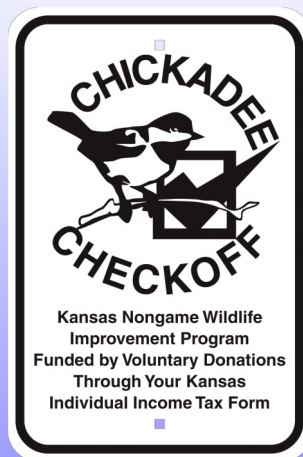
Time together as a family – taking a walk, going camping or hiking, spending time together in a cabin – pays big benefits to all family members, and it enhances the sense of belonging we all need. Do something fun outdoors often this spring. Make a memory. Take the whole family to a state park near you or a new one you’ve never visited.

And remember to save \$10 by purchasing a Kansas State Park Passport when you renew your vehicle registration. Saving money lowers stress, too!

## BENEFIT WILDLIFE WITH THE CHECK OF A BOX

With the flick of a pen, taxpayers can help support a wide variety of nongame wildlife this tax season by making a donation to the Chickadee Checkoff program. To make a contribution, taxpayers simply mark the Chickadee Checkoff box on their state income tax forms and designate the amount they would like to donate. There is no minimum or incremental requirement. Donations can also be made directly to the Chickadee Checkoff program at any time throughout the year by mailing the donation to Chickadee Checkoff c/o Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) at 512 SE 25th Ave, Pratt, KS 67124.

A program of KDWPT, Chickadee Checkoff uses donations to fund wildlife programs and initiatives, as well as



numerous species assessments and habitat surveys statewide. Programs such as the Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) at Kansas schools, Kansas Backyard Wildlife

Habitat Improvement and Certification Program, and the Nursing Home Bird Feeder Program all benefit from Chickadee Checkoff proceeds. In addition, donations support much needed projects like the Prairie Windows project, Bluebird Nest Box Project, and the Small Grant Program.

Private donations are crucial in funding these vital programs, especially when Chickadee Checkoff proceeds are matched by federal funds. Contributions have been steadily decreasing in recent years, making it imperative that every Kansan mark the Chickadee Checkoff box this year. With the support of the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (KSCPA), KDWPT hopes to see more boxes checked this tax season.

—KDWPT News

# REP. ADAM LUSKER

*This is the fifth article in a series featuring Kansas legislators and their views on wildlife resources and outdoor recreation.*

by Mike Miller  
editor, Pratt

Representative Adam Lusker, D-Frontenac, has just started his first term in the Kansas Legislature. Rep. Lusker, was selected to take over the Second District seat when Rep. Bob Grant, D-Frontenac, retired before his current term expired. Rep. Lusker was born and raised in Frontenac, graduated from Frontenac High School in 1991, and served in the Navy Reserve from 1991-1994. He then transferred to the Kansas Army National Guard where he served out his enlistment. Rep. Lusker and his wife Lisa have three children, and he has owned and operated Lusker Masonry in Frontenac since 1994.

When asked how he got into politics, Lusker talked about being elected to the Frontenac School Board. "It's easy to sit back and criticize, but I decided to get involved in the process," he said. "As far as the Kansas legislature, I was asked to take over Rep. Grant's seat, and I agreed."

With only a little over a month working as a legislator, Rep. Lusker expressed pride in working in the State Capitol Building.

"Our capitol is a beautiful building and a great place to work. I'm proud to be able to work here and represent the people from my district," he said.

When asked about his participation in outdoor recreation, he reminisced about growing up in southeast Kansas.

"In our part of the state, we had coal mines. They did a process called strip mining, and in the early days, those pits weren't filled back in. They usually filled with water and were eventually stocked with fish. I grew up across from the state park (Crawford State Park) and I spent a lot of time in the woods and around those pits," Rep. Lusker said.

"The place we live now is just on the other side of the section from where I grew up, and we have a pond and Cow Creek runs through the land," he added. "I enjoy spending time outdoors on this land with my kids."

Rep. Lusker grew up hunting doves and quail along the hedgerows in Crawford County, and he's seen significant changes to the region and its hunting traditions.

"We used to have the best quail population around on the section we lived on, but they're not here any longer," he said. "We see a lot of turkey and deer now. Man if you saw a deer when I was a kid, it was a big deal. Now they're common. And we've got big deer, too."

"The landscape's changed and people letting you hunt on their land has changed," he added, expressing his concern about hunting becoming too expensive for the average person.

"You know, hunting preserves are becoming big business as is leasing land for hunting, and I think it's driven up the price of



Rep. Adam Lusker

land, too," he said.

Rep. Lusker enjoys upland bird hunting, and he honors an annual tradition of traveling to western Kansas each fall to hunt pheasants. He was proud that this year, his 14-year-old son accompanied him. He spoke fondly of the friends he's made through that trip.

When asked about potential issues or threats to our natural resources and our outdoor heritage, Rep. Lusker didn't hesitate.

"I sit on the ag committee and the one thing I've become more aware of since I've come to Topeka, is how important water is to this state. I think our lakes, rivers and streams will someday be affected by legislation - we'll have to decide what we're going to do to preserve our water, and I think those decisions could have an impact on sportsmen," he said.

"Water is vital to our state, it's vital to our health and it's vital to our economy," he added.

Rep. Lusker's comments were heavily influenced by an obvious pride in being a lifelong Kansan who's now working for the people of his district.

"Our state has some beautiful and diverse scenery to offer for anybody who wants to get in a car and go find it. And every Kansan should make a pilgrimage to the capitol building because it is magnificent," he said referring to the recently completed capitol building renovation.

### OPPORTUNITY CALLING

In my last column I talked about my bucket list. Well, in mid-January, I attempted to cross one item off the list, but I didn't quite get the job done – yet anyway! I went to New Mexico and tried to call in and harvest a mountain lion. Steve and I spent seven days in Mills Canyon looking for that elusive lion and all we saw were fresh tracks. In that high desert country, the critters are few and far between and as Steve says, "These critters are ghosts out here."

While using a predator call to bring in a lion, we called in several coyotes, some ravens, hawks, and even one bald eagle. When I got home I did some more calling – trying for Kansas coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and geese. When it came time to write this column, I started thinking about all the "calling" opportunities we have here in Kansas.

Many might think that those of us who like the challenge of calling in wildlife are a little different. While in New Mexico, we went to town for gas or supplies several times, and curious locals asked us what we were doing. When we told them we were trying to call in a mountain lion with a predator call, they chuckled and acted like we were nuts. But many of us have long been calling in critters such as ducks, geese, turkeys, deer, elk, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, raccoons, and even mountain lions and bears. Heck, some even have success calling in moose and if you use the right kind of lure, you can even call in fish.

There are traditional types of wildlife calling. Duck calling has been around for a long time and has even spawned a popular TV show called *Duck Dynasty*. And if you check out the Outdoor Channel, you can watch others call in deer, elk, coyotes, and bobcats. Other types of calling are new to the hunting scene. Not many hunters have called in a mountain lion, but it's gaining in popularity, as is raccoon calling. Some of us have called in an occasional raccoon while predator calling but now some are calling coons out of den trees and other denning sites by playing the sound of a coon fight. Those who sell electronic calling devices have come up with literally hundreds of call sounds from the normal rabbit distress to mountain lion whistles to wolf howls. My caller even has feral hog calls and some other calls even I can't figure out what to use them for.

Some purists will not use electronic calls, preferring to use simple mouth calls. (Electronic calls may be used while hunting bobcats, coons and coyotes and light geese only during the conservation order. Electronic calls are not allowed for deer, waterfowl or turkey hunting.) Lots of sounds can be made with mouth calls whether they are open reed calls, closed reed calls, or diaphragm calls. I really admire callers who can call with their voice.

Most calls mimic an animal's vocalization, but there are other types of sounds that attract wildlife. Rattling antlers, mimicking the sound of two bucks fighting, may attract bucks during the rut. Elk hunters can occasionally get an enraged bull to come to the sound of raking a tree with a stick or tree branch. I've called in coyotes with the simple kissing or sucking sound on the back of my hand, which mimics the squeaking a mouse might make. Some archery antelope hunters can sometimes get a buck antelope to come to the waving of a handkerchief or some kind of flag and decoys often work, too.

When I reflect back on my hunting career, I realize that I took up calling critters because, not only was it one way to get some critters close enough to harvest but it also became a challenge to see just how close I could get those critters to come in. Some of it started when I started bowhunting and needed to get deer and elk into bow range. The challenge became convincing an animal that I was either food or one of their own. I guess that

is why even today I would much rather call in a mountain lion or a wolf than take one with dogs or over bait. I may never get it done, but it will sure be fun trying!

Now, you all know me as a fish squeezer – a former fisheries biologist. I fished all my life and never really thought of fishing as calling fish. But, when you think about it, when we are working a buzz bait, a popper, or even some other type of lure, we are actually calling fish. Fish react to these lures thinking they are food, and we often can call them out of deep water or out of brushy type habitat with noisy, splashy lures. We are talking mostly about predator fish like black bass, stripers, wipers, northern pike, and musky. And while they may not admit it, every angler has actually tried to talk the fish into biting. "Come on little fishy, come on 5-pounder – hit this lure, come on!"

For anyone interested in a great outdoor challenge, a world of calling opportunities waits. I guarantee it will take some practice to get good at calling, and success might not come overnight, but it will come if you stick with it. There are plenty of DVDs and instructional materials available. Pick some up and start learning now.

Why not start with spring turkey hunting. The turkey season is just around the corner, and you should be able to easily master a turkey call by then. There is nothing more rewarding than calling a tom turkey into shotgun or bow range. And a spring turkey hunt might be the best way to get a young hunter hooked on hunting. It's fun and exciting.



# GREAT PLAINS NATURE CENTER HONORED

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell presented the 2013 Partners in Conservation awards at a ceremony in Washington, DC on Jan. 16. The Secretary honored 20 partnership projects that have demonstrated exemplary natural resource conservation efforts through public-private cooperation. Four partnerships nominated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), including The Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita received awards.

The Great Plains Nature Center, located at 6232 E. 29th Street N in Wichita, is a wild oasis in an urban setting. Each year the Center provides outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of visitors. The facility is a one-of-a-kind partnership that began in 1988. It serves as an outdoor education center for the City of Wichita, a regional office for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, and an administrative site for the USFWS. The Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center help visitors learn about the plants and animals of the Great Plains through live animal exhibits, dioramas depicting native flora and fauna, and nature trails leading to abundant wildlife viewing opportunities on the adjacent Chisholm Creek Park. Its education programs operate throughout the year, and a highlight of the Center is a massive 2,200-gallon aquarium offering close-up views of native fish.



L-R Lorrie Beck, GPNC Director; Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior; Jim Mason, City of Wichita; Mike Oldham, USFWS; Steve Guerten, USFWS Deputy Director.

Next time you are in the Wichita area, consider visiting the Great Plains Nature Center. For information on upcoming programs and events, call (316) 683-5499 or visit [www.gpnc.org](http://www.gpnc.org).

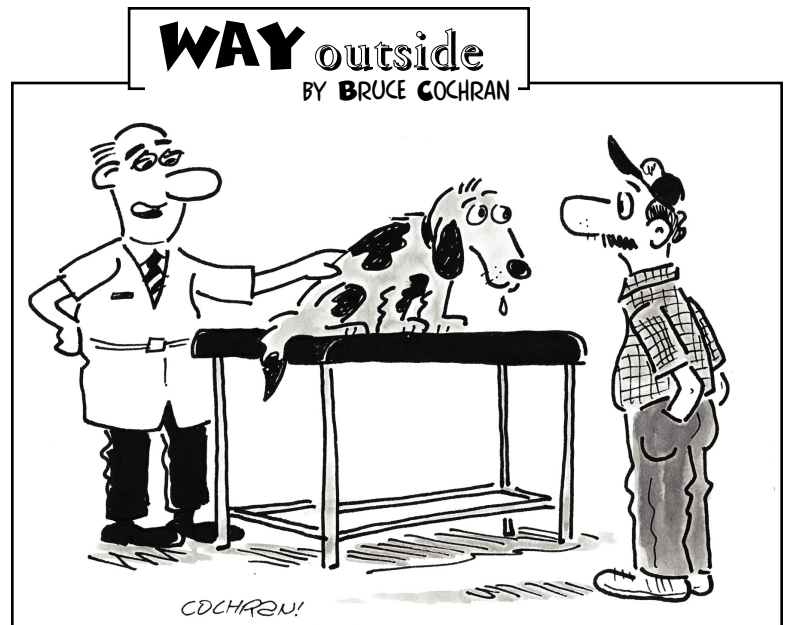
—KDWPT News

## HUNTER SURVEYS PARTICIPATION VITAL FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Forty thousand of the approximately 120,000 hunters who hunted deer in Kansas this past season will be contacted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) via an online survey. The survey, which is conducted every year, asks deer hunters to provide information regarding harvest success, dates and seasons hunted, days spent in the field, locations hunted, and choice of equipment during the 2013-2014 seasons. Hunter participation in the survey is crucial because biologists use the information to make deer management recommendations. Hunters who are randomly-selected to take this survey are strongly encouraged to complete the survey in its entirety as soon as possible.

If you receive any 2013-2014 hunter survey, please take the time to fill out it. A little time spent at the computer can go a long way in the field next season.

—KDWPT News



"THE BAD NEWS IS, YOUR DOG HAS WORMS. THE GOOD NEWS IS, THEY'RE GREAT FISH BAIT."



# WE BUILT IT AND THEY CAME

text and photos by Andra Stefanoni  
*Pittsburg*

*There are lessons to learn while working to improve wildlife habitat, and wildlife aren't the only ones to benefit.*



When I reflect on the duck hunting season that just ended, I can't help but think of a story I used to read to my sons when they were young enough to comfortably sit on my lap.

Called "The Little Red Hen," it is an age-old folk tale that chronicles the work of a hen to plant seeds, harvest the wheat, take it to the mill and have it turned into flour, then finally, to bake bread. No one wants to help her, so she does it herself and reaps the benefits.

The author's point is a good one: Invest the work, and you'll get the pay-off.

A year ago in this magazine, I outlined the steps my husband took to transform 80 acres of flat southeast Kansas agricultural land that had been in our family a few generations into a wildlife management area that now includes a wetland and prairie.

He enlisted the help of our two sons, at the time 7 and 12, to help him with every step of the process.

After dozers scraped a few inches of earth to form a wetland, they loaded up the truck and made weekend trips to broadcast millet as a future food source for waterfowl. They helped with the installation and management of a water control structure with which to raise and lower the water level. They designed and built a duck blind, then "decorated" it with vegetative cover for better concealment. Using scrap lumber, they built steps down into it and a shelf and hooks for snacks and gear.

As we waited for hunting season to arrive, our sons learned to take apart their shotguns and clean them. They watched hunting videos and practiced their calling techniques. We got out the BB guns in the backyard to practice marksmanship. We sat by the fire one autumn night to rig anchors on the decoys and, using a Sharpie marker, to write "Stef" on the bottom of each.

After the rains came and filled the wetland, my husband and our sons pulled sleds of the decoys across the water to the blind. They were ready.

I got to witness the payoff first hand on what would be our last hunt of the season. It was mild on that January day, but oh-so-windy. I held hands with our now 8-year-old and 13-year-old as

we balanced gear and waded knee-deep across eight acres of water to our blind. We settled in with our duck calls, guns and snacks and were treated to a live duck show the likes of which we'd never seen: Flocks of hundreds of ducks at a time coming in to land on the water, wings set against the wind. My husband waited to shoulder his gun until the boys had their chance.

They were rewarded for their patience and their hard work over the course of more than a year: Our older son harvested his first duck that day – a mallard.

The lessons we learn as hunters are many and varied. The memories we make are priceless. The one I will carry with me the rest of my life was what I saw just before the sun set that day. As I strained against the water and high winds to pull our sled of gear back to the truck, I turned to check on our sons following in our wake and holding hands for support.

They were tired but they were smiling, proud of their accomplishment in knowing it would be their work that put food on our table that night.







# RANCHING FOR GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKENS

by Lance McNew

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*A rancher once told me that no critter short of the buffalo symbolizes the prairie like the prairie chicken. The spring day when their lonesome booming cannot be heard on rolling Kansas hilltops is the day grasslands cease to be prairie. Professionally and personally, I couldn't agree more.*

The greater prairie chicken is an indicator species for tallgrass prairie ecosystems and umbrella species for grassland bird conservation. They are non-migratory and make their livings in open landscapes where native grasslands dominate. Prairie chickens need wide open spaces with lots of uninterrupted grass.

Similar to other grassland birds, prairie chickens at the national scale are in trouble. They once occupied 20 states and portions of the Prairie Provinces in Canada, but widespread loss of grassland habitats to the plow resulted in large-scale restrictions in distribution and more than a 75 percent decline in population size.

It is no surprise then that the large, relatively intact tallgrass prairies of the Flint Hills in Kansas

are often considered a stronghold for this iconic prairie sentinel. Unfortunately, spring surveys conducted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism suggest declining populations in the Flint Hills over the last 30 years.

So why is a grassland obligate and indicator species for unfragmented prairie declining in the largest remaining tallgrass prairie left in North America? To answer this question, my colleagues and I at Kansas State University, with funding from a consortium of industry and conservation organizations, conducted a suite of studies to assess how rangeland management practices and grassland fragmentation influence prairie chicken reproduction, survival, population viability, and habitat use. What we found may surprise you.

During 2006-2010, we established and conducted prairie chicken research at three study sites across a gradient of grassland fragmentation and rangeland management intensity. One site occurred in the southern Flint Hills and was characterized as nearly unfragmented tallgrass prairie managed nearly exclusively with annual spring burning and intensive early stocking (IESB). Under IESB, pastures are burned in March or April, and then stocked heavily with steers for about 90 days. By removing the old vegetation with fire, new high quality cattle forage is allowed to grow unimpeded, ultimately resulting in quick weight gain of cattle.

A second study site occurred in the northern Flint Hills. Grasslands at this site were more fragmented



Greg Lasley photo

The large, relatively intact tallgrass prairies of the Flint Hills in Kansas are often considered a stronghold for this iconic prairie sentinel. Each spring, greater prairie chickens gather at traditional leks, or booming grounds, to display and defend their chosen area.

than at the southern site, but still more than 80 percent tallgrass prairie. Rangeland management was primarily IESB but some pastures were managed with more traditional practices of season-long cow-calf grazing at lower stocking densities.

Our third study site occurred in the eastern Smoky Hills ecoregion. Grasslands at the site were more heavily fragmented by cultivation, roads, and woody encroachment with grassland cover at 58 percent. The sizes of grassland patches were smaller and often intersected with cultivation. However, rangeland management practices of those grasslands were much less intense, with lower stocking densities and fire-return intervals of three or more years. Less burning and fewer cattle resulted in more residual vegetation, or duff, and taller grass than the Flint Hills study areas. It also resulted in much more encroachment by eastern red cedar and other invasive plants that prairie chickens may avoid.

During the springs of 2006-2010, we captured prairie chickens at communal display grounds, known as leks or booming grounds, with drop nets and walk-in traps. Each bird was measured and fitted with a numbered leg band, and hens were equipped with a necklace-style radio-transmitter. Hens were then monitored via radio-telemetry to assess nesting status and weekly survival. When daily locations suggested a hen may be incubating a nest, we homed in on her signal to find it. We counted the number of eggs in the nest and monitored the hen daily to determine nest fate. When daily telemetry indicated she had left her nest, we returned to the nest site to determine if it hatched or whether and why it failed. We conducted flush counts of brood hens 25 days after hatch to estimate brood survival during the period when chicks are highly



All hens in the study bred and laid at least one nest, and those whose first nests failed bred again and attempted at least one re-nest. Clutch sizes were large with 12-16 eggs in first attempts and 8-10 in second attempts.

vulnerable to exposure and predation.

During the five-year study, reproductive potential was very high in all three populations. All hens bred and laid at least one nest and those whose first nests failed bred again and attempted at least one re-nest. Clutch sizes were large with 12-16 eggs in first attempts and 8-10 in second attempts. Despite high effort to reproduce, productivity was depressed by dismal rates of nest and brood survival, especially at the Flint Hills sites. Variation in nest survival, the most important measure of reproductive success, was related to variability in rangeland management practices. Nest success in Flint Hills areas managed with annual spring burning and intensive early stocking (IESB) was less than 10 percent and significantly lower than in Smoky Hills grasslands managed with longer fire

return intervals and lower stocking densities (20 percent to 30 percent).

Nearly all nest losses were the result of predation by coyotes, skunks, or snakes. Nest success was maximized near 55 percent when vertical nesting cover provided by previous years' growth and the current year's growth of grasses and forbs was 15-25 inches tall. Interestingly, nest survival rates declined when vegetation exceeded 25 inches, indicating at least a portion of a hen's home range should have grass and forbs heights ranging from knee to thigh high. Unfortunately, less than 10 percent of our Flint Hills study sites had nesting cover exceeding 15 inches and the result was depressed reproductive success in the Flint Hills.

Patterns of brood survival were similar to nest survival and were among the lowest rates reported for prairie chickens: about 28 per-

cent in the Flint Hills and 34 percent at the Smoky Hills study area. In contrast, variability in annual survival of adult prairie chickens was driven by grassland fragmentation with the highest survival in prairies unfragmented by cultivation, woody encroachment, and roads. In fact, survival rates of prairie chickens in the southern Flint Hills (60 percent to 70 percent) are the highest ever reported for prairie-grouse whereas survival rates in the Smoky Hills (30 percent to 40 percent) are among the lowest.

What does all this mean for prairie chicken populations in Kansas? To answer that question, we took all our information about reproductive effort, nest survival, brood survival, and adult survival and built population models for each study area to estimate rates of population growth or decline and to determine whether reproductive success or adult survival was more

influential on populations of prairie chickens in Kansas. We found that none of our three study populations were viable given such dismal rates of reproductive success. Indeed, under current land use conditions, we expect populations in eastern Kansas to continue declining in the next 10 years.

I'm guessing you may not be surprised. Our results generally quantify what any wildlife biologist worth their salt has speculated for years: large-scale annual burning and intensive early grazing of tallgrass prairie in Kansas is just as harmful to prairie chickens as no burning. The result of ubiquitous annual burning and intensive grazing is low nest and brood success due to inadequate cover. The result of too little disturbance is tallgrass prairie too rank to be suitable for nesting and brood-rearing or too woody to be used at all.

Fragmentation of native grass-

land results in lower survival rates of mature birds, likely due to an increase in generalist predators like coyotes. Lower adult survival rates can be offset by more chicken-friendly grassland management on remaining grassland patches in the moderately fragmented prairies of northcentral Kansas.

However, hope can be found if we look for it, and prairie chicken-minded managers of tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills should take heart. In contrast to populations in isolated and fragmented tallgrass prairie systems where large-scale prairie restoration is required for population recovery, populations of prairie chickens in the large grasslands of eastern Kansas lack only fire and grazing regimes that facilitate, rather than hinder, nest and brood survival. prairie chickens evolved with fire and grazing in tallgrass ecosystems, and disturbances like fire and grazing are necessary to keep tallgrass prairie from succumbing to the invasion of woody shrubs and trees.

Ongoing research by our group and those in other grassland systems seeks to identify rangeland management regimes that result in viable revenues from cattle producers while stabilizing populations of greater prairie chickens. Preliminary results from these studies are encouraging and indicate that grassland management practices that mimic historically patchy fire and grazing regimes have the potential to curb population declines while resulting in profitable cattle grazing. Because Kansas is more than 95 percent privately owned, collaborations between wildlife biologists, agronomists, and land managers will be required to keep the voice of this amorous prairie icon from fading from Kansas grasslands. ♡



Mark Herse photo

Greater prairie chickens evolved with fire and grazing in tallgrass ecosystems, and disturbances like fire and grazing are necessary to keep tallgrass prairie healthy.

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An unrestricted gift to WildTrust allows the department to devote your donation to the programs or projects that best address the needs of the public and the agency. You also may dedicate your gift to a variety of funds, programs or projects.



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM

# STATE PARKS, TRAILS, HISTORIC AND NATURAL SITES FUND

Support some of the most popular outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences the state has to offer. Unrestricted donations will be used for programs or projects that the department views as priorities. You also may dedicate your gift to be spread across a selection of two or more parks, programs or projects.



## Designated State Park

Donations to a specific state park to give park staff flexibility to meet the needs of the public and the park.

## Trails

Support trail projects the department chooses, or select any of these projects:

Flint Hills Nature Trail  
• Kansas River National Water Trail • Planned or established trails at specific state parks or public lands

## Playgrounds

Support playgrounds at one or more specific state parks.

## Cabins

Support projects at state parks, wildlife areas or state fishing lakes.

## Campgrounds and Amenities

Support planned or established projects at one or more of the state parks, wildlife areas or state fishing lakes.

## Historic and Natural Sites

Support sites at a state park, wildlife area or state fishing lake, including:

El Cuartelejo pueblo site at Lake Scott State Park • Steele Home at Lake Scott State Park • Adobe House at Prairie Dog State Park • CCC Memorial Trail at Crawford State Park

## Outdoor Kansas (OK) Kids

Support OK Kids events at any location where they are scheduled.



# HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND RESTORATION FUND

Support habitat enhancement and mitigation projects to help wildlife flourish. Support programs or projects the department views as priorities. Gifts may also be dedicated to two or more programs or projects of your choice.



## Public Lands and Waters

Support projects of the department's choosing or dedicate your gift to one or more of the state wildlife areas or state fishing lakes.

## Access to Private Lands and Waters

Support projects of the department's choosing or dedicate your gift to one or more of the following efforts:

Walk-in Hunting Access • Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats • Community Fisheries Assistance Program

## Wildlife Management, Habitat Improvement and Restoration

Support projects of the department's choosing or dedicate your gift to one or more of the following efforts:

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program  
• Pheasant Initiative • Kansas Quail Initiative • Habitat Restoration • Cheyenne Bottoms Restoration

## Fisheries Management, Habitat Improvement and Restoration

Support projects of the department's choosing or designate your gift to habitat improvement, hatcheries or stocking.



## OUTDOOR SKILLS AND ETHICS FUND

Help kids and adults have safe and memorable adventures in the Kansas outdoors. Unrestricted donations support programs or projects the department views as priorities. Gifts may also be dedicated to a selection of two or more programs or projects.



### Hunting, Fishing, Aquatic and Youth Outdoor Education

Support the following projects:

Bowhunter education • Furharvester education • Hunter education • Pass It On • Take Me Fishing • Fishing's Future • Fishing clinics • Various youth events

### Boating Education and Safety

Support the following projects:

Wear it Kansas Life Jacket Campaign • Special events and outdoor shows • Boating classes

### Kansas Archery in the Schools

Support the program or dedicate your gift to a specific school or schools

### Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Becoming an Outdoors-Family (BOF)

Support the program or dedicate your gift to scholarships for worthy participants or specific workshops or activities.

### Wildlife and Parks Magazine

Help the department pay for photography, freelance writers and illustrators, distribution to special audiences, and contests.

### Shooting and Archery Ranges

Support the program or dedicate your gift to a specific range or ranges or a planned shooting/archery event. This fund only assists department-supported public ranges and events.

### Special-Needs Constituents

Help fund a worthy project or event of the department's choosing.

# WildTrust

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM FUND

Help encourage travel to destinations and attractions in Kansas by promoting the recreational, historic, and natural attractions of the state. Unrestricted gifts support programs or projects that the department views as priorities. Gifts may also be dedicated to two or more programs or projects.



### Scenic and Historic Byways

Support projects the department chooses on any of the state's 11 byways, or dedicate your gift to any of the following byways:

Glacial Hills Scenic Byway • Frontier Military Historic Byway • Kansas Historic Route 66 Byway • Flint Hills National Scenic Byway • Gypsum Hills Scenic Byway • Native Stone Scenic Byway • Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway • Prairie Trail Scenic Byway • Post Rock Scenic Byway • Smoky Valley Scenic Byway • Western Vistas Historic Byway

### Travel Promotion

Support projects of the department's choosing, or dedicate your gift to a Rural Tourism or General Tourism project.

### Attraction Development

Help the department provide strategic economic assistance to public and private entities and not-for-profit groups to develop tourism attractions that serve the mission of the Attraction Development Grant program.

### Kansas! Magazine

Help the department pay for photography, freelance writers and illustrators, distribution to special audiences and contests.

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND NATURE APPRECIATION FUND

Foster conservation, understanding and appreciation of Kansas' natural resources. Unrestricted donations support programs or projects the department views as priorities. Gifts may also be dedicated to two or more programs or projects



## Nature Appreciation

Support projects of the department's choosing or dedicate your gift to any of following projects:

Chickadee Checkoff • Backyard Habitat Improvement Program • Kansas Birding Big Year Competition • Wildlife Education Service • Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites • KS EcoMeets • Special Events

## Museums and Nature Centers

Support projects of the department's choosing or dedicate your gift to any of following projects:

Pratt Nature Center • Milford Nature Center • Great Plains Nature Center • Kansas Wetlands Education Center • Southeast Kansas Nature Center • Olathe Prairie Center

## Public Lands and Waters

Donations help fund a worthy conservation or nature appreciation project of the department's choosing at state-operated public lands and waters. Or, you can support any of the following:

Maxwell Wildlife Refuge • Steve Lloyd Wetlands • Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area • Other refuges and preserves • State Wildlife Areas • State Fishing Lakes

## Stream Assessment and Monitoring

Help monitor and track stream fauna and habitats.

## Aquatic Nuisance Species

Help the department prevent the spread of invasive wildlife and plants.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND

Gifts help department law enforcement officers provide a safe environment for outdoor recreation and enforce wildlife, fisheries, boating and state park laws and regulations across the state.

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## DONATION TYPES

**UNRESTRICTED** – Gifts used where funding is needed most.

**FIELD OF INTEREST** – Gifts to a field of interest fund to support a variety of programs or projects in the fund

**PROGRAM** – Donations to support a variety of projects in the program

**PROJECT** – Donations to a project, location, or activity are the most focused

**MEMORIAL or HONORARY ACCOUNTS** – An account may be named for a specific person, and may also be designated to a fund, program or project. The minimum gift for a named account is \$10,000.

## GIFTS ACCEPTED

Cash • Securities • Bequests • Life insurance • Honorariums – donations to celebrate a loved one, friend or occasion

- Memorials – gifts in memory of a deceased loved one or friend
- Personal property, materials, supplies
- Services

## RECOGNITION

Memorial and recognition plaques may be displayed when the contribution is sufficient to fund at least 75 percent of the total cost.

Naming properties or facilities may be considered at the discretion of the Secretary if the value of the contribution represents a significant, noteworthy contribution toward the total cost of the property or facility.

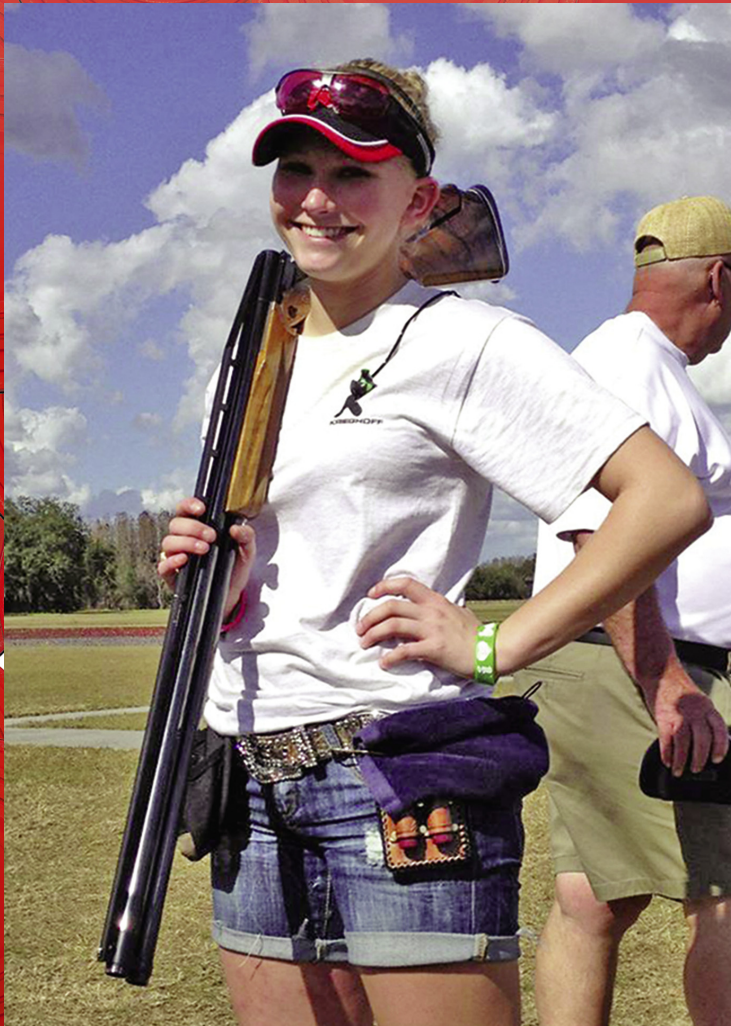
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For more information, contact  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
512 SE 25th, Pratt, KS 67124-8174,  
(620) 672-5911 or visit [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)

# A SURE SHOT

Tapanga Turner is an average Kansan from an average town with an average upbringing, but there's nothing average about this girl's ability. A competitive trapshooter, Turner is currently ranked first in the Kansas Lady's Division and 22 in the world. The kicker? *She's just 18 years old.*

by Nadia Marji *associate editor, Pratt*



In 2012, Turner won the Dixie Grand American's opening day preliminary ladies' handicap with a score of 94 from 22 yards.

Five short years ago, Tapanga Turner was introduced to a shotgun for the first time. One year later she competed at her first youth event held at Powder Creek Gun Club in Lenexa. She hit just four of the 25 targets, but it's safe to say that Turner has made extraordinary progress since that fateful day, making quite the name for herself in the trapshooting world. She has earned spots in some of the sport's most prestigious events, including the Grand American World Trapshooting Championships held in Sparta, Ill. But it's not without sacrifice that Turner has reached this level of success.

"I try to practice at least two days a week for 5-6 hours at a time, going through 300-400 shells per day," said Turner. "It can be both mentally and physically taxing to be in this sport, but you can't just walk out and expect to break targets. I have my good days and bad days of shooting just like anyone else, but you have to practice."

A self-taught shooter with no professional training, Turner attributes her success to hard work, dedication, and lots and lots of practice. Her most recent accomplishment has been making

Pictured on the right, Turner stands outside the World Shooting and Recreation Complex in Sparta, IL. Turner was just one of many shooters who visited the complex to compete in the Grand American World Trapshooting Championships.



**“Betty was like my shooting mother. She kept me on track and made sure I stayed focused.”**

the All American Ladies I Team for the second consecutive year. Turner has sacrificed countless hours to perfect her craft in order to make the team, which consists of the top 25 female trapshooters in the nation. But she has no plans to stop there. Turner has plans of making the All



Turner poses after winning the ladies' championship in the 2011 Kansas Eastern Zone shoot.

American team and the top 5, at that. She also has plans of becoming the Lady I Captain of the Kansas State Team.

Although undoubtedly talented and capable at her sport, having to prove herself to others isn't uncommon for the shotgun-shell-shucking girl.

“I think females have a harder time getting approval in the shooting world. Not

everyone judges a girl that shoots, but there are some people that don't think women should be on the firing line,” said Turner. “Don't get me wrong, nobody has made me feel unwelcome, I've just had my fair share of critics. But I didn't quit just because they didn't have faith in me.”

Drawing strength and guidance from two very important mentors, Turner attributes a lot of her success to those who did have faith in her.

“I have two heroes in the shooting world, one of which is Betty Wrestler and the other being Leo Harrison III,” said Turner. “Betty was like my shooting mother. She kept me on track and made sure I stayed focused. Unfortunately, she passed away a few years back, but I'll never forget what she taught me about staying dedicated to the sport.”

Wrestler was an All-American trapshooter and a member of the Kansas Trap Shooting Association Hall of Fame. She was also the women's Grand American Champion in 1991.

“Leo was another hero of mine and one of the nicest people I have ever met in my whole life,” said Turner. “He taught me how to be confi-

dent in myself, and more importantly, he helped me show my true colors.” Unfortunately, Harrison III passed away in August of 2013, but luckily for Turner, Harrison III wasn't the only male hero in her life. In fact, if it weren't for her father Sean, Turner may have never gotten into the sport at all. Teaching her how to use a rifle at the young age of seven, Sean bestowed upon his daughter the fundamentals of gun safety. Those lessons proved beneficial when Turner hit the field two years later and shot her first deer. By age 13, Sean, a previous trapshooter himself, insisted his daughter try her luck at the sport.

Immediately taking a liking to the sport,

Turner dove head first into the trapshooting world and has yet to look back. Of course, her equipment preferences have somewhat changed since then.

When Turner first

began competing, she used a Browning BT-99 Micro 12 gauge shotgun and a Browning Ultra over and under. Efficient and practical, Turner shot well with these models, but these days, Turner sports a 12 gauge Krieghoff K-80 Combo Set, complete with a Wenig custom stock. It's with

guarantee. When you're hunting, you never know if a shooter animal is going to show up."

"I love to hunt deer and the adrenaline rush I get when a deer walks out in front of me," said Turner. "As my dad would say, 'I love to chase that tail,'" Turner chuckled.

Apart from hunting white-tails, Turner also enjoys hunting turkeys, rabbits, squirrels, coyotes, crows and doves.

**"Some of my favorite hunts with my dad were actually the ones where I wasn't shooting at all."**

"Some of my favorite hunts with my dad were actually the ones where I wasn't shooting at all," said Turner. "I remember when I was younger he would take me dove hunting with him and I would be the bird dog, retrieving the doves. I loved every minute of it!"

Although hunting was a staple in Turner's childhood, other girls her age don't appear to have had a similar upbringing.

"Believe it or not, I actually don't have one girl friend that hunts," said Turner. A self-proclaimed tom-boy, Turner enjoys the camaraderie of hanging with the boys, but admits she would like to see more females out in the field



Above, Turner competes in the Kansas State Shoot. A firm believer in practice, Turner will go through upwards of 400 shells in one day's worth of practice.



Turner holds a buck she harvested during the 2010 deer season. She has harvested deer with both a gun and a bow.

this gun that Turner shoots handicaps from an impressive 25 yard line. But not all of Turner's shooting is competitive. When she's not shooting clay targets, Turner enjoys hunting in the great outdoors.

"Trapshooting is a lot like hunting in that the mental aspect of staying focused and keeping your mind set on the goal can really affect your ability to be successful," said Turner. "But the difference between the two sports is that when you're trapshooting, a target coming your way is

and on the range.

"I want guys to know that it's not just 'their' sports," Turner said. "Whether it's trapshooting, or hunting, or whatever the case may be females can compete, too."

As serious as she is about competing, Turner also embraces the idea of not taking life too seriously.

"I remember one day I was waiting for my squad to go out and a random man walked passed me and said 'smile beautiful. You paid for 'em all, might as well break 'em all!' He chuckled and then just walked away," Turner said. "I'll never forget that, because it reminded me of one of the most important things about shooting — that you should always have fun."

Whether she's aiming for gold in a competition, or braving the cold during a hunt, one thing will always be true of Turner- give her a shot and you can be sure she'll take it. ♡

A young girl and boy are smiling and standing behind a large pile of fish, including catfish and bass, which are laid out on a large log. The background shows a natural setting with tall grasses and trees under a clear blue sky.

# 2014 Fishing Forecast

*The forecast compiles data gathered by district fisheries biologists into a tool anglers can use to find lakes with the fishing they desire.*

**U**se 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. This column provides a history, allowing the angler to compare past fishing outings at the lake with the ratings.

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

Combined with the *2014 Fishing Regulations Summary*, the *2014 Fish Atlas* and the *Weekly Fishing Reports*, the *2014 Fishing Forecast* is a tool that will help you catch more fish, and it will help you select lakes that provide the kind of fish and type of fishing you desire. Kansas anglers can choose from 24 federal reservoirs, 258 community lakes, 58 state fishing lakes, as well as 150,000 privately-owned farm ponds and 10,000 miles of fishable streams. Better get busy – as the old saying goes — so much water, so little time.

## BLUE CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WOLF CREEK	2.30	0.40	0.10	27.56	G	1.97
MILFORD	1.40	0.30	0.05	34.17	F	1.53
EL DORADO	0.73	0.00	0.00	10.34	F	1.22
LOVEWELL	0.50	0.00	0.00	3.47	P	0.19
WILSON	0.33	0.00	0.00	9.58	P	0.26
LACYGNE	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.72	G	0.26
POMONA	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.86	F	0.17
CLINTON	0.13	0.00	0.00	3.40	P	0.04
MELVERN	0.13	0.13	0.06	21.61	F	0.22
<b>LAKES</b>						
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	0.83	0.00	0.00	4.19	F	0.61
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	0.67	0.00	0.00	5.58	F	0.33
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	0.50	0.00	0.00	3.95	P	0.42
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	4.17	F	0.17

## CHANNEL CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
KANOPOLIS	6.75	0.13	0.00	8.11	G	4.83
BIG HILL	5.90	0.90	0.20	9.04	E	4.50
CLINTON	4.44	0.25	0.00	5.73	G	4.60
PERRY	4.20	0.40	0.05	13.45	G	3.98
WILSON	3.79	0.42	0.00	8.65	G	2.98
MELVERN	3.44	0.13	0.06	11.64	G	3.23
POMONA	2.58	0.08	0.00	5.58	G	2.60
GLEN ELDER	2.33	0.41	0.11	12.39	G	3.10
LOVEWELL	2.00	0.57	0.14	12.04	G	2.18
CHENEY	1.85	0.70	0.35	11.90	F	1.72
WOLF CREEK	1.70	0.00	0.00	4.10	G	1.28
MILFORD	1.60	0.20	0.05	7.96	F	1.37
TORONTO	1.17	0.33	0.00	5.73	G	1.53
FALL RIVER	1.10	0.70	0.00	7.50	G	1.18
HILLSDALE	1.08	0.00	0.00	3.88	F	2.03
<b>LAKES</b>						
KINGMAN SFL	13.17	3.50	0.33	10.47	E	13.17
PARSONS CITY LAKE	9.50	1.25	0.00	6.17	E	9.50
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	9.13	0.13	0.00	6.46	E	8.69
CLARK SFL	8.00	1.33	0.00	8.60	G	6.56
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	8.00	1.33	0.33	10.72	E	7.11
DOUGLAS SFL	7.83	0.50	0.17	7.79	G	8.33
NEBO SFL	7.67	0.67	0.00	5.70	G	7.56
CRITZER LAKE	7.33	0.33	0.00	7.14	E	5.72
PLEASANTON CITY LAKE - OLD	7.00	0.33	0.00	5.90	G	3.67
BOURBON CO. LAKE	6.83	1.17	0.00	8.10	E	6.83
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	6.63	1.00	0.13	12.08	E	3.83
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	6.00	1.00	0.33	13.15	G	6.39
BROWN SFL	5.50	0.50	0.00	8.04	G	4.33
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	5.38	0.75	0.25	14.77	G	7.88
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	5.33	0.67	0.67	18.30	E	7.78
ESKRIDGE-LAKE WABAUNSEE	5.25	0.25	0.00	5.18	G	3.46
NEOSHO SFL	5.25	0.25	0.00	7.50	G	4.50
BUTLER SFL	5.00	0.50	0.00	7.76	G	3.50
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	5.00	0.50	0.25	9.26	E	5.00
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	5.00	0.00	0.00	3.53	G	5.50
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	4.83	0.33	0.00	5.23	F	4.33
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	4.50	0.25	0.00	5.64	G	3.33
JEWELL SFL	4.50	0.50	0.00	8.07	G	3.33
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	4.50	0.38	0.00	7.01	G	3.04
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	4.25	0.75	0.00	10.93	G	3.78
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	4.00	0.67	0.17	8.27	G	7.67
LYON SFL	3.83	0.50	0.33	17.20	E	2.33
EUREKA CITY LAKE	3.67	1.00	0.50	23.15	E	5.06
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	3.67	0.00	0.00	4.33	F	4.86
CRAWFORD SFL	3.50	0.67	0.17	9.19	G	2.61
HOLTON-PRAIRIE LAKE	3.50	0.25	0.00	6.50	F	4.88
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	3.50	0.17	0.00	4.53	F	2.67
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	3.33	0.00	0.00	6.42	G	5.17
POTT. CO-CROSS CREEK LAKE	3.33	0.00	0.00	4.38	F	3.67
SHAWNEE SFL	3.33	0.00	0.00	3.81	G	2.89
OSAGE SFL	3.33	0.00	0.00	4.31	F	2.00

## CHANNEL CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>16")	Preferred Rating (>24")	Lunker Rating (>28")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>18")
<b>LAKES</b>						
BOURBON SFL	3.17	0.33	0.00	5.50	G	5.64
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	3.17	0.50	0.50	16.76	G	3.61
HORSETHIEF	3.00	0.67	0.33	7.39	G	1.89
MADISON CITY LAKE	2.83	0.33	0.00	6.94	G	2.78
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	2.83	0.33	0.00	7.08	G	3.25
WOODSON SFL	2.67	0.50	0.17	15.19	G	2.26
CHASE SFL	2.50	0.00	0.00	3.95	G	2.42
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	3.09	G	2.50
BIG HILL WA-NORTH POND	2.33	0.00	0.00	2.16	G	2.33
JAWHAWK BOY SCOUT LAKE	2.33	0.00	0.00	2.61	F	2.04
PRATT CO. LAKE	2.33	0.67	0.00	6.70	G	2.94
ATCHISON SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	3.83	F	3.25
BONE CREEK LAKE	2.25	1.00	0.38	9.59	G	3.21
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	2.25	0.25	0.00	4.85	G	2.42
MELVERN RIVER POND	2.25	1.00	0.50	9.74	G	3.53
<b>WASHINGTTON SFL</b>						
WASHINGTON SFL	2.00	0.25	0.25	7.52	F	1.67
<b>PONDS</b>						
PARKER CITY LAKE	2.33	0.00	0.00	3.67	F	2.33
JEWELL CITY LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.83	G	1.17
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	3.92	F	1.44
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2	0.67	0.33	0.00	4.96	F	0.67



Mike Miller photo

## FLATHEAD CATFISH

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>28")	Lunker Rating (>34")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WEBSTER	0.30	0.10	0.10	46.30	G	0.23
KIRWIN	0.25	0.00	0.00	3.31	F	0.25
COUNCIL GROVE	0.17	0.00	0.00	4.43	F	0.17
POMONA	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.11	F	0.13
WILSON	0.17	0.08	0.00	6.88	F	0.18
LOVEWELL	0.14	0.00	0.00	3.29	G	0.14
GLEN ELDER	0.11	0.00	0.00	2.49	G	0.12
<b>LAKES</b>						
COWLEY SFL	0.50	0.25	0.00	5.80	G	0.38
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	0.50	0.00	0.00	3.44	F	0.50
LEBO CITY LAKE	0.50	0.25	0.25	22.33	F	0.50
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	0.38	0.00	0.00	5.07	F	0.31
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.43	P	0.33
BOURBON CO. LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	3.99	P	0.33
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	4.96	P	0.42
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	0.33	0.00	0.00	4.58	P	0.33
ATCHISON SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	3.94	F	0.25
NEOSHO SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	3.00	P	0.25
CLARK SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.54	P	0.17
CRAWFORD SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	4.54	F	0.17
GARDNER CITY LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.51	P	0.17
LEAVENWORTH SFL	0.17	0.00	0.00	3.04	F	0.17
MADISON CITY LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.65	P	0.17
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	0.17	0.00	0.00	2.99	F	0.17

# BLUEGILL

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>6")	Preferred Rating (>8")	Lunker Rating (>10")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>6")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	15.38	1.00	0.00	0.53	G	17.46
HILLSDALE	12.13	0.13	0.00	0.41	F	9.54
BIG HILL	5.20	0.30	0.00	0.33	F	6.03
WOLF CREEK	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	2.33
CLINTON	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	P	2.08
MILFORD	1.69	0.00	0.00	0.45	F	3.63
LACYGNE	1.50	0.06	0.00	0.41	F	2.77
<b>LAKES</b>						
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	99.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	G	70.83
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-EAST	65.33	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	65.33
ESKRIDGE-LAKE WABAUNSEE	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	G	18.75
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	21.75	0.13	0.00	0.35	F	24.71
MELVERN RIVER POND	18.50	7.00	0.00	0.56	G	24.00
PRATT CO. LAKE	17.00	1.00	0.00	0.56	G	15.08
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	10.00
POTT. CO-CROSS CREEK LAKE	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.39	F	17.38
WASHINGTON SFL	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	15.08
SCOTT STATE LAKE	15.40	0.10	0.00	0.36	G	18.97
NEOSHO SFL	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	G	13.72
MIAMI SFL	13.75	1.50	0.00	0.43	F	12.92
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	G	12.42
WILSON SFL	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	G	7.67
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9	10.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	10.50
EUREKA CITY LAKE	10.50	0.50	0.00	0.48	F	53.92
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	9.50	0.50	0.00	0.35	F	8.50
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	6.33
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	9.50
PAOLA CITY LAKE	9.50	0.00	0.00	0.25	F	17.89
CHASE SFL	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	5.67
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	8.75	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	5.00
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	8.38	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	14.13
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.37	F	7.50
ATCHISON SFL	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.36	F	10.17
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	6.00
MONTGOMERY SFL	6.40	0.40	0.00	0.35	E	3.26
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.30	P	5.42
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	5.67	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	5.89
MCPHERSON SFL	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	10.17
JEFFREY EC - MAKEUP LAKE	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.27	P	4.50
LEBO CITY LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	3.75
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.23	P	4.61
COWLEY SFL	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	9.08
DOUGLAS SFL	3.50	0.25	0.00	0.34	F	6.83
LEAVENWORTH SFL	3.50	0.75	0.00	0.37	F	1.67
LYON SFL	3.50	1.25	0.00	0.43	F	3.50
CLARK SFL	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	F	3.67
GARDNER CITY LAKE	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	24.75
JAWHAWK BOY SCOUT LAKE	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.37	F	1.63
CRITZER LAKE	2.75	0.50	0.00	0.37	G	2.08
SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	2.75	0.00	0.00	0.22	G	2.75
NEBO SFL	2.67	0.00	0.00	0.20	P	3.64
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.25	P	0.83
BOURBON CO. LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	G	2.50
BUTLER SFL	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.20	F	2.08
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.41	F	12.58
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.18	F	7.50
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	4.75
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	2.13	0.00	0.00	0.36	P	6.31
GEARY SFL	2.00	0.25	0.00	0.57	F	15.00
HOLTON-PRAIRIE LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	2.13
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	F	3.42
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.26	F	2.69
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.20	F	4.58
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	1.75	0.25	0.00	0.39	G	2.11
CRAWFORD SFL	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.18	F	4.17
<b>PONDS</b>						
JEWELL CITY LAKE	28.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	G	58.00
HIAWATHA CITY LAKE	18.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	F	18.50
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	15.50
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	F	11.83
OVERBROOK LAKE	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	F	8.00
SEVERY CITY LAKE	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	13.00
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.21	F	5.50
PARKER CITY LAKE	4.50	0.50	0.00	0.33	F	4.50



Mike Miller photo

# REDEAR

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>7")	Preferred Rating (>9")	Lunker Rating (>11")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>7")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
BIG HILL	0.40	0.00	0.00		P	0.77
<b>LAKES</b>						
DOUGLAS SFL	21.75	0.50	0.00	0.45	G	20.92
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	15.00	1.00	0.00	0.53	G	15.00
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	9.50	3.00	0.00	0.92	F	9.50
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	8.33	3.33	0.00	0.75	F	5.44
NEOSHO SFL	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	G	4.11
OSAGE SFL	8.00	1.00	0.00	0.62	F	4.00
COWLEY SFL	7.00	0.50	0.00	0.76	F	5.58
LEAVENWORTH SFL	7.00	0.50	0.00	0.57	G	4.42
BONE CREEK LAKE	5.75	2.00	0.00	0.73	G	15.79
WILSON SFL	5.25	3.00	0.25	0.84	E	4.17
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.65	F	3.92
BOURBON SFL	4.75	3.00	0.00	0.71	G	2.53
ATCHISON SFL	3.75	0.50	0.00	0.60	G	4.67
LYON SFL	3.50	1.75	0.00	0.73	F	2.50
MIAMI SFL	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.43	F	1.25
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.29	F	1.33
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	1.75	1.00	0.00	0.68	F	1.17
MELVERN RIVER POND	1.50	1.00	0.00	0.74	P	3.00
MONTGOMERY SFL	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.44	G	4.33
JEWELL SFL	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.82	G	6.92
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.66	F	1.00
BOURBON CO. LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	F	0.50
<b>PONDS</b>						
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.36	P	2.83
SEVERY CITY LAKE	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.82	F	5.33
OVERBROOK LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	P	1.00



<b>BLACK CRAPPIE</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
KIRWIN	5.25	5.06	1.38	1.26	G	5.69
JOHN REDMOND	4.00	0.75	0.25	1.65	F	4.00
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	3.50	2.88	1.25	1.75	G	3.88
LOVEWELL	2.92	0.92	0.08	1.07	F	3.27
CEDAR BLUFF	2.88	1.94	0.47	1.55	F	2.48
WEBSTER	2.75	1.38	0.50	1.08	G	4.54
HILLSDALE	1.13	0.13	0.00	0.53	F	1.31
CLINTON	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.40	P	0.40
BIG HILL	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.49	P	0.96
PERRY	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.49	P	0.30
COUNCIL GROVE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.46	P	0.25
GLEN ELDER	0.25	0.13	0.04	1.51	P	1.30
WOLF CREEK	0.25	0.25	0.17	1.32	F	0.21
EL DORADO	0.19	0.06	0.00	0.51	P	0.15
TORONTO	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.28	P	0.06
TUTTLE CREEK	0.13	0.13	0.06	0.88	P	0.23
WILSON	0.13	0.13	0.06	0.91	P	0.21
<b>LAKES</b>						
BROWN SFL	50.25	18.25	0.50	1.09	G	39.67
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	35.13	18.00	0.38	1.05	G	27.04
POTTAWATOMIE CO-CROSS CRK LK	26.00	0.75	0.00	0.49	G	18.25
CRITZER LAKE	19.50	8.25	0.50	0.92	G	7.00
MELVERN RIVER POND	13.00	2.00	0.00	0.53	G	6.17
NEOSHO SFL	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.44	G	14.28
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	9.25	1.50	0.00	0.94	G	6.46
PRATT CO. LAKE	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.43	F	5.03
OSAGE SFL	8.00	2.00	0.00	0.55	F	9.42
ESKRIDGE-LAKE WABAUNSEE	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.33	F	7.50
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	6.50	5.50	1.00	0.97	G	9.00
WILSON SFL	5.50	3.50	0.25	1.32	F	2.75
ATCHISON SFL	4.25	2.00	0.00	0.80	F	3.50
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	4.25	4.25	1.50	1.07	G	16.58
BOURBON SFL	3.50	1.75	0.50	1.11	G	2.17
DOUGLAS SFL	3.25	0.75	0.00	0.60	F	2.58
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	2.75	0.75	0.00	0.53	F	1.75
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.42	F	1.83
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	2.25	0.75	0.25	0.78	F	2.25
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	2.25	1.50	0.50	1.57	F	1.75
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	2.00
MIAMI SFL	2.00	1.75	0.00	0.91	F	2.25
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	1.75	1.13	0.00	0.74	P	0.88
LYON SFL	1.75	1.50	0.25	1.03	F	1.92
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	1.67	0.67	0.00	0.57	F	5.22
PAOLA CITY LAKE	1.50	0.50	0.00	0.50	F	2.44
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	1.50	0.88	0.00	0.67	P	2.75
SHERIDAN SFL	1.50	0.75	0.13	1.01	F	2.37
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.44	P	3.83
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	1.25	0.50	0.50	0.97	P	1.42
BIG HILL WA-NORTH POND	1.00	1.00	0.33	0.90	P	1.00
KIOWA SFL	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.63	P	1.00
MCPHERSON SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	P	2.33
MONTGOMERY SFL	1.00	0.80	0.00	0.73	F	2.55
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.81	F	1.00
WOODSON SFL	1.00	0.25	0.00	0.62	F	0.63
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	1.00	0.75	0.00	0.90	F	1.38
BONE CREEK LAKE	0.75	0.13	0.00	0.66	G	0.93
ATCHISON CO. LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.27	P	0.50
CLARK SFL	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.77	P	0.50
COWLEY SFL	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.31	F	6.33
GARDNER CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.44	F	1.42
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.35	P	0.50
HOLTON-PRAIRIE LAKE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.22	P	0.38
JEWELL SFL	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.01	F	2.67
LEAVENWORTH SFL	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.50	P	1.63
BARBER SFL-LOWER	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.40	P	0.92
JAWHAWK BOY SCOUT LAKE	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.65	F	0.67
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.37	P	0.75
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.40	P	0.33
SHAWNEE SFL	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.24	P	0.25
<b>PONDS</b>						
OVERBROOK LAKE	14.00	2.00	0.00	0.59	F	14.00
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	11.50	0.00	0.00	0.42	F	15.17
HIAWATHA CITY LAKE	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	F	3.00
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.92	P	0.50

<b>WHITE CRAPPIE</b>						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>10")	Lunker Rating (>12")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>8")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
HILLSDALE	39.50	9.06	0.44	0.98	G	33.83
JOHN REDMOND	35.50	29.25	7.00	1.72	G	35.50
PERRY	30.00	5.25	0.19	0.87	G	20.03
LOVEWELL	21.17	14.83	3.33	1.46	G	34.18
CLINTON	20.31	5.31	0.56	1.35	F	13.10
LACYGNE	14.63	3.69	0.00	0.81	G	8.71
POMONA	14.31	6.06	0.19	1.01	G	10.77
FALL RIVER	9.56	5.13	2.38	2.10	G	6.57
EL DORADO	8.56	3.56	0.19	0.99	G	5.40
COUNCIL GROVE	8.08	3.00	0.50	1.08	G	4.97
BIG HILL	7.80	3.40	0.80	1.19	E	11.93
TORONTO	7.00	3.69	1.38	2.20	G	8.72
WOLF CREEK	5.75	3.08	2.17	1.57	G	4.50
TUTTLE CREEK	4.88	1.31	0.25	1.49	F	8.56
MELVERN	4.19	0.75	0.19	1.15	F	13.10
MILFORD	4.19	3.13	0.31	1.13	F	8.44
KIRWIN	3.69	3.13	2.44	2.18	G	4.02
<b>LAKES</b>						
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	62.00	3.00	0.00	0.68	F	28.67
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	47.25	3.75	0.50	1.13	G	20.92
ESKRIDGE-LAKE WABAUNSEE	44.00	8.25	4.50	1.32	G	39.88
JEFFREY EC - MAKEUP LAKE	44.00	2.75	0.25	0.90	G	19.00
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	41.22	3.33	0.33	1.21	F	16.64
SCOTT STATE LAKE	40.10	6.30	0.10	0.93	F	49.96
PARSONS CITY LAKE	36.00	8.75	1.00	1.21	G	36.00
EUREKA CITY LAKE	31.75	6.25	1.00	1.43	G	30.42
BOURBON CO. LAKE	23.75	1.00	0.00	0.61	G	23.75
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	21.25	12.00	3.50	1.76	E	22.75
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	20.50	7.00	3.50	1.25	F	40.33
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9	20.00	1.00	0.50	1.33	G	20.00
HOLTON-PRAIRIE LAKE	19.75	6.50	1.00	0.99	G	14.13
NEOSHO SFL	17.50	1.50	0.50	0.68	G	16.78
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-EAST	17.00	1.33	0.33	0.88	G	17.00
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	16.50	3.50	0.00	0.67	G	23.17
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	16.00	3.25	0.00	0.61	F	33.92
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	16.00	7.00	0.25	0.98	G	20.96
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	14.38	3.75	2.00	1.63	G	20.81
MELVERN RIVER POND	14.00	6.50	0.00	0.78	G	13.42
CHASE SFL	11.75	1.00	0.00	0.44	F	10.08
GEARY SFL	11.50	4.50	0.25	0.80	G	12.33
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	11.50	3.50	0.00	0.80	G	12.00
WOODSON SFL	11.50	0.25	0.25	0.88	G	10.73
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	9.50	5.00	0.25	1.35	G	4.75
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	9.00	3.50	1.00	0.93	F	9.00
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	9.00	0.50	0.00	0.60	G	8.61
ATCHISON CO. LAKE	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.36	P	7.50
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	7.00	1.50	0.00	0.44	P	2.83
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	6.75	1.38	0.63	1.46	F	9.54
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	6.50	2.75	0.25	1.07	F	16.46
LEBO CITY LAKE	6.50	6.50	3.00	1.01	G	8.50
MCPHERSON SFL	6.50	1.00	1.00	1.43	F	9.00
MONTGOMERY SFL	6.40	3.80	0.40	0.88	G	4.41
ATCHISON SFL	6.25	1.50	0.00	0.72	F	5.42
KIOWA SFL	5.33	4.67	1.00	0.86	F	4.53
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	5.25	2.50	0.00	0.67	F	5.25
NEBO SFL	5.00	1.00	0.00	0.69	F	7.08
PAOLA CITY LAKE	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.51	F	9.36
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	5.00	1.25	0.25	0.81	F	4.33
LYON SFL	4.75	4.75	0.25	0.82	F	5.00
PRATT CO. LAKE	4.67	0.67	0.33	1.61	F	5.47
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	4.50	3.13	0.50	1.49	F	4.38
OSAGE SFL	4.50	0.75	0.25	0.83	F	4.50
CRAWFORD SFL	4.25	0.50	0.25	1.04	F	6.33
CRITZER LAKE	4.25	1.50	0.00	0.51	G	2.92
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	F	4.00
OTTAWA SFL	3.75	2.75	0.50	1.56	F	4.58
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	3.67	2.67	0.67	0.69	F	5.31
<b>PONDS</b>						
OVERBROOK LAKE	20.50	6.00	0.50	0.96	G	20.50
HIAWATHA CITY LAKE	16.50	1.00	0.00	0.59	F	16.50
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4	12.00	2.00	0.50	1.51	F	12.00
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	7.50	5.50	0.50	1.42	F	6.67
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2	7.00	6.50	1.50	1.22	F	7.00
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	6.00	4.00	0.00	0.52	F	6.00

# LARGEMOUTH BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	130.00	27.65	0.00	3.39	E	93.18
LACYGNE	69.77	47.12	9.18	8.91	E	61.25
WEBSTER	55.88	34.71	0.00	3.15	G	31.57
BIG HILL	26.05	8.68	0.30	5.20	G	21.32
WILSON	20.86	10.16	0.00	2.75	G	29.07
MILFORD	18.45	13.30	1.29	7.21	G	14.38
CLINTON	17.26	9.19	0.22	5.82	F	10.72
PERRY	15.22	10.03	1.73	6.15	F	19.16
HILLSDALE	14.12	6.65	0.00	4.94	F	14.45
EL DORADO	6.47	5.29	0.59	5.73	P	7.06
CEDAR BLUFF	5.88	2.24	0.00	3.87	P	6.74
MELVERN	5.46	3.36	0.00	4.37	F	3.54
KIRWIN	3.92	1.96	0.00	2.52	F	10.72
GLEN ELDER	1.07	0.80	0.00	2.65	P	2.23
<b>LAKES</b>						
LENEXA-LAKE LENEXA	181.25	18.75	1.56	6.10	G	85.31
BUTLER SFL	138.24	66.67	9.80	6.59	G	136.27
GARNETT-CRYSTAL LAKE	132.00	56.00	0.00	4.25	E	130.71
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #1	127.75	28.63	0.00	4.72	G	109.26
BROWN SFL	114.16	21.24	0.00	3.96	G	111.91
MCPHERSON SFL	110.08	62.18	4.20	7.12	E	105.32
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	93.75	35.42	0.00	4.44	G	92.03
PLEASANTON - WEST LAKE	92.94	34.12	1.18	5.31	E	110.29
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	90.20	39.87	1.31	5.90	G	67.99
MADISON CITY LAKE	87.25	44.12	2.94	5.06	E	69.34
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	86.15	10.00	0.00	2.71	E	99.38
LYON SFL	80.39	9.80	0.98	4.15	G	74.70
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	78.60	34.93	2.62	4.96	G	65.59
SHAWNEE SFL	74.36	54.22	0.77	5.01	E	70.22
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	72.29	49.40	3.01	6.39	G	59.02
PRATT CO. LAKE	71.74	22.96	1.43	4.65	G	55.82
GARDNER CITY LAKE	68.18	12.50	0.57	5.53	G	62.52
MIAMI SFL	66.96	5.36	0.00	3.11	F	106.57
JEWELL SFL	64.71	3.53	0.00	3.27	G	31.06
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	63.73	26.47	0.98	6.11	G	63.33
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	63.53	29.41	4.71	6.09	E	77.96
COWLEY SFL	63.00	15.00	0.00	2.67	G	76.56
MOLINE OLD (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	62.75	5.88	0.00	2.02	G	56.84
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	61.63	10.93	0.99	5.69	G	53.32
NEBO SFL	60.00	44.71	8.24	8.36	F	65.81
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	58.82	16.67	0.00	3.61	G	59.64
HOLTON-RAIRIE LAKE	55.88	39.22	0.98	6.37	F	65.20
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	55.45	20.91	0.00	2.89	G	50.89
POTTAWATOMIE CO-CROSS CRK LK	54.37	6.21	0.00	5.02	G	56.45
BONE CREEK LAKE	54.01	35.29	2.14	5.32	G	40.83
NEOSHO SFL	53.68	16.18	3.68	5.57	G	57.89
WILSON SFL	52.69	25.75	3.59	5.38	E	55.17
ATCHISON SFL	50.42	24.37	0.00	5.38	F	43.60
EUREKA CITY LAKE	49.02	15.69	0.00	4.43	G	54.60
MELVERN RIVER POND	47.90	9.24	0.00	4.00	G	57.44
BOURBON CO. LAKE	45.88	22.35	0.59	4.82	G	49.15
LEAVENWORTH SFL	45.38	14.29	0.00	3.02	F	51.97
MEADE STATE LAKE	44.64	37.50	3.57	5.51	G	35.22
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	41.18	11.76	1.96	5.77	G	54.38
PAOLA CITY LAKE	40.63	11.72	0.00	4.11	G	40.44
WICHITA - KDOT - WEST BORROW PIT	40.42	1.50	0.00	3.37	F	23.32
MONTGOMERY SFL	39.25	13.31	1.33	5.62	E	31.11
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	37.50	15.63	0.00	4.74	G	44.58
MOLINE NEW (NORTH) CITY LAKE	35.29	2.35	0.00	2.02	G	53.98
HORSETHIEF	34.15	20.49	0.00	4.72	F	34.15
CRITZER LAKE	34.12	14.71	0.59	8.21	E	25.50
THAYER CITY LAKE	33.33	14.71	2.94	5.30	F	30.64
KIOWA SFL	32.61	8.70	0.00	2.11	F	37.41
OTTAWA SFL	32.29	10.42	0.00	3.20	G	57.23
CARBONDALE CITY LAKE - EAST	28.43	11.76	0.00	5.14	F	25.02
OSAGE SFL	28.43	0.98	0.00	3.05	P	39.02
SCOTT STATE LAKE	27.53	11.80	1.12	6.86	G	24.36
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	27.21	13.24	0.00	2.82	G	52.12
JAWHAWK BOY SCOUT LAKE	27.06	4.71	0.00	1.60	F	37.65
CRAWFORD SFL	26.74	18.72	0.53	5.87	F	29.17
SHERIDAN SFL	24.51	0.00	0.00	1.28	F	34.23
LEBO CITY LAKE	24.48	2.10	0.00	2.60	F	35.03
WOODSON SFL	23.75	6.25	0.00	4.06	G	27.81
GEARY SFL	23.65	6.76	0.00	3.42	G	15.64



Marc Murrell photo

# LARGEMOUTH BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>LAKES</b>						
MARION CO. LAKE	22.16	4.19	0.00	2.98	G	18.17
GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	22.12	9.73	1.77	6.35	G	22.12
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	21.37	5.98	0.00	2.25	G	26.46
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	19.41	4.71	1.76	5.79	F	17.21
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	17.96	13.97	2.00	6.98	P	12.63
BARBER SFL-LOWER	17.65	4.41	0.00	4.19	P	14.85
ALTAMONT CITY LAKE-EAST	16.77	11.98	1.20	4.17	G	29.34
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	15.29	7.65	0.00	4.29	F	18.24
PLEASANTON CITY LAKE - OLD	14.71	8.82	0.00	3.88	P	37.75
OSAWATOMIE CITY LAKE	14.06	3.13	0.00	3.67	F	28.35
BOURBON SFL	13.75	3.75	0.00	3.32	F	18.63
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #9	11.76	0.00	0.00	1.36	F	11.76
DOUGLAS SFL	10.78	0.98	0.00	1.81	F	9.15
WASHINGTON SFL	9.98	0.00	0.00	1.74	P	6.47
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	8.13	4.38	0.00	2.85	F	14.79
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	7.58	0.00	0.00	1.17	G	19.47
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	4.77	1.79	0.00	4.01	P	4.35
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	3.92	1.31	0.00	2.49	P	2.18
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	3.36	2.52	1.68	7.22	P	2.63
ATCHISON CO. LAKE	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.70	P	1.47
<b>PONDS</b>						
EMPORIA-PETER PAN PARK	135.29	76.47	0.00	2.97	G	64.74
EMPORIA-JONES PARK - WEST POND	116.67	8.33	0.00	1.49	G	116.67
LAWRENCE - P. DAWSON BILLINGS - N	103.23	38.71	0.00	3.78	G	103.23
NEMAHA WILDLIFE AREA POND	102.22	4.93	0.00	2.04	G	136.46
JEWELL CITY LAKE	67.65	32.35	0.00	3.74	G	62.45
SEVERY CITY LAKE	67.65	26.47	0.00	1.92	G	84.43
NEW STRAWN CITY LAKE	58.00	14.00	0.00	3.35	G	89.78
BALDWIN - SPRING CREEK LAKE	42.50	15.00	0.00	3.29	F	97.94
EMPORIA-JONES PARK -NORTH POND	33.33	8.33	8.33	3.96	G	71.97
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #2	26.47	2.94	0.00	1.87	F	26.47
OVERBROOK KIDS POND	21.43	7.14	0.00	4.72	F	31.76
LAWRENCE - P. DAWSON BILLINGS - S	20.00	20.00	0.00	2.60	P	20.00
HIAWATHA CITY LAKE	17.65	10.29	0.00	3.12	F	17.65
WICHITA - KDOT - EAST BORROW PIT	16.39	11.92	0.00	3.48	F	19.37
ATCHISON CITY LAKE #4	11.76	0.00	0.00	1.36	F	11.76
GLEN ELDER STATE PARK POND	11.76	9.80	0.00	2.79	P	15.69
OVERBROOK LAKE	9.52	0.00	0.00	1.20	P	47.29
FALL RIVER	3.92	0.98	0.00	1.80	F	13.15
WALNUT CREEK - TORONTO RES.	3.53	2.35	0.00	3.02	F	13.65

## SPOTTED BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	12.94	4.71	0.00	1.99	G	13.34
MILFORD	4.29	2.15	0.00	1.49	F	3.15
MELVERN	2.52	0.63	0.00	2.18	P	3.73
EL DORADO	1.18	0.59	0.00	1.74	P	1.09
CEDAR BLUFF	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.90	F	2.03
GLEN ELDER	0.53	0.53	0.00	1.40	P	0.27
<b>LAKES</b>						
WILSON SFL	32.34	11.98	1.20	3.75	E	34.92
CRAWFORD SFL	13.90	2.67	0.53	2.90	F	11.44
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	11.76	5.88	0.00	1.57	G	17.69
EUREKA CITY LAKE	8.82	0.00	0.00	0.95	F	4.94
BOURBON SFL	7.50	0.00	0.00	1.17	G	9.25
MARION CO. LAKE	2.99	0.00	0.00	1.06	F	2.43
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	2.94	1.96	0.00	2.52	P	1.79

## SMALLMOUTH BASS

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WOLF CREEK	50.00	26.36	2.73	2.62	E	37.25
MILFORD	12.45	8.15	2.58	3.51	G	17.66
MELVERN	12.39	7.77	1.47	3.77	F	8.68
GLEN ELDER	9.63	6.15	0.27	2.51	G	15.05
EL DORADO	8.82	2.94	1.76	2.76	F	5.62
CLINTON	6.73	4.93	0.22	2.91	F	5.69
WILSON	2.94	1.87	0.00	2.04	G	6.23
<b>LAKES</b>						
JEFFREY EC - MAKEUP LAKE	13.66	2.10	0.00	1.82	G	7.76
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	8.34	2.38	0.00	1.68	G	14.69
POTTAWATOMIE SFL #2	4.37	2.62	0.00	2.02	F	6.76
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	2.73	1.82	0.00	2.12	P	1.73
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.41	2.41	1.20	3.21	F	1.84
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	2.35	0.00	0.00	0.97	P	1.57
CRITZER LAKE	2.35	2.35	0.00	1.98	G	2.80
MCPHERSON SFL	1.68	1.68	0.00	2.12	P	1.68
GEARY SFL	1.35	0.00	0.00	1.27	P	0.68
BOURBON CO. LAKE	1.18	1.18	1.18	2.70	G	3.07
DOUGLAS CO.-LONESTAR LAKE	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.90	P	0.33
SHAWNEE SFL	0.77	0.77	0.00	2.25	P	0.77



Gene Brehm photo

WHITE BASS						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>8")	Preferred Rating (>12")	Lunker Rating (>15")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>9")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WEBSTER	16.00	13.60	2.20	1.84	G	8.08
CEDAR BLUFF	13.74	13.32	3.05	2.00	E	17.73
CLINTON	12.94	11.38	0.81	1.73	G	15.96
GLEN ELDER	11.00	10.26	2.78	2.57	G	14.21
CHENEY	7.90	7.10	1.65	2.31	G	4.28
MELVERN	6.56	6.13	0.69	1.97	F	5.40
HILLSDALE	6.08	5.58	0.08	1.34	G	3.75
LOVEWELL	6.00	5.93	0.50	1.94	F	9.40
POMONA	5.75	3.58	0.08	4.48	G	6.87
LACYGNE	5.58	1.58	0.08	1.47	G	3.47
WOLF CREEK	5.40	4.80	0.80	1.87	E	5.09
JOHN REDMOND	4.33	2.00	1.50	3.20	E	4.33
PERRY	3.60	1.95	0.15	2.14	G	9.18
KIRWIN	3.42	2.50	1.00	2.71	F	4.72
BIG HILL	3.00	2.60	0.10	1.63	F	5.17
COUNCIL GROVE	2.58	2.33	0.00	1.54	F	3.14
WILSON	2.50	2.50	1.00	2.65	F	2.75
FALL RIVER	2.40	1.80	0.50	2.20	F	4.13
TORONTO	2.25	1.50	0.25	2.65	F	2.33
EL DORADO	2.07	1.53	0.20	1.46	F	4.99
KANOPOLIS	1.88	1.50	0.50	1.79	F	6.35
<b>LAKES</b>						
CLARK SFL	8.33	1.00	0.00	0.88	G	14.00
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	6.38	6.25	0.38	1.73	G	4.94
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	5.88	4.88	0.00	1.15	F	7.58
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	5.75	4.50	0.25	1.59	G	6.17
YATES CENTER CITY LAKE-NEW	2.67	1.83	0.17	1.43	F	1.42
CHASE SFL	2.50	1.00	0.00	1.17	P	3.19
PAOLA CITY LAKE	2.50	2.50	0.00	1.21	F	1.42
OSAGE SFL	2.00	1.67	0.00	1.09	P	1.25
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-OLD	1.75	1.25	1.25	2.39	F	6.54
SEDAN - NEW (SOUTH) CITY LAKE	1.75	1.50	0.00	1.36	P	2.08
JEFFREY EC - MAKEUP LAKE	1.67	1.67	0.00	1.11	F	11.22
MELVERN RIVER POND	1.50	1.50	0.25	1.81	P	2.56
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	1.38	0.38	0.00	1.34	P	1.25
GEARY SFL	1.00	1.00	0.25	2.55	P	1.75
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	1.00	1.00	0.33	1.88	F	1.61
GARDNER CITY LAKE	0.83	0.67	0.00	1.29	F	2.67

WIPER						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>12")	Preferred Rating (>15")	Lunker Rating (>20")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>12")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	10.40	2.90	0.00	7.00	G	8.30
KIRWIN	9.17	2.08	0.17	9.08	G	4.94
WEBSTER	6.70	1.90	0.40	8.60	G	3.09
EL DORADO	5.07	0.73	0.00	5.38	G	2.51
MILFORD	4.85	0.80	0.00	5.87	G	6.45
CHENEY	4.65	0.85	0.00	6.48	G	3.12
CLINTON	3.44	2.56	0.13	7.76	F	3.77
CEDAR BLUFF	2.84	0.74	0.16	10.27	G	2.42
COUNCIL GROVE	2.75	0.25	0.00	4.39	G	1.44
LACYGNE	2.33	0.83	0.00	4.37	G	1.08
GLEN ELDER	1.81	1.04	0.00	6.77	F	1.86
POMONA	1.25	0.17	0.00	4.33	G	1.40
<b>LAKES</b>						
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	12.75	3.75	0.00	5.15	G	9.42
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	9.63	0.88	0.00	4.81	G	7.13
EUREKA CITY LAKE	5.33	0.17	0.00	3.97	G	1.83
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	4.10	1.20	0.00	5.07	G	3.30
PAOLA CITY LAKE	3.83	0.00	0.00	2.89	F	1.33
LEAVENWORTH SFL	3.33	1.33	0.00	5.22	F	2.28
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	3.33	0.00	0.00	3.20	F	3.00
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	3.00	0.33	0.17	7.72	F	3.11
JEFFREY EC - MAKEUP LAKE	2.67	0.83	0.00	5.43	F	2.44
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	2.25	0.50	0.25	5.71	G	2.06
KIOWA SFL	2.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	F	0.67
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	1.67	0.00	0.00	3.28	G	0.94
PRATT CO. LAKE	1.67	0.67	0.67	9.92	F	1.22
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	1.25	0.25	0.00	5.72	F	1.44
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.25	0.25	0.00	6.44	F	1.25
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	1.00	0.50	0.13	6.31	F	1.31
SHERIDAN SFL	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.51	P	0.87

STRIPER						
IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>20")	Preferred Rating (>30")	Lunker Rating (>35")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>20")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
WILSON	2.04	0.04	0.00	15.49	G	2.55



Mike Miller photo



## WALLEYE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>15")	Preferred Rating (>20")	Lunker Rating (>25")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>15")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
KIRWIN	7.92	4.58	0.75	7.32	G	5.81
CHENEY	4.70	2.40	0.15	7.39	G	3.33
WEBSTER	4.20	0.70	0.20	6.60	G	6.51
GLEN ELDER	3.67	0.67	0.07	5.85	G	4.36
CEDAR BLUFF	2.95	0.16	0.05	7.27	F	2.84
EL DORADO	2.80	1.53	0.40	8.11	G	2.85
MILFORD	2.10	0.80	0.05	6.23	G	3.10
WILSON	2.04	0.04	0.00	3.70	G	2.61
LOVEWELL	1.71	1.00	0.21	6.76	F	2.19
MELVERN	0.88	0.44	0.06	4.93	F	1.17
WOLF CREEK	0.70	0.10	0.00	2.62	F	0.48
CLINTON	0.63	0.56	0.00	6.09	F	0.85
POMONA	0.25	0.08	0.00	3.08	F	0.70
HILLSDALE	0.17	0.17	0.00	5.02	F	0.81
<b>LAKES</b>						
PRATT CO. LAKE	4.00	1.33	0.33	5.00	G	7.17
GRIDLEY CITY LAKE	3.33	0.00	0.00	1.43	F	2.00
HORSETHIEF	2.67	1.33	0.00	3.97	F	1.22
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.50	1.63	0.50	6.39	G	3.33
SABETHA - PONY CREEK LAKE	1.17	0.67	0.17	6.05	F	1.39
SHAWNEE SFL	1.17	0.83	0.00	4.48	F	0.50
BARBER SFL-LOWER	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.10	P	2.00
CLARK SFL	1.00	0.67	0.00	5.59	F	0.89
CRITZER LAKE	1.00	0.17	0.00	2.53	G	1.06
LEBO CITY LAKE	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.14	F	1.00
WINFIELD CITY LAKE	0.90	0.60	0.10	6.37	G	1.53
PLEASANTON - EAST LAKE	0.83	0.50	0.00	4.14	G	0.39
YATES CENTER-SOUTH OWL LAKE	0.83	0.00	0.00	1.48	F	0.92
HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	0.75	0.75	0.00	4.18	F	1.75
JEFFREY EC - MAKEUP LAKE	0.67	0.33	0.00	3.78	F	1.17
LEAVENWORTH SFL	0.67	0.50	0.00	4.49	F	0.94
BROWN SFL	0.50	0.50	0.00	4.81	P	0.50
GARNETT CITY LAKE-NORTH	0.50	0.25	0.00	2.73	F	1.03
JEFFREY EC - AUX. MAKEUP LAKE	0.50	0.38	0.00	3.58	F	0.75
MELVERN RIVER POND	0.50	0.25	0.00	3.86	P	0.50
SCOTT STATE LAKE	0.50	0.42	0.25	6.57	F	0.63
BONE CREEK LAKE	0.38	0.25	0.00	4.56	P	0.25
SHAWNEE CO.-LAKE SHAWNEE	0.38	0.25	0.00	3.10	P	0.63

## SAUGER

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>11")	Preferred Rating (>14")	Lunker Rating (>17")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>11")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
PERRY	2.35	1.90	0.55	2.59	G	3.63
CLINTON	0.81	0.63	0.06	3.19	F	1.25
MELVERN	0.50	0.19	0.06	2.16	P	0.40
<b>LAKES</b>						
HOLTON - BANNER CREEK LAKE	2.25	1.88	0.38	2.10	G	1.71

## SAUGEYE

IMPOUNDMENT	Density Rating (>14")	Preferred Rating (>18")	Lunker Rating (>22")	Biggest Fish (lbs.)	Bio Rating	3-Year Average (>14")
<b>RESERVOIRS</b>						
SEBELIUS (NORTON)	15.00	4.60	0.00	4.09	G	13.43
KANOPOLIS	9.25	3.88	0.13	5.67	E	9.14
TUTTLE CREEK	1.50	0.45	0.10	5.38	F	4.33
COUNCIL GROVE	1.17	0.75	0.33	4.54	F	6.17
<b>LAKES</b>						
OTTAWA SFL	5.75	3.25	0.25	5.25	G	4.53
CENTRALIA CITY LAKE	4.25	3.63	1.25	8.44	G	2.79
GRAHAM CO.-ANTELOPE LAKE	4.00	2.25	0.00	3.47	G	7.75
SCOTT STATE LAKE	3.83	2.00	0.00	3.94	G	2.74
GEARY SFL	3.25	0.50	0.00	3.34	G	2.67
WASHINGTON SFL	3.00	0.75	0.00	2.66	F	1.88
MIDDLE CREEK SFL	2.83	1.33	0.33	5.56	F	1.06
WELLINGTON CITY LAKE	2.13	1.25	0.25	4.10	G	3.75
ATWOOD-LAKE ATWOOD-MAIN	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.85	P	7.22
EUREKA CITY LAKE	2.00	1.83	0.33	6.61	G	1.33
PAOLA CITY LAKE	2.00	1.00	0.33	4.24	F	1.44
PARSONS CITY LAKE	1.75	1.50	1.25	6.08	F	1.75
OLATHE-CEDAR LAKE	1.67	1.33	0.00	4.22	F	2.42
ESKRIDGE-LAKE WABAUNSEE	1.50	1.00	0.75	6.32	P	1.17
GARDNER CITY LAKE	1.50	0.83	0.00	3.27	F	1.72
SEDAN - OLD (NORTH) CITY LAKE	1.25	0.75	0.25	2.81	G	1.17
SHERIDAN SFL	1.25	0.75	0.00	3.02	G	2.78
CHASE SFL	1.00	0.75	0.25	3.28	F	0.89
MCPHERSON SFL	1.00	1.00	0.33	3.92	P	1.00
MADISON CITY LAKE	0.83	0.83	0.50	4.74	F	0.83
OLATHE-LAKE OLATHE	0.83	0.67	0.00	3.60	F	2.33
CHANUTE CITY LAKE	0.75	0.25	0.00	3.68	P	1.00
HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	0.75	0.75	0.00	3.09	F	0.75

# What's In A Hat?

text and photos by  
Dustin Teasley, *graphic designer, Pratt*



*Every outdoorsman has a favorite hat that either feels right, looks right or brings luck. However, most of us probably don't think about what really goes into the making of a favorite hat.*

Most people have a possession that, while not particularly valuable, means a great deal to them. Some may treasure an old broken-down pickup that no one would buy but that holds special memories of past hunting and fishing trips. Others may treasure an old worn hunting rifle, passed down from a loved one. For me, it's a tan floppy-brimmed safari hat I wore on dozens and dozens of duck hunts. The tattered edges and stains each mark a special memory or adventure.

Explaining the purpose and functionality of that hat to my hunting partners was ongoing. Being made fun of became an every-hunt occurrence and only increased in intensity as the hat became excessively worn. But I didn't care, it was my hat and I loved it. So much so, that I once did everything short of dismantling my truck after misplacing it.

I don't hunt ducks as much as I used to, either because of other time commitments or maybe I'm not just as driven, but I came across that hat the other day and smiled. I held the hat and memories of my two yellow Labs, now long gone, came back. I could clearly see their eager eyes as we crouched in a tumbleweed blind, listening for the whisper of set-

ting wings. In my mind's eye, I see friends gathered in my warm garage after a blustery cold morning, bragging about our shots while we cleaned our ducks. Then I see the glorious sights and sounds of hundreds, even thousands of ducks piling in on top of us. I relive the tranquility of a single mallard effortlessly breaking down through timber to set on the river amongst a spread of decoys weaving in the current.

You have to admit, that's a pretty amazing hat. I hope every hunter has one like it.

About five years ago, my son Hunter picked out a camouflage trucker hat with the Zoom Bait Company logo on it. I don't know whether it was the camo, the fit, the mesh back that allowed his head to stay cooler, or the logo itself, but he fell in love with it and rarely took it off.

He wouldn't even let his mom wash it, for fear it would come out different. I cringed once when I saw him smelling the hat and I asked him why. "It smells like Grandpa Joe," he said simply. Grandpa Joe, my dad, never washed his ball caps and Hunter would often play with them while grandpa held him. Grandpa Joe is gone but his memory is still in that hat.



**ZOOM**  
BAIT COMPANY

When Hunter began hunting with me, he insisted his hat was our good luck charm because we were successful more often than not when he wore it. Made sense to me. After Hunter bagged his first duck last fall, I broke out the camera to take pictures. But before I could snap a shot, Hunter insisted he retrieve his "Zoom" hat for the pictures. "I wear my Zoom hat for all my hunting pictures, Dad," he said like I should have known. I thought he was half joking until I scanned my office corkboard littered with pictures of past hunts. Sure enough, in almost every one he has that hat on.

Last week, I came home after work to find him setting on my bed with his head down, hat in hand and on his lap. "What's wrong buddy?" I asked concerned. He looked up at me, held the hat up, and his eyes swelled with tears. He showed me where the plastic clasp on the back had weathered enough to split down the middle. "It just won't stay together," he muttered through the tears.

As his father and someone who understood about favorite hats, I had to fix it. I went to the kitchen junk drawer and retrieved some camo tape we had used on the rifle tripod the week before. We adjusted the hat to fit and wrapped it with the tape to keep it

together. It was fixed, for now, both physically and emotionally.

I knew the fix was temporary, so I suggested he might want to start looking for another hunting hat. I explained that things like that don't last forever. With wisdom beyond his years, he said "I know, but there is a lot in that hat."

Kids think and speak exactly what is on their minds and what he said struck me profoundly. Stunned, "I know what you mean," was all I could think to say. I am positive he will keep the old hat in a safe place. And if I can find another to replace it I will, even if I cannot replace the memories. When he tells his mom not to wash a new hat, I'll know he has found another.

We can't live in the past, but we sure can remember it, especially the good times. I cannot tell you what all is in that hat of his and I don't need to know. It's for him, not me. I don't want others to cherish my hat, and I won't hand it down to the next generation with grandpa's stories. My hat was for me, and it holds my stories. Everyone needs to find a hat of their own, and as a father, I know one young man who has. I am glad to be part of it. So I guess there is quite a bit in a hat. 🍷

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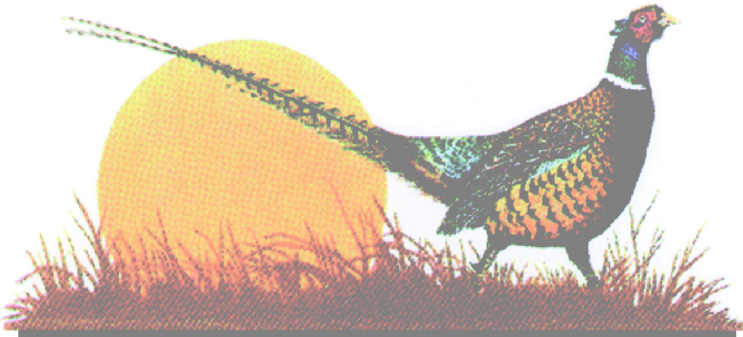
To view the full line of Outdoor Store merchandise, visit [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com) and click "Services / Outdoor Store."





# Giving Back

by Brian Schaffer  
*Pheasants Forever youth outreach coordinator, Little River*



## PHEASANTS

# forever®

This past Thanksgiving was the first time in eight years I was able to make the trip home to Pennsylvania for the holiday. Busy school and work commitments had made the long trip impossible until this year. I made the most of the visit and in addition to spending time with family and friends on Thanksgiving Day, I was able to deer hunt with my father. In my short hunting career, I have been fortunate to chase white-tailed deer in some fantastic states including Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and now Kansas, but there is something about the opening day of the firearm deer season in Pennsylvania that I will always cherish.

When my father and I are together, one of our favorite things to do is to look through old hunting and fishing photo albums and reminisce. We spent some time looking through the albums over Thanksgiving, and I was surprised when one photo triggered a much different response than it had before. This particular photo was taken on Oct. 11, 1998, opening day of the youth squirrel season in Pennsylvania and my first year to participate. I had been looking forward to that Saturday morning for



**Brian Schaffer feels it's important to give back to the hunting heritage so important in his life, and he has the perfect opportunity, serving as the Kansas Pheasants Forever Youth Outreach Coordinator.**

months. Although I had spent the last two falls as my father's shadow on deer, turkey and squirrel hunts in the hardwood ridges surrounding our home, this would be my first year to carry a firearm. That July, I had successfully completed a Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter-Trapper Education Course and time was the only thing keeping me from taking part in hunting traditions deeply rooted in the Keystone state.

The day's events occurred just over 15 years ago, but I still remember the smell of the wet leaves, the light mist that engulfed the mountain side we walked, the handshake and smile that my father gave me when the morning's first shot crumpled a big bushy-tail out of a mature hickory tree. To many people, these details may seem trivial; however, they will be



**This particular photo was taken on Oct. 11, 1998, opening day of the youth squirrel season in Pennsylvania and my first year to participate. I had been looking forward to that Saturday morning for months.**

etched in my memory forever. As I mature and look back on my childhood, the majority of my favorite memories involve my father and the great outdoors. I believe a recent change in my career path caused me to react differently to a photo from that morning.

I would consider myself what Mike Miller, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWPT) Pass It On coordinator, refers to as "one of the lucky sons" because of the ample opportunities my father and his friends provided me. They always did a fantastic job of teaching me how to be a safe and ethical woodsman. I am sure there were opportunities when turkeys, deer and big fish were missed because of the young and inexperienced sportsman they had tagging along. However, it never seemed to bother them when we were what I considered "unsuccessful" because of my inexperience. Looking back as an adult, I realize that the little smirks they would get on their faces after a missed shot at a white-tailed deer or strutting longbeard wasn't one of frustration but a look of growth. What I mean by that is that they were okay with the missed opportunity to harvest game as long as I learned from the experience.

As my early teens progressed into my late teens my passion for hunting grew exponentially. If I wasn't playing baseball or working, I was chasing rabbits with beagles or trying to fill deer and turkey tags. As high school was coming to an end I decided I wanted to pursue a career working with wildlife. This led me to earning Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Biology from Unity College in Maine. The May following graduation I accepted a position with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. During this time I was able to learn a great deal and begin networking, which led to pursuing a Master's Degree at South Dakota State University studying white-tailed deer. The focus of this three-year research project was to investigate adult and fawn survival rates, move-

ments, and reproduction of white-tailed deer in central North Dakota.

It was during this time I felt a need to start giving back to the resource and hunting heritage I loved. I became a certified North Dakota Hunter Education Program instructor and started helping at local courses. Even though the courses were in a very rural region of a state that revolves around agriculture, I was surprised by the number children who had little to no firearm safety instruction prior to the courses.

Shortly after completing my master's degree, I had resumed working for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department when I saw a job listing for an Outreach Coordinator in Kansas with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. I did some research about Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's No Child Left Indoors (NCLI) initiative and realized this was an opportunity to make a direct impact on the future of conservation. After interviewing for the position, I strongly believed that it had the potential to help reverse the declining trends in youth outdoor participation and the outdoor traditions I cherish so deeply.



Outdoor skills programs provide youngsters with a variety of outdoor skills and shooting instruction, including pellet rifle shooting.



Wingshooting has been stressed at many of the skills events because Kansas has a fantastic upland bird hunting tradition. Wingshooting is also easy to accommodate.

Linda Craghead photo

After interviewing for the position in Wichita, I was offered the job.

The focus of the Outreach Coordinator is to work directly with the Pheasants Forever (PF), Quail Forever (QF) and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) chapters alongside KDWPT, to provide children and their families opportunities to take part in mentored hunting experiences, shooting sports clinics and other outdoor activities that inspire and recruit hunting conservationists.

One of the most crucial objectives is to facilitate communication between conservation organizations and KDWPT to maximize attendance and leverage resources at youth events. Money and volunteers' time are two valuable commodities in natural resource management, and I hope to make the most of both. Another very important part of this position will be helping chapters plan, schedule and conduct youth events. Many conservation groups have the desire to host a youth event but are unsure of where to start. Hopefully through this position I will be able to help break down those barriers and show volunteers how easy and rewarding hosting youth events is.

A significant portion of my duties will focus on "training the trainers." Volunteers come from all walks of life and put a lot of time into planning and hosting their youth events. We want to help optimize their efforts in creating a safe and enjoyable event for everyone involved. To accomplish this, we will provide support throughout the year, in addition to hosting educational seminars. For example, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever will be hosting "Focus on

Forever" June 13-15 at the Ringneck Ranch in Tipton. This conference is designed specifically for volunteers to learn best practices for activities, events and programs that share our outdoor traditions with youth and their families. Participants will not only have the chance to take part in hands-on training but learn how chapters can benefit from all the opportunities the NCLI initiative has to offer. Seminar topics include Teaching the Skill of Wingshooting, Hands on Habitat – Pollinator Projects for Your Community, Mentored Hunt Basics, Instructor Basics and NCLI Resources for Chapters.

One of the more challenging tasks we are going to tackle is trying to track the program results to determine the program's effectiveness of recruiting and retaining youth in the outdoors. We believe this will have to be a long-term monitoring effort to determine if the combined efforts of NWTF, PF, QF, and KDWPT are having a positive impact.

Our society has gone through some major changes in recent years. Children are spending less time outdoors and the average age of sportsmen is rising, which if not aggressively addressed, may cause significant wildlife management issues in the future. As a fellow sportsman, I urge that we need to unite and make an effort to reach a generation of young people who are fixated on electronics and get them outdoors. Efforts to actively engage children in outdoor activities and teach them about conservation need to increase. I understand everyone's time is valuable and we live in a very busy world, but it doesn't take much time to introduce a child to the outdoors and share your passion. You never know, you may spark an interest that will last a lifetime! 🍷

# 2014 Sportsmen's Calendar

## TURKEY

### 2014 SPRING TURKEY:

- Youth/ Archery/ Persons with disabilities:  
April 1-8, 2014
- Firearm: April 9-May 31, 2014

### 2014 FALL TURKEY:

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

## BIG GAME

### DEER:

- Youth/Persons with Disabilities: Sept. 6-14, 2014
- Archery: Sept. 15-Dec. 31, 2014
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 15-28, 2014
- Pre-Rut Whitetail Antlerless: Oct. 11-12, 2014
- Regular Firearm: Dec. 3-14, 2014
- Firearm Extended Whitetail Antlerless  
Season: Jan.1-11, 2015
- Archery Extended Whitetail Antlerless  
Season (DMU 19 only): Jan. 19-31, 2015
- Special Extended Firearms Whitetail  
Antlerless Season: Jan. 12-18, 2015  
(Open for unit 7, 8 and 15 only.)

### ELK (residents only)

#### Outside Fort Riley:

- Muzzleloader: Sept. 1-30, 2014
- Archery: Sept. 15-Dec. 31, 2014
- Firearm: Dec. 3-14, 2014 and  
Jan.1-March 15, 2015

#### On Fort Riley:

- Muzzleloader and archery: Sept. 1-30, 2014
- Firearm Season for Holders of Any-Elk  
Permits: Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2014  
Antlerless Only
- Firearm First Segment: Oct. 1-31, 2014
- Firearm Second Segment: Nov. 1-30, 2014
- Firearm Third Segment: Dec. 1-31, 2014

## ANTELOPE

- Firearm: Oct. 3-6, 2014
- Archery: Sept. 20-28 & Oct. 11-31, 2014
- Muzzleloader: Sept. 29-Oct. 6, 2013

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

### EARLY TEAL

To be set

### DUCK

To be set

### CANADA GEESE (including brant)

To be set

### WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

To be set

### LIGHT GEESE

Conservation order: Feb. 10-April 30, 2014

### YOUTH WATERFOWL

To be set

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

- Season: Sept.1-Oct. 31 and Nov. 1-9, 2014
- Daily bag limit: 15
- Possession limit: 45 (Daily bag and possession limits apply to mourning and white-winged doves, single species or in combination. No limit on Eurasian collared or ringed turtle doves)

### EXOTIC DOVE

#### (Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves only)

- Season: Nov. 20, 2014-Feb. 28, 2015
- Daily bag limit: No limit
- Possession limit: No limit

### RAIL (Sora and Virginia)

- Season: Sept. 1-Nov. 9, 2014
- Daily bag limit: 25
- Possession limit: 75

### SNIPE

- Season: Sept. 1-Dec. 16, 2014
- Daily bag limit: 8
- Possession limit: 24

# 2014 Sportsmen's Calendar

## WOODCOCK

- Season: Oct. 11-Nov. 24, 2014
- Daily bag limit: 3
- Possession limit: 9

## SANDHILL CRANE

- Season: Nov. 5, 2013-Jan. 1, 2015
- Daily bag limit: 3
- Possession limit: 9

## UPLAND GAME BIRDS

### PRAIRIE CHICKEN

- Early Season (East and Northwest units):  
Sept. 15-Oct. 15
- Regular Season (East and Northwest units):  
Nov. 15, 2014-Jan. 31, 2015
- Regular Season (Southwest Unit):  
Nov. 15-Dec. 31, 2014
- Daily Bag Limit: 2 (East and Northwest  
Units) single species or in combination  
1 (Southwest Unit)
- Possession Limit: four times daily bag

### PHEASANTS

- Season: Nov. 8, 2014-Jan. 31, 2015
- Youth Season: Nov. 1-2, 2014
- Daily bag limit: 4 cocks in regular  
season, 2 cocks in youth season

### QUAIL

- Season: Nov. 8, 2014-Jan. 31, 2015
- Youth Season: Nov. 1-2, 2014
- Daily Bag Limit Quail: 8 in regular season,  
4 in youth season

## SMALL GAME ANIMALS

### SQUIRREL

- Season: June 1, 2014-Feb. 28, 2015
- Daily bag limit: 5
- Possession limit: 20

### RABBITS (cottontail & jackrabbit)

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

## CROW

- Season: Nov. 10, 2014-March 10, 2015
- Daily bag/Possession Limit: no limit

## FURBEARERS

### TRAPPING/HUNTING

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

### BEAVER AND OTTER TRAPPING

- Season: Nov. 12, 2014-March 31, 2015
- Otter season Bag Limit: 2

## FISHING

### BULLFROG

- July 1 - Oct. 31, 2014
- Daily creel limit: 8
- Possession limit: 24

### FLOATLINE FISHING

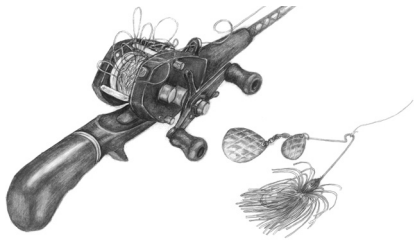
- Season: July 15 - Sept. 15, 2014
- Area open: Hillsdale, Council Grove, Tuttle  
Creek, Kanopolis, John Redmond, Toronto,  
Wilson, Elk City, Fall River, Glen Elder, Lovewell  
and Pomona reservoirs.

### HANDFISHING (flathead catfish only)

- Season: June 15-Aug. 31, 2014
- Area open: Arkansas River, Kansas River and  
federal reservoirs 150 yards from beyond the  
dam upstream to the end of the federal property.
- Daily creel limit: 5
- Permit required

### PADDLEFISH SNAGGING

- Season: March 15-May 15, 2014
- Daily creel limit: 2
- Season limit: 6
- Permit required



# Backlash

by Mike Miller

## CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

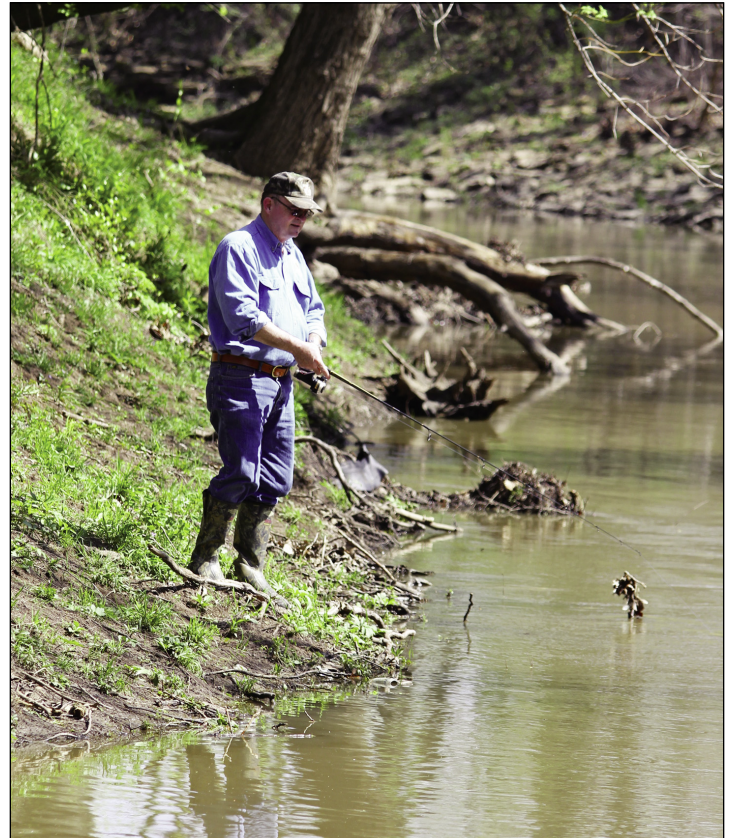
I was watching one of those house hunter television shows a while back – not by choice but because it was what my wife was watching and I hadn't yet devised a good plan to steal the remote away. So I did what I do – I watched even though I wasn't interested. Anyway, the featured couple was house shopping in San Francisco, or some other west-coast city, and the realtor was touting the fact that the annual average high temperature in the area was 70 degrees. Every day throughout the year, the high was within 10 degrees of 70. I know that sounds pretty good to a lot of people, it doesn't interest me.

I can't imagine living in a region without the change of seasons. I've lived in the Midwest all of my life, so maybe I just don't know any better, but I always enjoy the change.

There is optimism for me in each approaching season. I look forward to the change, sometimes because I'm simply tired of the current conditions, and sometimes because the change will be more comfortable. However, it's often the experiences associated with a particular season that have me looking forward with optimism. I'm ready for fall after a long summer, not only for the cooler temperatures, but more so for the hunting opportunities it brings. I'm sorry to see November end because there is so much hunting to do and not enough days. But I like winter. There is something cleansing about a gentle snow and there is excitement in an approaching blizzard. I love winter mallard hunts and icefishing is a special treat.

But I'm tired of winter by February – ready for the snow to melt and the temperatures to warm and stabilize. But more than other seasons, as spring approaches, I'm filled with optimism because spring is the beginning of a new growing cycle. Spring promises to repair whatever ails our landscape. Everything seems dead by the end of February, but no matter how bad things are, spring gives us hope they will get better. As outdoorsmen, we hope for spring rains, good nesting conditions for turkeys and upland birds, optimal spawning conditions for our favorite fish, and recovery after a long winter.

Approaching spring also has me daydreaming of upcoming fishing trips. The waters will warm, fish will move shallow and feed in preparation for spawning, and they will be more available to anglers than they are at any other time. Spring is also time to hunt turkeys, and there may be no better outdoor experience than listening to turkeys gobble while watching the springtime woods wake up.



I love everything about spring except for the volatile weather. While I've always enjoyed the excitement of a good thunderstorm, the potential for severe weather tempers those feelings. And storms and spring cold fronts always affect fishing success.

I believe the changing seasons add interest to our lives. I know they mean we'll endure uncomfortable heat or cold, but we also know that it will change. And even within a season, our weather rarely stays the same for long. This past winter was a perfect example. On the last Saturday in January, we hunted ducks in weather as mild as it had been in October. By the noon, the temperature was 50 degrees. Two weeks later, we had 10 inches of snow on the ground and day-time highs barely made it out of single digits. That might have been depressing if we didn't know that in a few days, it would warm up, the snow would melt, and we'd be again thinking about spring, fish, turkeys, and a new start. ♡

