





# KANSAS FISH AND GAME



Vol. VII

JULY, 1949

No. I



Kansas Helps Its Teen-age Fishermen

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**KANSAS**  
*Wildlife & Parks Magazine*

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*If you're good at math, you've figured out that the span from 1938 to 2018 is 80 years, and we've billed this as the 75th anniversary issue. However, there was a stretch from 1944 to 1949 when publication ceased at the request of the War Department because of paper and lead shortages. So, we're celebrating 75 years of being in print.*

*The magazine has been published monthly, quarterly, seasonally and bimonthly. It was black and white until the 1970s when it had color covers and spot color inside. It was free to any Kansas resident who requested it until 1977 when it converted to paid subscriptions, and that is the same year color photographs appeared on inside pages. It has been called Kansas Fish and Game Bulletin, Kansas Fish and Game, Kansas Wildlife, Kansas Wildlife & Parks, and Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine.*

*While the magazine has changed over the years, the message of conservation has remained constant. The magazine has always been about communicating with readers - hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, campers, boaters and anyone who loves the outdoors and is proud of what our state has to offer. Thank you for reading. Enjoy! - staff*

**FRONT COVER** A collection of the publication's covers from the past 75 years. Design by Dustin Teasley.

**INSIDE FRONT COVER** Cover of the July 1949 Kansas Fish and Game magazine. Archive photo.

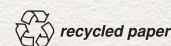
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**Editorial Creed:** To promote the conservation and wise use of our natural resources, to instill an understanding of our responsibilities to the land.

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## Our History On Pages

This 75th anniversary issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine* is a trip down memory lane, and we're proud of this publication and what it represents to the department and to readers.

What started out as a free newsletter, or bulletin, in 1938 evolved into a nationally-recognized, full-color, bimonthly publication distributed globally to paying subscribers. The magazine has always included a mix of articles about department programs, policies, and initiatives; hunting, fishing, camping and boating how-tos; public land features, and wildlife natural history. As the variety and breadth of our outdoor opportunities have changed, the magazine's content has followed, but there is a remarkable consistency.

In this issue you'll see what I mean. From the February 1940 issue, you'll see an article about building a structure from logs to create fish habitat. In the May/June 2015 issue, there was an article on the Georgia Cube, a PVC structure designed to create long-lasting fish habitat; different materials, similar goals and results.

In the November/December 1972 issue, there was a feature article about Dale Largent, one of the founders of the Marshland Game Call Company in Overland Park. In the November/December 2017 issue, there is a feature about artist Joe Bucher who carves and paints elaborate, commemorative duck calls. Bucher got his start when he visited Largent and learned how to carve and make duck calls. Pretty amazing.

While this 75th anniversary is a noteworthy milestone, there are really two stories here: the story of a resilient publication and a remarkable history of wildlife conservation. Just look at the wealth of wildlife resources and outdoor recreation opportunities we enjoy today. In 1938, there were no turkeys, deer, and our residents were in the grips of "The Dirty Thirties." The resulting damage to habitat devastated wildlife populations.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the land recovered and hunters pursued pheasant, quail, prairie chicken and waterfowl. Anglers caught channel and flathead catfish from streams and rivers, and the department began building state fishing lakes. In the 1950s and 1960s reservoirs were built, and as they were filled, fishing opportunities exploded and true state parks were opened. The first deer season was in




1965. Antelope and turkey reintroduction programs in the 1960s allowed limited hunting seasons for both in 1974.

Today, in addition to some of the best upland bird and waterfowl hunting in the Midwest, Kansas has become a popular destination state for nonresident deer and turkey hunters. In addition to the legendary channel and flathead catfish, Kansas anglers pursue crappie, wipers, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye and saugeye, and several reservoirs are producing trophy-class blue catfish.

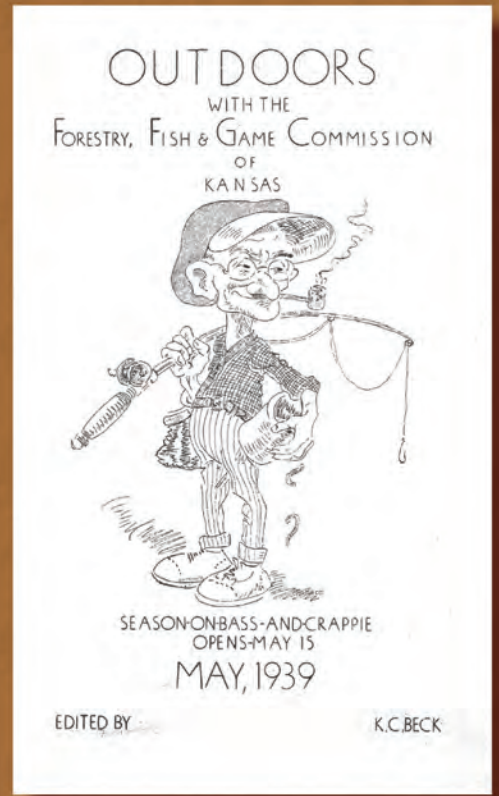
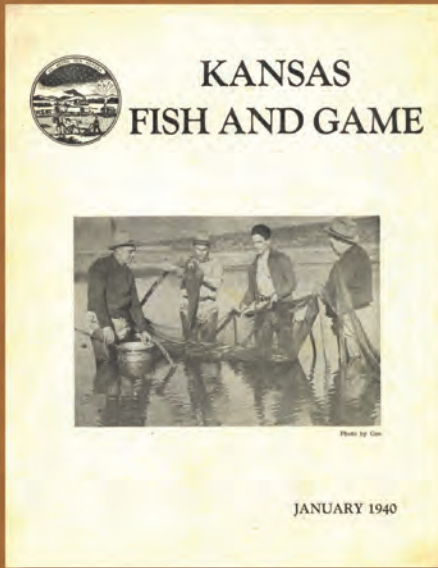
The department operates 40 state fishing lakes and manages more than 300,000 acres of public hunting areas. More than 1 million acres of private land is opened to public hunting each fall and spring through the Walk-in Hunting Access program. And department biologists manage the fisheries on 24 federal reservoirs and more than 200 community lakes. Twenty-six state parks attract more than 7 million visits annually, providing camping, outdoor events, water access and more than 500 miles of trails.

The parallel histories of this magazine and of the conservation and management of Kansas' natural resources represent remarkable achievements. I hope you will enjoy and appreciate them.

Thanks to KDWPT staff member Sheila Kemmis, who located and scanned more than 450 issues of this publication, we now have electronic files of all past issues. This issue includes only snippets of what you can see in these archives, available online at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) 



# 30<sup>s</sup> AND 40<sup>s</sup>



# KANSAS FISH AND GAME

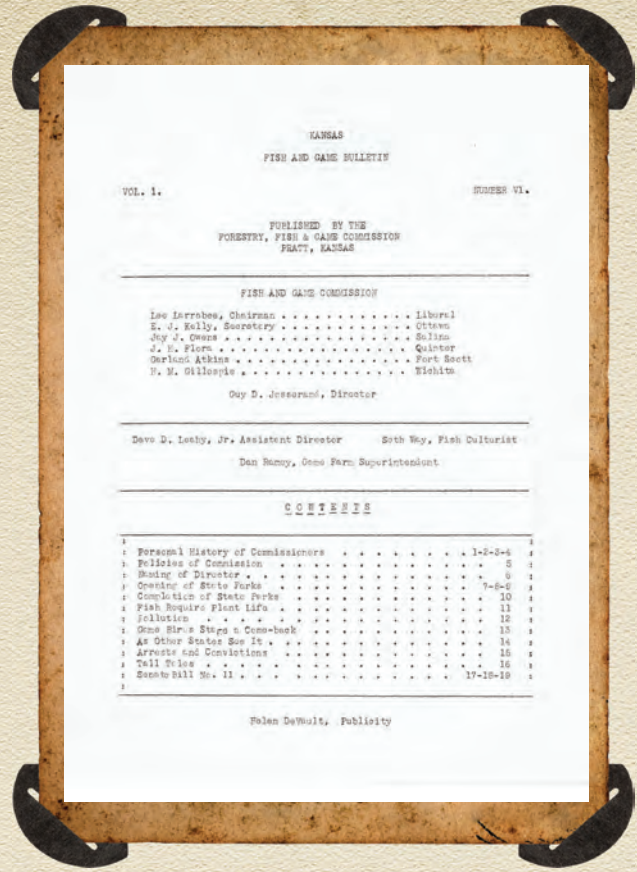


**Governor Finds Buffalo-Burger Tempting**



Evidence that a "buffalo-burger" suits the gubernatorial taste is seen in the above photograph as Gov. Payne Ratner of Kansas munches a tasty sandwich at the sportsmen's meeting at Pratt Octo-ber 9. The plate which the governor holds while his palette explores the buffalo delicacy contains beans and pickles. To the governor's right is Mrs. Leonard Sutherland, whose husband is in charge of the Pittsburg quail hatchery. On his immediate left is Director Guy Josseland of the Fish Hatch-ery. Mrs. E. C. Bray stands at the left of Mr. Josseland and at the extreme right of the picture is Chet Powell, formerly of Medicine Lodge.

The photograph above was chosen because the clothes are so indicative of the era. Those pictured, which include Kansas' 28th governor, Payne Ratner (1939-1943), are eating buffalo burgers at a department meeting. When the agency hosts meals today, buffalo burger is still on the menu.



# KANSAS FISH AND GAME

APRIL 1940

ARRESTS FOR JUNE

(Fines include costs)

Ralph Lockhart, Burlington	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Merle Allen and C. H. Toland	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Kenneth Lawrence, Burlington	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Allen and Toland	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Robert Bartlett, Burlington	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Allen and Toland.	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Elynn Slane, Burlington	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
Allen and Toland.	Illegal possession of seine.	Protectors	Fine \$10.75.
George Weins, Meade	Reckless driving in state park.	Park Superintendent, John Carlton.	Fine \$11.75.
Ray Harrison, Coffeyville	Fishing without license.	Protector	Fine \$8.00.
Conanman.	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$21.00
Jack Vicker, Lincoln	Too many lines and undersized fish	Protectors Teichgraber, Anderson and Bonander	Fine \$21.00
Carlson and Swannan	Attempting to catch fish with snag hook.	Protector Byrns	Fine \$15.75
Ed Kates, Junction City.	Fishing in closed city lake.	City Police	Fine \$100.00 and 30 days in jail.
Protectors Teichgraber,	Fishing in closed city lake.	City Police	Fine \$100 and 30 days.
Anderson and Bonander	Fishing in closed city lake	City police	Fine \$100 and 30 days.
Albert Faneler, Junction City	Fishing without non-resident license	Protector Graham	Fine \$25.00
snag hook. Protector Byrns	Using dip net.	Protector Teichgraber, Anderson and Bonander	Fine \$8.45
Edward Ankor, Hooker, Okla.	Using dip net.	Protector Teichgraber, Anderson and Bonander	Fine \$8.45
Protector Graham	Using dip net.	Protector Teichgraber, Anderson and Bonander	Fine \$8.45
Theodore Tivis, Kansas City, Kan.	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$11.25
Teichgraber, Anderson and Bonander	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$11.25
Claude Jones, Kansas City, Kan.	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$11.25
Teichgraber, Anderson and Bonander	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$11.25
G. Hooper, Elmerworth	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$11.25
Carlson and Swannan	Fishing without license	Protector	Fine \$11.25

Happy anglers showing off their catches and a list of those fined for breaking fish and game laws were standard content in early magazine issues.



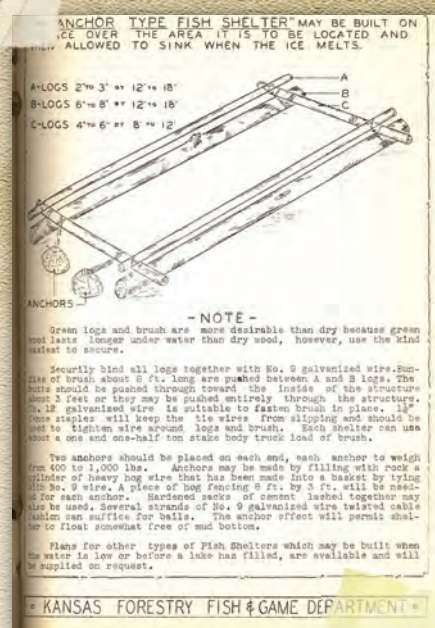
1939 HUNTING REGULATIONS  
**Fish and Game Department**  
 STATE OF KANSAS  
**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD REGULATIONS**  
 Ducks, Brant, Geese, Coots, Wilsons and Jack Snipes and Rails

**SEASON DATES:** (Inclusive)  
**SHOOTING HOURS:**  
**METHOD OF TAKING BIRDS:**  
**BAG LIMITS:**  
**POSSESSION LIMIT:**  
**FEDERAL DUCK STAMP:**  
**DOVES:** Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits, Shooting Hours, Method of Taking Birds:  
**FOX SQUIRRELS:**  
**QUAIL:**  
**PRAIRIE CHICKEN:**  
**PHEASANTS:**  
**FUR BEARING ANIMALS:**

Ducks, Brant, Geese, Coots, Snipes—October 22 to December 5, inclusive.  
 Rails and Gallinules—September 1 to November 30, inclusive.  
 Ducks, Brant, Geese—7 A. M. to 4 P. M.  
 Snipes, Rails and Gallinules—7 A. M. to Sunset.  
 Feeding or baiting of birds, and use of live decoys, prohibited; only bow and arrows and shot-guns of three-shot capacity, and not larger than 10 gauge permitted.  
**DUCKS**—10 in the aggregate of all kinds, of which not more than three of any one, or more than 3 in the aggregate may be of the following species: Canvasback, Red Head, Ruddy and Buffhead. Season Closed on Wood Ducks.  
**GEESSE OR BRANT**—4 in the aggregate of all kinds.  
**COOT**—25. **SNIPES**—15. **RAILS, GALLINULES**—15 in the aggregate of all kinds.  
 Two Days Legal Bag Limit.  
 Must be had when taking any kind of migratory **WATERFOWL**: Ducks, Geese, Brant; persons under 16 years of age exempt. Stamp may be purchased at any first or second class post office.  
 September 1 to October 15, both dates inclusive.  
 7 A. M. to Sunset.  
 Feeding or baiting prohibited; only shotguns of three shot capacity, and not larger than 10 gauge and bow and arrow permitted.  
 Possession time limit on migratory game birds—Ten days after the OPEN season in the State where taken.  
 August 1 to January 1.  
 November 20 to 30.  
 Daily Bag Limit 10. Season Limit 25.  
**SEASON CLOSED.**  
 November 1, 2, 3. In Cherokee, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Phillips, Smith, Jewell, Republic, Thomas, Graham, Osborne, Wallace, Logan, Trego, Ellis, Rush, Sherman, Sheridan, Rooks and Mitchell, Counties only.  
 Daily Bag Limit 3; 2 cocks, 1 hen. Season Limit 4 cocks, 2 hens.  
 December 1 to January 31.  
 Badger, Beaver and Otter—**SEASON CLOSED.**

GUY D. JOSSERAND, Director  
**BE A SPORT - TAKE YOUR SHARE ONLY - THANK YOU**

The flier-like page showing season dates appeared in the October 1939 issue. The illustration at right shows how to build a fish shelter from logs. Today, we still build brushpiles from cut trees, but we also build longer-lasting structures with PVC.



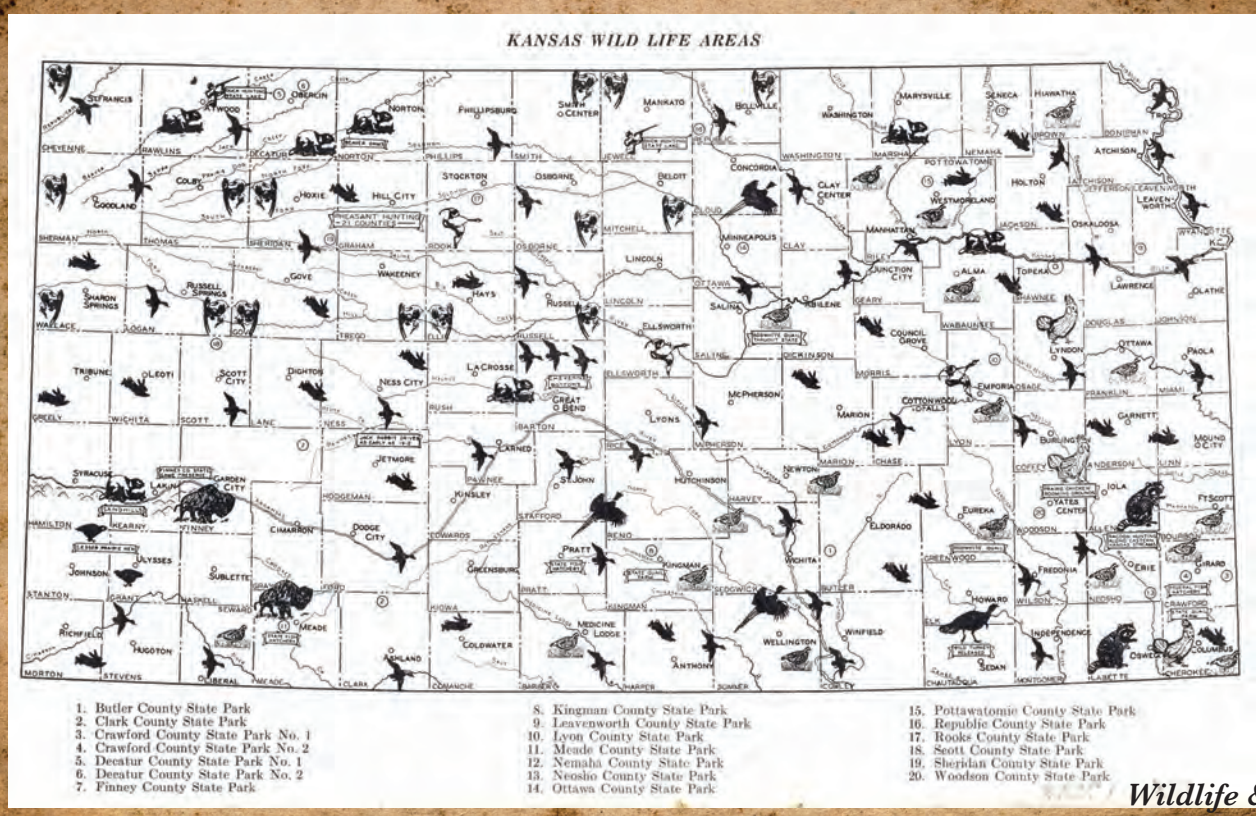
**Quail Hunting Prospects Very Encouraging**

Quail hunters can look forward to the opening of the 1949 quail season with every assurance that, with weather permitting, it should be one of the best in Kansas history. All reports from the field are very encouraging. The quail crop this year appears to be far above normal.

Typical of the reports coming in recently are these: "We have one of the best hatches we have had for several years"; "The quail outlook was never better in this area"; "Quail hunting in this area is going to be very good." Even in many of the western Kansas counties, not normally considered good quail territory, the birds are reported more numerous than ever. However, the best hunting will be found in the eastern section of the state. Most western Kansas farms will be closed to quail hunters as the farmers out that way want to protect the birds.

One of the factors helpful in promoting a good quail crop this year was the feeding of the birds during the severe snow and ice storms of the past winter and much credit is due the sportsmen, sportsmen's clubs and individuals who had a part in that worthy program.

Quail hunting prospects were simple in 1949, compared to the upland bird forecast published today. The map below appeared in several fall and winter issues in the mid-1940s, and it shows locations of what are now state fishing lakes. It also designates areas where certain types of game would be found.





# THE 50's



Foreword—George Randall, Miss Emma, Miss Annie, Walter  
and Clark, Ed. and Mrs. Max Lawrence, Mrs. Winkler

# KANSAS FISH AND GAME







**Only 22 Whooping Cranes  
Return to Wintering Grounds**

Only twenty-two whooping cranes have returned to their wintering grounds in Texas, the National Audubon Society has reported. The present count, which has been determined by an aerial survey conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is one less than last year's total of twenty-three cranes. Only two young of the year have been identified, though further surveys may reveal that some of the others are young.

All that remains of the original wild population, these stately white birds migrate from their breeding range in the far north to the Aransas Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast.

At least two cranes fell to guns of law-violating gunners, as they made their annual flight toward Texas last fall, the co-operating conservation agencies reported.

One of the cranes was found near Sharon in Barber county on October 30. Thane Robinson of the Kansas University Biological Survey was called hoping that

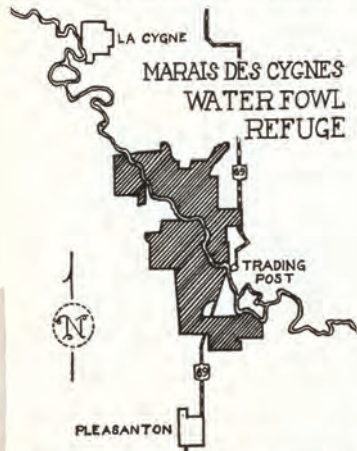


A Whooping crane that was found in Barber county last October, a victim of law-violating gunners. Only twenty-two of the species are known to remain of the original wild population.—Photo courtesy of Thane Robinson, Kansas University Biological Survey.

**Land for Marais des Cygnes  
Wildlife Refuge Being Acquired**

A good start has been made on one of the biggest current projects of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, the development of the Marais des Cygnes game refuge.

Almost 4,000 acres of land have been acquired on the eastern Kansas river in the Trading Post-La Cygne area and more are in the process of negotiation. Actual construction work will start soon. The project is



A map of the area along the Marais des Cygnes river in Linn county, where the state is acquiring the outlined section of approximately 10,000 acres for development as a migratory waterfowl refuge, public shooting and fishing area.—Map courtesy: Kansas City Star.

a major one of the commission because of its ultimate aim of restoring the area as a favorite spot of migra-

*The photo at far left shows an injured whooping crane with text indicating that only 22 of the birds were seen on the wintering grounds in Texas that year (1953). While whooping cranes are still on the Endangered Species List, more than 430 were observed on the Gulf coast last winter.*

*The Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Refuge, left, now called the Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, was acquired in 1953. Today it covers more than 7,000 acres and is a top waterfowl-hunting destination in eastern Kansas. In 1991, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, acquired an equal-sized tract to the east of the wildlife area and the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge was opened.*

*Woodson County State Lake was the hot fishing spot during the 1950s, and there are numerous photos of anglers with catches from the lake. The state record black crappie, caught by Hazel Fey in 1957, came from Woodson County, and the record still stands.*

THE STATE LAKES OF KANSAS . . . fourth of a series

**Woodson County  
State Lake**

By **GEORGE VALYER**

Twenty-three channel catfish weighing a total of 144 pounds make this a picture of complete satisfaction. All were caught on one day, April 3, 1958, at Woodson County State Lake. From left to right are Bob Rohr, Don Rohr, Rollie Sloan, Kenneth Strawder, Roger Ranes, Jess Rohr and Don Corbin, all from Le Roy, Kansas. Another member of the party, Bud Vollard, took the photo.





### White Bass a "Kidnapped" Fish

White bass, just now becoming numerous in Kansas lakes, is a pretty special kind of fish. It rated a personal introduction into the Sunflower state.

Like hard winter wheat, which, according to legend, was brought to Kansas by Russian immigrants who sowed the wheat, seed by seed, before leaving the Old World, white bass were caught one by one for release in Kansas waters.

Most new kinds of fish and game are contracted for on a commercial or scientific supply basis after it is determined they will make a satisfactory adaptation to the state.

But not the white bass. The species, one of the gamiest of the bass family, was practically kidnapped. White bass are the special "babies" of the State Forestry, Fish and Game Commission fisheries men.

Research had shown that the white bass should make an excellent addition to the game fish list in Kansas and procedure to import some of them from hatcheries of other states was duly started. But some hitch always developed before the importation could be effected.

The fisheries men grew impatient. When Kansas again missed a white bass distribution from the hatchery of a neighboring state, they drew an alternate plan of action.

They bought Oklahoma fishing licenses and went on a week end fishing trip to Grand Lake in northwestern Oklahoma. Using minnows for bait on a rod and line, the three men caught more than 300 white bass. (There is no size or creel limit on them in Oklahoma.) They were transferred carefully from hook to fish truck. Then they were taken quickly to large Kansas impoundments that would be suitable homes for them.

About half were placed in Cedar Bluff reservoir and half in Kanopolis. Another fishing trip produced the same results. The fish were carried to the same large Kansas lakes and to Fall River reservoir with a higher survival rate.

That was three years ago. In summer, 1952, the second year of white bass residence in Kansas, they began to show up in fish traps of Cedar Bluff and Kanopolis reservoirs. They were, of course, returned to the lake waters.

Last summer Cedar Bluff and Kanopolis fishermen caught sizable white bass. Once their adjustment is made to new surroundings, they should reproduce rapidly. For this reason, fisheries men do not believe creel or size limits on them will be necessary.

White bass particularly like to feed on small shad and should be beneficial to lakes for this reason, as well as for the good sport and good food they provide.

A few of the Oklahoma fish were placed in ponds of the commission's hatchery in Pratt. For two years the original stock did not reproduce but this fall when the ponds were scoured for the annual distribution of fish, thousands upon thousands of fingerling white bass were found. They will be placed in the large impoundments of water which have proved to be the best environment for them.

All the evidence seems to show that Mr. White Bass approves of his unorthodox introduction to the state and has the hardy qualities that will make him a good citizen.

Opossums are rather slow-moving stupid animals which seek safety by their retiring nocturnal habits and nondescriptness to enemies. It is because of this last trait that the familiar "playing possum" originated.



The sizeable white bass shown here were drawn from a tank at the Pratt fish hatchery by fish trap, bathhouse experiment. White bass weigh about three pounds when full grown.



This picture is offered with "tongue in cheek." An unidentified person or persons erected this sign on U. S. Highway 81 six miles north of Wellington at a time when area sheriff's offices were plagued with calls reporting sighting of mountain lions. Whoever was responsible for the notice was, doubtless, possessed with a fine sense of humor and a flair for poking fun. There have been no authenticated reports of mountain lions in Kansas since the state was fully settled. Historically, there may have been an occasional one in western Kansas which strayed from its natural range of the higher altitudes.

*The "Kidnapped White Bass" article from 1954 describes how biologists traveled to Oklahoma and caught more than 300 white bass on rod and reel and stocked them in Cedar Bluff and Kanopolis reservoirs. Today, white bass are an important sport fish in all Kansas reservoirs. Interestingly, cougars, or mountain lions, were a popular topic in the 1950s. And deer? Yep, deer were being seen in Kansas. The Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area dedication in 1959 ensured the future one of the most important wetlands in North America.*



The male deer shown in this picture are part of a herd which occupies the Meade County State Park. They are frequently seen by visitors. These deer are not confined in any way and come and go as they please.

### SEEN A DEER LATELY?

By GEORGE VALVER

### Cheyenne Bottoms Dedicated

State and national conservationists, government officials, and many interested sportsmen gathered in Barton County on Sunday, October 13, for the formal dedication of the Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Refuge and public shooting area. The dedicatory program was arranged and promoted by a committee composed of members from cities and towns in Barton County, working in co-operation with the Cheyenne Bottoms Sportsmen Club. The expected attendance at the long planned ceremony was reduced due to rain and dropping temperatures, however, all events were held on schedule.

An inspection tour of the Cheyenne Bottoms, made through steady rain, was held during the morning with Dave Leahy, director of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, in charge. The dike road surrounding refuge pool number one was traveled with the Waterfowl project and its operation being explained to those making the tour. Luncheon was served in the administration building of the refuge at noon with a large crowd participating.

At 1:30 p. m. ribbon cutting ceremonies were conducted at the three main entrances to the refuge and at the diversion dam on the Big Arkansas river near Dundee. Rain again made conditions uncomfortable, however, representatives of each area the entrances serve participated in the ribbon cutting events.

The main ceremony and program was held in the 4-H Fairgrounds building at Great Bend with Ford Harbaugh, member of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, serving as master of ceremonies during the program. Introduced for short talks were Governor George Docking, Lieutenant Governor Joseph Henkle, Senator Frank Carlson and other dignitaries. Highlighting the program was the dedicatory address by Robert M. Rutherford, representing the United States Department of the Interior. In his dedicatory address, Mr. Rutherford paid a tribute to all the men who had a hand in building the great waterfowl project.

Work first started on the huge Cheyenne Bottoms Waterfowl Refuge and shooting area in the 1930's. It is a project constructed by the Kansas Fish and Game Commission in co-operation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. Now complete, it is one of the foremost game refuges on the waterfowl migratory route between the Canadian border and the Gulf area. It is indeed a conservation project that all Kansas sportsmen can be proud of.





# Through the 60's







Wooden County State Lake yielded up these beauties this past spring to Blue Whited of Hutchinson. The largest one on the average weighed in at 3 pounds while the one near it weighed 2 1/2 pounds.



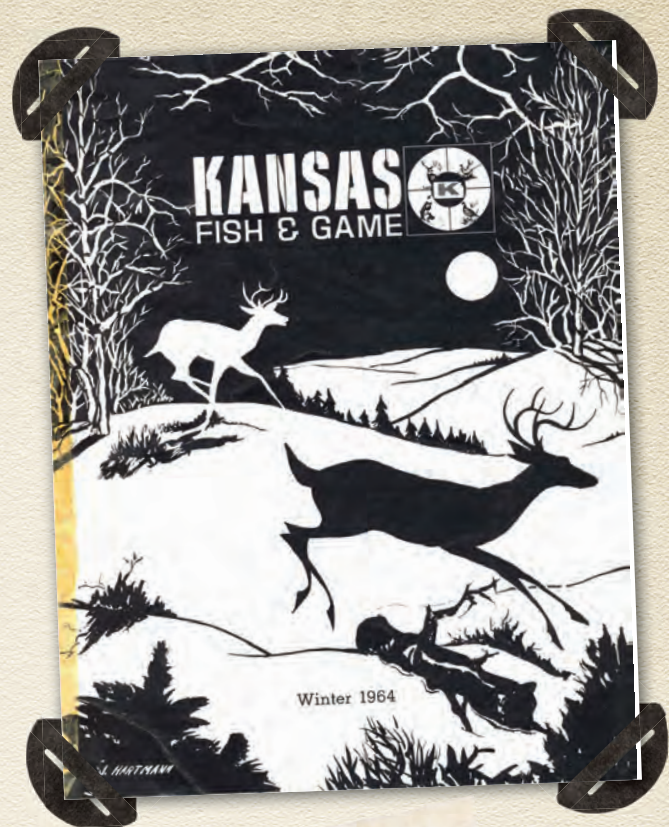
Not to prove that every boy has his chance in the state of southeast Kansas, here's an 8-pounder which came from a pit near West Mineral. The lucky angler is Archie Goodenough of Potosi. The whopper was taken on an artificial lure.



This 27-pound hybrid is quite a find for E. A. "Jack" Brown of Wichita. Taken from below the surface, the something feature of this catch was that Brown was using a spinning rod with 25-pound test line. The big one weighed in a large measure.



Ray Risk and Carl Bryant of Potosi display these twelve channel catfish from the Reservoir on July fourth. The largest weighed 4 1/2 pounds. Channel catfish was the best catch had all were caught on rod and reel.



Fishing was great in the sixties as reservoirs were built and new fish such as walleye were being produced and stocked. And Kansas' first-ever deer season was proposed. Joyce Hartmann's artwork appeared frequently in the magazine. (Coincidentally, that's Joyce's husband, Bob, center, in the photo below. He was a fisheries biologist for the department for more than 30 years.)



Walleye's time means long hours, hard work and about a month of it to fishery biologists and game protectors. But sleeping in machine sheds or whatever else is handy, and the hard work are welcomed by the biologists who have spent the winter inside offices and laboratories.

## Pursuit of the Walleye

In early spring, when the water temperatures on the larger reservoirs begin to rise, walleye start moving into shallow water in preparation for spawning. Unlike so many of the fish in Kansas, the walleye is a fish that does not build a nest. It merely scatters its eggs over a broad area of gravel beaches or rocky shorelines.

Due to this habit, which is called random spawning, an efficient way has been devised by man to successfully breed walleye in captivity. If the fish are confined in a small area, they seldom spawn. If a large enough area is provided, it is al-

most impossible to recover the young.

And thus it is that to date, the only successful and efficient way to go about producing hatchery walleye is to catch the fish just before they spawn and strip them of their eggs and milt. And as you might imagine, this involves a terrific amount of work when you are dealing with the proposition of collecting several million eggs.

So when spring rolls around, fishery biologists of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission pack their equipment in their fish

truck and head out for our reservoirs. They can expect to be spending about a month at the task and sleeping in machine sheds or whatever else is handy. The hours will be long and the work will be hard.

Nevertheless, the biologists and game protectors who will assist them, look forward to walleye's time. For the biologists it is probably the first work they have had outside the office and laboratory since the preceding fall.

The pictures on the following page illustrate the walleye's operation.

## Deer Season Recommended For Kansas in Late 1965

The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission paved the way for a deer season in Kansas during late 1965 by giving tentative approval of preliminary management recommendations presented by the big game project leader studying the state's deer herd. Leland Queal and Dave Coleman, Chief of the Game Division, recommended both a firearm hunting season and an archery hunting season, on a permit basis.

An archery season would be relatively long and the number of permits would probably be unlimited as this hunting sport will provide a great deal of outdoor recreation with very little drain on the deer resource. In most states, the annual loss of deer to highway accidents is much greater than the annual harvest by archers. Most of the state, with the exception of the southwest quarter, will probably be open to archery hunting of deer.

A short firearm deer season to follow the archery season is planned. No decision has been made to date regarding what particular types of firearm will be permissible weapons for deer hunting. Only selected portions of the state, the areas of higher deer concentration, will be opened to the taking of deer with firearms.

It is proposed that the deer will be hunted on the basis of management units with specific regulations for each unit. In this way the number of permits to be issued and regulations concerning the sex of deer to be legally harvested will be varied as the biological information warrants. Management units will be based on major watersheds and major habitat types, with state and federal highways or rivers as unit boundaries. Twelve to fifteen deer management units are being considered for firearms hunting.

In order to effectively manage the deer resource and to provide adequate control of the deer herd, both sexes of deer will be legal targets in most management units.

The greatest distribution of deer is in the northern three tiers of counties across the state and in the southeastern region. It is in these areas that the various management units will be set up. In most areas the majority of deer are associated with the various streams and river systems and the surrounding habitat.

Permits to hunt deer with firearms will be limited in number and interested hunters will probably have to make application and then be selected on a permit drawing. It is thought that an electronic computer will be used in the selection of permittees to receive permits. This will provide equal opportunity for all applicants.

Currently, the Kansas deer population, which is composed of both white-tailed and mule deer, is estimated at between 20,000 and 30,000 animals. The deer herd has been increasing in size at the rate of about 30 percent per year. A hunting season is the only logical approach to control of this expanding population. It will be necessary to maintain the population within economic limits tolerable to Kansas farmers and ranchers. A recent survey of farmers and ranchers by the Game Division of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, indicates that approximately 65 percent of the rural landowners suffered crop damage by deer in 1963. In some sections of northern Kansas 15 to 20 percent of the landowners reported deer crop damage.

The preliminary recommendations mentioned here do not constitute the actual setting of Kansas' first deer season. They do, however, represent the fundamental deer management policies which the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission will follow to provide the most efficient utilization of this valuable wildlife resource.



## A Kansas Deer Season for 1965

By LELAND M. QUEAL

Kansas sportsmen soon will have an opportunity, for the first time in over 60 years, to hunt deer in the Sunflower State. The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission has made tentative approval of basic deer management recommendations which include a hunting season on a permit basis for the fall of 1965.

The proposed deer season will include a liberal archery season followed by a short firearms season. No decision has been made regarding the use of particular types of firearms, however, the relative merits of both shotguns and rifles as deer hunting weapons are being considered thoroughly.

The firearms deer season will probably be held late in the year when temperatures are cool and there is a possibility of tracking deer in the snow. The principal feature of the firearms season will be the use of limited permits in order to closely regulate the harvest and assure that an over-harvest does not occur. The entire state will not be opened to deer hunting the first year.

Deer are found in every county, with white-tailed deer being predominant in the eastern two-thirds of the state, and mule deer occurring principally in the western portion. In most areas, the deer distribution is associated with the

major stream and river courses and the surrounding habitat. The areas of highest deer densities are in the northern three tiers of counties, and in the southeastern portion of the state. It is in these regions that the first open season will probably be held.

A conservative estimate places the total Kansas population between 25,000 and 30,000 deer. This figure is based partially on estimates of 19,400 in 1963 and 26,800 in July 1964, by State Game Protectors. The Game Protectors' estimates for the state as a whole are based on the individual reports for each county within their respective districts.

## Modern Day Deer Season Kansas 1965

Kansas sportsmen will soon have the opportunity to have a "home state" deer hunt, while at the same time initiate the measures necessary to provide a control on the rate of increase in the deer population.

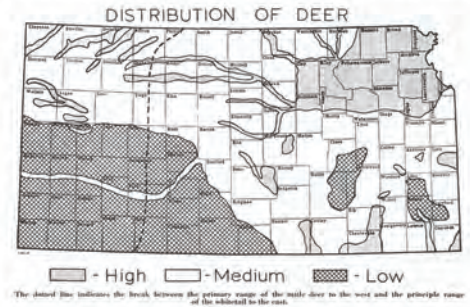
In January, 1965, the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission established regulations and opening dates for a liberal archery deer season and a four-percent firearms season for the fall of 1965.

When white-tailed deer and mule deer were common throughout the state, the deer population in Kansas continued to grow slowly

until 1936 when there were an estimated 3,000 deer in the state. Since that year, the Kansas deer population has increased at the rate of about 30 percent per year. In 1964, there were an estimated 23,000 to 30,000 animals with deer being found in every county.

In 1965, deer were taken at the predicted rate by the Kansas State Legislature and the Commission year given the authority to establish seasons on deer at such time as it was considered appropriate in relation to numbers and distribution.

Deer are most abundant in the northern three tiers of counties of the state, and are locally abundant



*Kansas' first deer season was in 1965, and news about it dominated magazine pages. Two new game species were also being released, the pronghorn, or antelope, and the wild turkey. It would be nearly 10 years before hunters pursued either.*

The fleet-footed antelope depends upon speed and extraordinary sight for protection.

## Antelope in Kansas?

By BILL HAVACHICK,  
Big Game Biologist

Sure! And with increased interest and management we can have more.

The pronghorn antelope is the only North American big game animal with branched horns, thereby acquiring its name. It is also unique in being the only ruminant that annually sheds its outer horn sheaths. These sheaths are composed of fused hair compacted over a bony core and are lost every year from November through January. Pronghorns are animals of the open plains and depend upon speed and extraordinary sight for protection. In color, the antelope is basically tan with white markings. No other big game animal in North America can be confused with the pronghorn.

Antelope are one of our most elusive and fleet-footed game animals. Now occupying some of the larger grassland areas of extreme western Kansas, he was formerly an inhabitant of the entire western two-thirds of the state. It has been estimated that 40 million antelope existed throughout the western United States around the year 1800. In 1889 documented reports show antelope as being common near WaKeeney, Kansas. Early-day explorers mentioned that antelope were as numerous as the bison. These multitudes no longer exist, man and his plow having done their work well. Settling of these western prairie regions by farmers and their agriculture has been the main contributing factor in reducing antelope numbers. One other factor

of almost equal importance that has had much to do with the reduction of many of our game animals was market hunting. Reports from early day Colorado indicate that antelope carcasses were being sold for 25 cents each, that being the smallest coin available at the time.

The large herds that once roamed through Kansas have now been restricted primarily to Wallace and Sherman counties in Western Kansas. There are approximately 85 head of antelope still residing in the state. They exist in small scattered bands, each of which is in danger of extinction.

With this and other considerations in mind, the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission initiated a program designed to perpetuate and increase the antelope in Kansas.



## Talking Turkey

By WILLIAM C. FRADIG

"Talking turkey" may become more than just an empty figure of speech for Kansas hunters, provided that experimental work on wild turkeys by the game division is successful over the next few years. While no one in his right mind would attempt to predict the definitely outcome of these efforts, prospects for restoration of wild turkeys over at least part of their former range is brighter than at any time in the past hundred

years. The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) was common in the eastern two-thirds of Kansas a century ago. In the west, the bird was largely confined to the timbered areas along the river banks. These were the eastern and possibly the Rio Grande subspecies. With the advance of civilization, clearing of the land, and indiscriminate hunting, the wild turkey was extirpated in Kansas. Linn County was the last recorded stronghold of the wild turkey in the state.

Rio Grande Wild Turkeys have been moving into southern Kansas from Oklahoma for several years. The birds have been using the many watercourses that connect the two states as avenues of travel. These turkeys, or their ancestors, were successfully transplanted by the Texas Game and Fish Commission in the northern panhandle of Texas and have spread into the western one-third of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Conservation De-

(Continued on page 18)



# Better Than Braggin'

## State Fish Records

Species, Where and When

- LARGemouth BLACK BASS**—Weight, 11 pounds, 3 ounces. Length, 25 inches. Caught by Charles Prescott, Pittsburg, taken from private lake in Hamilton County on January 6, 1965. Spinning rod and reel. Johnson spin with pork bait.
- SPOTTED (KENTUCKY) BASS**—Weight, 3 pounds, 12 1/2 ounces. Length, 17 1/2 inches. Angler was John I. Warner, Newton, taken from Station County Lake on April 5, 1964. Rod and reel with Skystar for bait.
- WALLEYE**—Weight, 10 pounds, 8 ounces. Length, 30 inches. Taken by Roy Lester, Hutchinson, from Kaw Reservoir on April 2, 1961. Rod and reel with live minnow for bait.
- CHANNEL CATFISH**—Weight, 32 pounds. Length, 40 1/2 inches. Taken by Edward S. Dailey, Gardner, from Gardner City Lake on August 12, 1962. Taken on reel with small outfish for bait.
- FLATHEAD CATFISH**—Weight, 22 pounds, 8 ounces. Length, 21 inches. Angler was Howard W. King, McPherson, taken from Kaw Reservoir on April 23, 1965, using salt water rod and reel with red worms for bait.
- BULLHEAD**—Weight, 4 pounds, 3 1/2 ounces. Length, 17 inches. Taken by Frank Miller, Eureka, from a Greenwood county farm pond on June 18, 1961. Taken on rod and reel with beef neck for bait.
- WHITE BASS**—Weight, 4 pounds, 13 1/2 ounces. Length, 20 1/2 inches. Caught by Ray Cleghorn, Eureka, from Fall River Reservoir on April 12, 1964. Rod and reel with Abu spinner.
- BLACK CRAPPIE**—Weight, 4 pounds, 10 ounces. Length, 22 inches. Taken by Hazel Fox, Toombs, from Woodson County State Lake on October 21, 1957. Rod and reel with live minnow for bait.
- BLEEK GIL**—Weight, 2 pounds, 5 ounces. Length, 11 inches. Taken by Robert Jeffries, Madras, from a Scott county farm pond on May 26, 1962. Rod and reel with worm for bait.
- GREEN SUNFISH**—Weight, 2 pounds, 2 ounces. Length, 12 inches. Angler was Louis Ferla, Swanton, taken from strip pit in Cherokee county on May 28, 1961. Taken on rod and reel with Abu spinner.
- DRUM**—Weight, 27 pounds. Length, 37 inches. Caught by Louis Hebb, Howard, from Howard City Lake on June 27, 1953. Rod and reel with live crayfish for bait.
- CARP**—Weight, 24 pounds, 9 ounces. Length, 38 1/2 inches. Taken by Harvey W. Haas, Junction City, from Clark's Creek near Skidley on June 13, 1963. Spinning rod and reel, 10-pound test line using worms for bait.
- BREIFAD**—Weight, 28 pounds. Length, 41 inches. Angler was James H. Webster, Topeka, taken at the spillway of John Redmond Reservoir on June 27, 1965. Rod and reel with night crawler for bait.
- PAHLEFISH**—Weight, 26 pounds. Length, 23 inches. Caught by John C. Huston, Lawrence, from the Kaw River near Lawrence on September 19, 1962. Rod and reel with worms for bait.
- CARP**—Weight, 27 pounds, 8 ounces. Length, 30 inches. Taken by John W. Holman, Arkansas, from the mouth of Crane Creek on May 24, 1961, taken from the mouth of Crane Creek at Silverdale. Taken with live and arrow (artificial fishing).
- WHITE CRAPPIE**—Weight, 4 pounds, 1/2 ounce. Length, 17 1/2 inches. Caught by Frank Miller, Eureka, from a farm pond in Greenwood county on March 30, 1964. Rod and reel with live minnow.
- STURGEON**—No picture available. Weight, 4 pounds. Length, 30 1/2 inches. Caught by J. W. Keenan, Topeka, from Kaw River near Topeka on November 17, 1962. Taken with rod and reel with worms for bait.

This list of state record fish in 1966 includes two interesting facts: the only records that still stand today are the black and white crappie, and Frank Miller, of Eureka, has two records on this list - the bullhead and the white crappie. Maybe the only time in history when one angler had two state records at the same time.

The article below announces that total sales for hunting and fishing licenses brought in more than \$2 million for the first time in history. Below right shows the dedication of the new Pratt headquarters building in 1966, which is currently the west half of the "Operations" office.

### '67 License Sales Hit All-Time High

For the first time in the history of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, total revenue derived from the sale of licenses in a single year exceeded just the \$2-million dollar mark in 1967.

Bob Ward, Pratt, chief of the fiscal division for the Commission, reported today that \$2,029,734.50 was collected from the sale of licenses during the year. "This represents an increase of \$1,938,550 over our 1966 total of \$1,091,184.50," Ward said.

"Our license tabulation also indicates we had the highest number of licensed fishermen in the state's history," Ward said. Resident, non-resident and combination hunting-fishing license sales totaled \$1,148,000—a sharp increase over the previous year's record of \$914,322 established in 1960.

The largest increase in fishing licenses was reflected in the sale of resident permits with 256,146 sold in 1967 compared to 246,633 in 1966. Non-residents, lured to Kansas' ever-expanding water areas, purchased 13,066 annual fishing permits and 8,469 10-day fishing licenses—both records.

While fishermen were setting records in the Southeast State, hunters were also setting new marks. "There were more hunters taking to the field in search for upland game birds and we recorded the second highest total in non-resident hunting license sales in our history," Ward stated.

Upland game bird stamps, required of license holders who hunt quail, pheasants and prairie chickens, were purchased by 104,500 hunters, an increase of more than 11,000 over the previous year.

Hunters trading out-of-state purchased 17,018 licenses, the total exceeded only by the 1962 record when 18,472 licenses were issued. Resident hunting licenses also increased from 106,747 in 1966 to 170,098.

Combination resident hunting-fishing licenses totaled 33,798, up 5,200 over the previous year. Controlled shooting area licenses accounted for 269 sales, a gain of 61.



COURTSHIP FLIGHT of pintail pairs and flocks above Quiver National Wildlife Refuge near Medford. Such flights are common in February and March, and sometimes a downy male will chase a single female.



TANTALIZING TEAL—Two male blue-winged teal, first ducks to migrate through Kansas in fall, and last to leave in spring, swim in pond near Warburg.

### Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission Occupies New Bldg.

The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission has recently completed the moving of all offices and equipment into the new state headquarters building near Pratt.

The new \$133,500 one-story, concrete block with brick veneer building provides much needed space for the first meeting of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission to be held in the new building took place August 18. The commission also held open house on that date.

The building includes many office equipment and space features. An mailing and duplicating process, vision conference room provides space for commission meetings, other conferences and various other meetings. The spacious basement eliminates many storage problems and houses the heating and air conditioning equipment.



View of new headquarters building looking east from the old building grounds.



Interior of the new headquarters building. Visitors talk with George C. Moore, Director (second from left).

#### RECIPES

**Barbecued Steak**

- 1 thick slice in T-bone
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon paprika

**Sauce**

- 1 tablespoon salad oil
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

Bread margarine or butter with paprika. Rub this mixture well into the steak. Make sauce by mixing the last four ingredients listed. Broil a part of this sauce over the steak. Broil steak 20 to 30 minutes, according to doneness preferred. Watch steak carefully. Turn steak once. Broil frequently with remaining sauce.

**Spanish Steak**

- 2 pounds chuck steak
- 1/2 cup flour for dredging
- 1/2 cup onion
- 1/2 cup green pepper
- 2/3 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 No. 2 hot tomatoes

Have chuck steak cut 1 to 2 inches thick. Dredge with flour and brown in fat. Add onion, tomatoes. Cover closely and simmer approximately 3 hours or until tender. Serves 4 to 6.

**Chili**

- No. 2 can kidney beans
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup green fat
- No. 25 chili tomatoes
- 2/3 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 2 whole hot tomatoes
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 to 2 tablespoons chili powder

Brown onion, green pepper, and seasonings. Simmer 2 hours adding water if necessary. Add 10 minutes before serving add the beans and heat thoroughly. Serves 6 to 8.



# INTO the 70's

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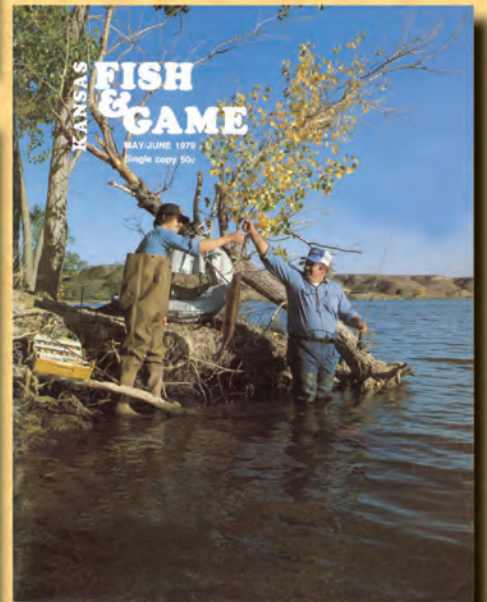
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# Million Dollar Gift

By LEROY E. LYON

A million dollar gift to the sportsmen of Kansas.

Perhaps that's the best way to describe the recent transfer of Farlington National Fish Hatchery from federal to state control. Where previously the hatchery was operated by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, it is now under the administration of the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

While the hatchery may not be worth \$1 million in cold cash, Commission officials estimate the facility, complete with 26 ponds and buildings, has a replacement value of \$800,000... not a bad gift at all since it was obtained at no cost to the Commission.

Nestled in a scenic setting along Drywood Creek just below the Farlington Lake dam, the hatchery was, at the time of transfer, the oldest fish hatchery in the state of Kansas.

In 1934, while CCC workers were building the earthen dam of Farlington Lake (Crawford County State Park), local residents discovered the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife was interested in building a federal fish hatchery in Kansas. Since the new 120-acre lake could supply water for hatchery ponds, the Chambers of Commerce in Girard, Pittsburg, and Frost Scott joined together in securing approval of the site below the dam for the hatchery. Together they formed the Farlington Lake Association and raised funds to purchase the land. In June of 1939 the association donated 153 acres on which the hatchery is located to the Federal Government.

The first work on the hatchery began in 1940 as a WPA project. The hatchery site was cleared, pond drains built, and one residence completed before reconstruction was halted by the outbreak of World War II.

In 1948, work on the project resumed and the hatchery was rapidly completed. The first fish were stocked from the Farlington in 1949.

Since becoming operational 23 years ago, the federal hatchery has stocked thousands of farm ponds in Kansas and Oklahoma. Through the years largemouth black bass, bluegill and channel catfish have been produced and stocked in farm ponds and lakes in both states. Annually from 1,500 to 2,000 ponds were stocked from the Farlington Hatchery each year.

"On an average we produced slightly more than two million channel and about one million bluegill and bass each year," said Bob Hiland, superintendent of the hatchery for nearly 23 years. Hiland was transferred to Farlington in 1949 from the Tishomingo hatchery in Oklahoma. From Farlington, Hiland was transferred to Cedar Bluff, the only remaining federal hatchery in the state.

In taking over the Farlington facility, Roy Schoonover, Pratt, Fisheries Division Chief for the Commission, said the hatchery will continue to be operated in a similar manner as that conducted by the Bureau.

In a memo he had kept, control of the Farlington National Fish Hatchery was transferred from the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries to the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. Fred Vane, Tulsa, assistant to Governor Docking, Bill Fowler, Water Commissioner, Fred Vane, Tulsa, chairman of the Commission and Warner Moore, Wichita, Commission attorney. (Photo by Roy Schoonover.)

between state and federal officials, the Commission will now handle all farm pond stocking in the state. Previously both federal hatcheries and the state hatchery near Pratt supplied fish for farm ponds which met certain requirements.

Thus, on the surface, the transfer from state to federal control may seem insignificant to Kansas anglers as far as production is concerned since all three of the same species are currently propagated at the Commission's Pratt hatchery.

But the change-over should prove to be highly beneficial for Kansas anglers. Under the Bureau's operation, about one-third of the hatchery's annual production was used to fill requests by federal hatcheries in other states while thousands of other fish were used each year to stock farm ponds and lakes in northeast Oklahoma.

But now that the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission has acquired the hatchery, all production will be used for stocking of farm

in a memo he had kept, control of the Farlington National Fish Hatchery was transferred from the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries to the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission. Fred Vane, Tulsa, assistant to Governor Docking, Bill Fowler, Water Commissioner, Fred Vane, Tulsa, chairman of the Commission and Warner Moore, Wichita, Commission attorney. (Photo by Roy Schoonover.)



Fish and Game

*Color photos appeared on front and back covers beginning with this special issue in 1971. The article above announces the donation of a federal fish hatchery near Farlington to the State. The Farlington Fish Hatchery is still operated by the department today and produces millions of sport fish annually. Hawks and owls were protected by state law in 1971. Today, they are protected by federal law. The article below promoted teaching youngsters about hunting and the outdoors - sound familiar?*

## The Great Horned Owl Protected at Last

By VIC McLERAN  
Photos by the Author

### Courtship and Nesting

During the long, cold nights of January and February when most wildlife is simply concerned with surviving the Kansas winter, the great horned owl has love on his mind. During this period, owls are extremely vocal and their love calls echo nightly through the winter woods. In fact, the owl's calls of "who-hoo-hoo" are more common at this time of year than any other. This winter hooping prompted the common name of "hoop owl." The courtship activities are colorful, with

the male approaching the female, lowering his head, ruffling his feathers, drooping his wings and bobbing his tail. Being shy and wary, horned owls are usually difficult to observe but during the courtship period they ignore most human activity. Last winter, one pair was seen consummating their courtship atop a television antenna in Pratt, oblivious to observers.

Nesting sites of the great horned owl vary according to what is available in their area. In eastern Kansas, hollow trees are common nest sites.

The great horned owl, after years of persecution, is now protected by Kansas law. House Bill 1090, signed into law last spring by Governor Docking, provides protection for all hawks and owls.



"Yeah, I got 17 last year," the farmer said, pointing to a row of owl talons tucked to his barn door. "That makes a total of 56 for the last three years. These old pole traps really get 'em."

He was referring to the effectiveness of pole traps in taking great horned owls. Now, however, acts such as these are against the law. House Bill No. 1090, signed into law last spring by Governor Docking, makes it illegal to take, kill or possess great horned owls. The bill also gave protection to bluejays, Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks and goshawks, all of which were previously unprotected. Under Kansas law, all hawks and owls are now protected.

Since the great horned owl now has a new lease on life, let's take a look at this critter which for so many years, was heavily persecuted.

### Physical Description

The great horned owl is one of our largest owls, measuring 18 to 25 inches in length with a wingspread of more than four feet. The average weight of a mature bird is about three pounds.

The owl's plumage overall is brownish, ranging from tawny to buff with a white throat patch. The feathered ear tufts—from which the owl gets its name—are prominent identification marks. Large, yellow staring eyes contrast sharply with black bill and talons.





## National Hunting & Fishing Day

By George Volzer

SEPTEMBER 21 is a special day, dedicated just to you, Mr. and Mrs. Sportsman and Sportswoman. It's a special day that has been dubbed NATIONAL SPORTSMAN AND SPORTSWOMAN DAY.

It is official nationwide by virtue of the fact that a proclamation by President Richard Nixon has made it so and the Congress of the United States has declared it by joint resolution.

It is official in Kansas because Governor Robert

Kennedy Governor Robert K. Hayden issued a proclamation recognizing the observance of National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 21.



in the way of activities could be provided. Many sportsmen didn't even know about it until after they'd had lunch. This year, it's a different story.

In January representatives of 60 national organizations met in the Nation's Capital to formulate plans for a National Hunting and Fishing Day. Sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, Izaak Walton League of America, Wildlife Management Institute, National Shooting Sports Foundation, National Fish and Game Association and a host of other organizations, plans for the nationwide observance began to take shape rapidly.

Under the sponsorship of 21 Senators, led by Senator Thomas J. McNamara of New Hampshire, a resolution was introduced in the U.S. Senate asking the President to proclaim National Hunting and Fishing Day. A similar resolution sponsored by Representative Bob Sikes of Florida was introduced in the House and both were passed unanimously in April.

Senator McNamara probably said it best while speaking of the audience of sportsmen of the nation. "It was they who—decades ago—sounded early alarms about the raping of the land, the polluting of forests, the pollution of lakes and streams and oceans, the indiscriminate slaughter of fish and wildlife. It was they—over time—who were trying to do something to stop it. For a long time—a very long time—we didn't listen. And for an even longer time we didn't credit them with what they were doing for all of us."

Roger Martin, Secretary of the Interior, recently said about National Hunting and Fishing Day, "The American hunter and fisherman through his deep personal interest in our wildlife resources has paved the way for the growth of our modern wildlife management programs. His

Fish and Game

## DUCK CALLS

By Farrell Brewer

THERE'S NOTHING BETTER than a mallard duck for dinner according to Larry Langston, an avid duck hunter. Larry with his duck hunting companion, his father Dale, brother Rodney and friend Bill Harper, all of Overland Park, Kansas, spend many hours playing their skills of waterfowl at the Miami Dux Cygnes Waterfowl Management Area and other Kansas waterfowl areas each year.

The quest is an ordinary game of waterfowl hunters, they hold national honors in the world duck calling contest. The quest is an ordinary game of waterfowl hunters, they hold national honors in the world duck calling contest. The quest is an ordinary game of waterfowl hunters, they hold national honors in the world duck calling contest.

This was the first world contest for the Langston side. Harper entered the contest two previous years. The contest is conducted at Stuttgart, Arkansas, the famous duck hunting capital of the world and is sponsored by the Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce. Larry had only entered one other duck contest but Larry and his brother Rodney had his brother in the previous contest but Larry and his brother Rodney had his brother in the previous contest but Larry and his brother Rodney had his brother in the previous contest.

Twenty-two states were represented in the contest. Larry, although a "These funny gumbuts play the men and their tribulations," wrote the reporter.

Fish and Game

Overland Park duck hunters manufacture the famous Marshland waterfowl calls.

The feature is also involved in a business venture closely related to good waterfowl hunting. They manufacture Marshland duck and goose calls. They said the business was started basically because they were not satisfied with the calls that were available and decided to make a better call. They have incorporated 30 years of duck hunting experience into their call.

Larry said a call he picked at random from the manufacturing line to use in the contest. He pointed out that it was the one he had used duck hunting all year. "I believe you need to be familiar with your equipment."



Dale Langston, son of Marshland's founders, invents calls that have been duplicated in use if they're to be a second one.

National Hunting and Fishing day was first observed in 1972 to recognize the contributions hunters and anglers make to wildlife conservation. The Marshland Game Call Company in Overland Park featured in the November/December 1972 issue was mentioned again in the November/December 2017 issue in an article about custom call maker Joe Bucher.

The article below featured records of huge catfish caught from Kansas rivers in the 1800s. Big catfish still draw attention today, and giant blue catfish are showing up in several reservoirs, including Milford, Perry and El Dorado.

## When Fish Grew Big in Kansas

By David Dary

The modern-day record for a channel catfish in Kansas is 32 pounds, catfish would have been considered almost commonplace. Catfish weighing more than 100 pounds were caught in early-day Kansas.

Yellowing pages of many 19th century Kansas newspapers are filled with earliest descriptive how two such fish were taken early one morning from the Kansas River near Topeka. That was the summer of 1826. The largest fish weighed 160 pounds, the smallest 110 pounds.



Fish and Game

## SASNAK

### Why and How

By Richard Wettersten, Director

IT WAS JUST A year ago that a group of Kansas sportsmen meeting in Hutchinson took strong issue with the handling of hunting and fishing licenses. The group was not just a group of sportsmen but we are paying for an aggressive program but we are only getting an increasing "bank account."

As a new Fish and Game Director in the State, I made note of the very strong interest of these dedicated sportsmen and conservationists and I had the feeling that this group spoke for a great majority of Kansas sportsmen.

Returning from the meeting I couldn't help but notice baldpate working in hogwades and I mentally calculated that a covey of quail would be lost permanently for every two days of hunting. I doubt that replacement cover was being established at the same rate.

These events brought to mind a tour of southeastern Kansas made shortly after arriving in the State. Some state game management areas just weren't providing the hunting that they had once been capable of.

Other events added to this somewhat confused picture. Fisheries supporting only 200 pounds of fish per acre when they could have supported 300 pounds were pointed out

by our fisheries biologists. Commissioner Bill Fowler questioned the wisdom of using game protectors about full time on beating low enforcement and Commissioner Jack Haley wondered about the feasibility of a habitat program.

All of these comments and observations were brought into focus when Fish and Game employees at all levels were asked to submit budget recommendations.

It became apparent that the sportsman and the citizen of Kansas was not in fact getting a dollar value.

Even though a survey of landowners throughout the State indicated an interest in game habitat development there was no habitat program. This despite the fact that 95 percent of the hunting in Kansas was done on private land. Fishing license sales have increased 25 percent in the last six years but the fisheries program has grown less than one-half of that pace.

It became apparent that the sportsman and the citizen of Kansas was not in fact getting a dollar value.



Doubling the take of upland game on the Commission-managed 218,000 acres of public hunting land is one of SASNAK's goals.

SASNAK (Surging Ahead for Nimrods and Anglers in Kansas) was a major undertaking by the department in 1973. It was designed to spend fee revenue more efficiently, increase fish and game harvests on public lands and waters and implement a private land habitat program.



# Johnny Can't Go Hunting, Unless . . .

If your boy is 16 years or less you'd better read this !!!

By ROSS HARRISON,  
Staff Writer

IT WON'T BE too long before the doves are flying but some young man is crying because he can't go hunting with dad—that is unless his parents had enough foresight to sign him up in the new Kansas Hunter Safety Course.

Remember, it used to be that any youth younger than 16 years could hunt without a license. It used to be when you turned 16 all you had to do was buy a license at the nearest vendor. All that is just a memory, now.

For youth to hunt in Kansas today there's a little more required of them, thanks to the 1972 Kansas Legislature which made the following law: Anyone who did not reach 16 years by last July 1 must successfully complete the Kansas Hunter Safety Course to obtain a hunting license, and from July 1 onward any youth younger than 16 (not required to buy a hunting license) must have in his possession the certificate of competency issued on successful completion of the course to hunt on lands other than his own.

In short, there are about 25,000



Kansas youth who must take the Hunter Safety Course before hunting seasons come this fall or they won't be able to hunt on lands other than their own! This will take about 2,000 volunteer instructors, donating their time to learn what to teach, then putting this information to use in the classroom.

The Kansas Hunter Safety Course is not just another formality, a restriction, or a pain in the neck. It has been developed along the lines of the most modern, comprehensive hunter safety courses in the entire United States. The course should be one of the most enjoyable pre-hunting experiences Kansas youth have ever had the chance to enjoy. It doesn't cost a cent. But it does provide a wealth of useful information.

Basically there are five general



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1973 was the year hunter education was implemented and anyone born on or after July 1, 1957 was required to complete a course before hunting in Kansas. That first year, department staff and volunteer instructors certified more than 30,000 youngsters. Since then, more than 500,000 have completed the Kansas course. Has it worked? In a five-year period from 1967-1972, 256 hunting-related accidents, including 28 fatalities were reported. In 2013, there were only six with no fatalities. In issues from the 1970s through the 2000s, pages in the middle were reserved for more current news items. The section was called "Kansas Fish & Game News," "The Yellow Pages," "The Center Section," and "Wild Currents." It was discontinued in 2008 when the magazine was redesigned.

LICENSE SALES DROPP

PRATT--Sale of 1972 hunting and fishing licenses were down just slightly from 1971, reports the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission.

With all license sales tallied, it was revealed about 746,000 were sold in 1972, generating about \$2.3 million. In 1971, about 760,000 licenses were sold for about \$2.4 million.

Robert Ward, chief of administration of the FFG, accounted for the five per cent decrease, stating that last year was the first year persons 65 years and older did not have to buy hunting and fishing licenses because of a law passed by the previous year's legislature.

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SASNNK BEGINS WITH 95 NEW EMPLOYEES

PRATT--Hiring and orientation of 95 new employees by the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission will be the first major step to implement Project SASNNK.

As approved by the 1971 Legislature and signed into Law by Gov. Docking April 2, Project SASNNK is the bold five-year plan of the Commission to vastly improve hunting, fishing and boating in Kansas.

Commission staff members now are conducting interviews to fill the opening including 53 positions for fish and game biologists, thought to be the most massive hiring of biologists in one state at one time in the entire country. Most of the new employees will report to work the second week in August to begin about two months of training and familiarization with their new areas.

By next spring, Game Chief Lee Quaal said the 22 new game biologists will begin working with private landowners to aid in developing portions of their land into good wildlife habitat. Other activities in the game division will include intensive habitat development to improve wildlife populations on the more than 200,000 acres of public hunting lands.

Fisheries Chief Roy Schoonover said 20 of the 11 new fisheries biologists hired under SASNNK will be stationed one at each of the major Kansas reservoirs. The reservoir biologists, along with regional fisheries personnel will develop ideas and methods to improve angling in all public fishing waters of the state, including municipal and county lakes. Some of their first duties will be to determine existing fisheries resources through test netting and the rate of harvest by interviewing fishermen. In addition they will study and plan the development of presently limited species such as walleye, northern pike, blue catfish and others.

Boating Coordinator Oliver Gaspoint reports that the three new Courtesy Water Patrol crews also will be hired this summer, but that full-time water surveillance and educational services will not get underway until next year. Gaspoint is considering sending the crew to the National Boat Safety School in Virginia later this year for intensive training in all phases of boating and water safety.

One of the five goals of SASNNK was implementation of the statewide Hunter Safety Program. Since March more than 2,000 volunteer instructors have been certified and almost 10,000 students graduated. Hunter Safety Administrator Boyd Elder said the program is going better than anyone had believed possible, mostly due to the cooperation of Kansas sportsmen who have volunteered their efforts.

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"With the dove season opening on Sept. 1, we are also asking sportsmen to report any suspected illegal activity as they go afield. We are requesting sportsmen to be thoroughly aware of laws and regulations before they go afield and to conduct themselves accordingly," Warders stated. "With just a little help from everyone, we can continue to have deer and other game in Kansas. Without the help of citizens, our state's deer herd and other wildlife species will be in extreme danger."

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PHEASANT, QUAIL PROSPECTS DOWN

PRATT--Forestry, Fish and Game Commission officials today said indications are that statewide populations of pheasants and quail are down from last year.

July counts by rural mail carriers, coordinated by the commission show 23 per cent fewer pheasants were sighted and 20 per cent fewer quail on a statewide basis.

Norman said he was looking for the pheasant population to decline this year in keeping with the history of the ups and downs of the bird in Kansas. He said population trends show they peak out about every 10 years or so and that since they peaked out last year, this year or next was set for a decline.

Pheasant and quail seasons are Nov. 10 through Jan. 31. For rooster pheasants are allowed in the daily bag, with 12 in possession allowed on or after the third day of the season. Hunters can take eight quail and have 24 in possession on or after the third day.

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DEER PERMIT COMPLAINTS FLOOD FISH & GAME

PRATT--Nearly 8,700 Kansans have just saved \$10, but many of them are madder than hope about it.

They are persons who applied for, but failed to get a Kansas firearms deer hunting permit. The Forestry, Fish and Game Commission had set the cost of deer hunting permits at about 9,000 in the spring, but by the end of July more than 17,500 potential hunters had sent in their 10 bucks to apply for a firearms permit.

The public drawing Aug. 14 for the lucky 9,000 left almost half of the applicants without a permit. And the phones at the Pratt headquarters of FFG Commission have been ringing off the walls from calls by disappointed potential hunters. They'll get a refund check in about two weeks.

Game Chief of the commission, Lee Quaal, Pratt, said this year's rate of application is 36 per cent higher than last year's, while there were only 11 per cent more permits available. Archery applications increased about 26 per cent.

Most of the added interest, said Quaal, "probably comes from the high price of meat, encouraging more persons to try for the comparatively inexpensive venison in addition to high quality of the sport."

Quaal explained that of the nearly 9,000 permits available, half of them are set aside, by law, for landowners and half for general residents. In some regions, like northwest Kansas where deer hunting interest is high but permit quotas are low, only 40 per cent of the landowners who applied got permits. And, only 20 to 25 per cent of the general residents were successful.

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**KANSAS FISH & GAME**



**NEWS**

P.O. BOX 1028  
PRATT, KANSAS 67124

**EDITORS NOTE:** The following news items have been condensed from the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission's weekly news releases. Compiled by the Information-Education Division the release is mailed to news media throughout the state. In coming months, we'll select items of interest for inclusion in this news insert.

News contact: Ross Harrison Phone—316/672-6473 RELEASE \_\_\_\_\_

**TURKEY APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE OCT. 29.**

PRATT--Kansasians who want to apply for a turkey permit for the April, 1974 season should write to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission after Oct. 29. Commission officials said persons seeking an application for a turkey permit should send a request addressed: Turkey Permit, Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, Box 1028, Pratt, Kansas 67124. After receiving their application potential hunters will have to Dec. 14 to return their completed applications to the Commission. A drawing will be conducted Jan. 8 to determine the 400 successful applicants.

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**KANSANS LOOK TO DEER AS MEAT REPLACEMENT**

PRATT--Meat prices may have been a prime factor in encouraging an almost 30 per cent increase in the number of Kansans seeking deer hunting permits for seasons this fall.

Darlene Ellings, deer permit clerk of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, said the cutoff date for deer permit applications is about two weeks past and that about 21,100 persons have put in their applications. About 17,000 of the applications are for firearms deer hunting permits, but biologists set a quota of about 9,000 to be available. Last year there were 13,000 applications for firearms permits with about 5,000 permits allowed by biologists.

A public drawing will be conducted Aug. 14 at FF&G Commission headquarters, Pratt, to determine the lucky 9,000 permit getters for the Dec. 1 through Dec. 9 firearms season.

Archery permit seekers this year totaled 5,400 where only 4,100 sought archery deer hunting permits last year. Archery permits are not limited like firearms, due to the low success rate of bow and arrow hunters.

Big game biologist Bill Peabody, Emporia, said gas shortages in some mountain states where many Kansans traditionally hunt elk, antelope and deer may be one factor encouraging more of them to stay home and hunt. Also, some mountain states have raised permit costs, making the \$10 Kansas fee more attractive.

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The news item at left announced that turkey permit applications were available. Limited permits were issued by lottery drawing for Kansas' first spring season in 1974. In 1977 it was announced that the magazine would no longer be mailed free and the first subscription card appeared. And the bottom right page lists the success of the first spring turkey season: 400 permits were issued and about one-third of the hunters were successful. A new tradition was born.

-PB-

Make checks payable to:  
KANSAS FISH & GAME COMMISSION  
P.O. Box 1028  
Pratt, KS 67124

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... coming your way!

**KANSAS Fish & Game**

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**Change . . .**

What we've got comin' down at us here is that old constant—change. Like free lunches, nickel cigars and dime draughts, your free KANSAS FISH & GAME magazine is soon gonna' be just another memory—a thing of the past.

For nearly 40 years now, the Commission has published and distributed the magazine free of charge to Kansas residents. But the high cost of livin' finally caught up with us. Rising paper costs, spiralling production expenses and mushrooming postal rates make it impossible for us to continue publishing the magazine on a free basis any longer. So effective July 1, 1976, KANSAS FISH & GAME as we know it today, will make some changes.

First, it will no longer be free. The subscription rate for one year (six issues) has been set for \$3, \$5 for two years and \$7 for three years. The magazine will continue to be published six times a year but we anticipate more pages and more inner color photos. The content and editorial style will remain roughly the same, but there's the possibility of a name change and subsequently, a different logo. There will be no advertising and we'll continue to slant articles around the Kansas outdoors as well as informing readers of fish and game programs and operations.

In the January-February, March-April and May-June issues of KANSAS FISH & GAME we'll provide subscription forms for readers to fill out and return to Pratt headquarters with either personal checks or money orders for the proper amount.

During the past six years we've watched KANSAS FISH & GAME's circulation climb from 18,000 to more than 80,000. And we've seen the magazine's format move from that of a black/white quarterly bulletin to its current bi-monthly format with full color covers. Through the efforts of a number of folks, we've watched KANSAS FISH & GAME's quality improve to a point where it was recently judged third best wildlife conservation magazine in North America at the 34th annual conference of the American Association of Conservation Information in Portland. We've reached a lotta' folks with a lotta' good information and I'm sorry to see it all end.

But that old constant is a fact of life—an' we gotta' go with the facts.

Change . . .

Vic McLeran, Editor

**1st TURKEY HUNT  
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL**

(released May 17)

PRATT--Kansas turkey hunters scored high in the state's first turkey season, April 20-28, with about one-third of the hunter's bringing home a bird.

From questionnaires returned by hunters to the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, as of May 1, about 120 turkeys were harvested. A total of 400 persons received permits to hunt turkey in a limited area of south-western Kansas.

With more reports coming in, and accounting for a number of hunters who didn't hunt, it is estimated the total harvest may reach 130. According to Ken Monteil, Hays, turkey biologist of the FF&G Commission, the hunter success rate in Kansas may be one of the highest in the nation. In southeastern U.S. where unlimited turkey permits are usually available, hunter success is generally 10 to 15 per cent.

Monteil noted several reasons why Kansas hunters were so fortunate. "The terrain in our turkey hunting areas is easy to hunt," he explained. "It is not difficult to stalk turkey along a river bordered by just a few trees, from which the birds can be flushed into the open."

Monteil added that opening morning of the season found many of the turkeys less wary than they should have been, but this feature, according to a number of hunters, changed dramatically by the second day.

Monteil said the hunting season was good for the overall turkey population. He said it put "wildness" back into the birds which were protected for many years and in some areas were tending towards becoming domestic. He said hunting also will disperse large flocks into smaller ones, decreasing chances of disease and increasing turkey range.

The biologist speculated the turkey harvest accounted for less than 10 per cent of the tom turkey population, most of the harvested birds being old and nonproductive. He said since this was the first season, the FF&G Commission decided to start out with a conservative number of permits in hopes of increasing it in coming years.

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People who love wild things and green places are immersed in a tremendous, global struggle to instill ecologic common sense and environmental ethics in the fiber of human thought and action, before it is too late. At a time when we are desperate for the strength of unity, we pick bitter fights with each other over what kind of wild things and what shades of green should get priority.

One of the most widespread, divisive and irrational of these squabbles centers around the notion of nonconsumptive vs. nonconsumptive uses of wildlife. In the popular mind, the test is simple: if you hunt, trap or fish, you are a consumptive user; if you photograph, watch, paint or study wildlife, you are a nonconsumptive user. How a group of people, whose very hammer is ecologic sanity, can believe and perpetrate such nonsense is beyond ken.

From the phrasings of their articles, the mood of their films, and the smugness, paternalism or vituperation of their dealings with hunters, it is obvious that many of wildlife's human constituency who do not hunt or fish, have a holier-than-thou attitude towards those who do. "Your hands are bloody; mine are clean. Your heart is crass and vile; mine is pure and Olympian." Can this attitude stand the light of day?

Item: I visited Ano Nuevo Point, north of Santa Cruz, California, in the spring of 1973 to watch the elephant seals. To my family's delight there were not only many of these fantastic creatures on the island refuge a quarter of a mile offshore, but there were a half-dozen loafing on the mainland beach as well. (To understand the full essence of the nonaction verb "to loaf," watch a beached elephant seal!) Looking closer,

we saw that several seals had been spray-painted with good old American graffiti. As we watched, a troop of youngsters jumped off the sandy bank onto the broad, blubbery backs of the seals, shouting with glee as the seals jerked their huge bodies ineffectively. Something, I maintained, was being consumed: respect for animals, my enjoyment, and the seal's sleep, at least.

Item: the newest issue of *Audubon* magazine briefly tells of a new problem birds face: birdwatchers armed with tape recorders. Want to add a rare bird to your life list? Get a recording of the bird's territorial call, march out into the springtime and play the tape loudly. An answer comes; you check off another bird on your list. Oops! Better check: it might have been another tape recorder. One pair of rare black hawks was disturbed so often by such nonconsumptive shenanigans that they failed to nest successfully in three consecutive years.

Item: In 1975, scientists in Alaska "collected" over 80 species of birds, fish of over 20 kinds, and 20 kinds of mammals. (Nobody kills wildlife; hunters "harvest"



Fish and Game

An Alaskan biologist considers the similarities between the effects hunters and non-hunters have on wildlife.

Robert Weeden

## Nonconsumptive Users: A Myth

# Topeka's Sharpshooter

Margaret Murdock

By Chris Mathon

TO HEAR THEM TALK, I'd have to conclude that hunters as a group are the finest marksmen in the world. At one time or another at sportsman's clubs or out on the back porch, I've heard about the running squirrels shot through the eye at a hundred yards, the 600-yard kills on running antelope and 800-yard shots on bighorn sheep. In most company, I'd find reports of such shooting a little hard to believe, but the men who tell me most of these tales are friends, gentlemen of integrity and pillars of the local community, men who would no more lie about their shooting than they would abandon their wives and children to make the opening day of deer season. If pressed, any one of these men would lay false modesty aside and admit that he probably is the best shot in the state. Asking one of them for a demonstration, though, is a little like asking him to show a losing poker hand—it just isn't done.

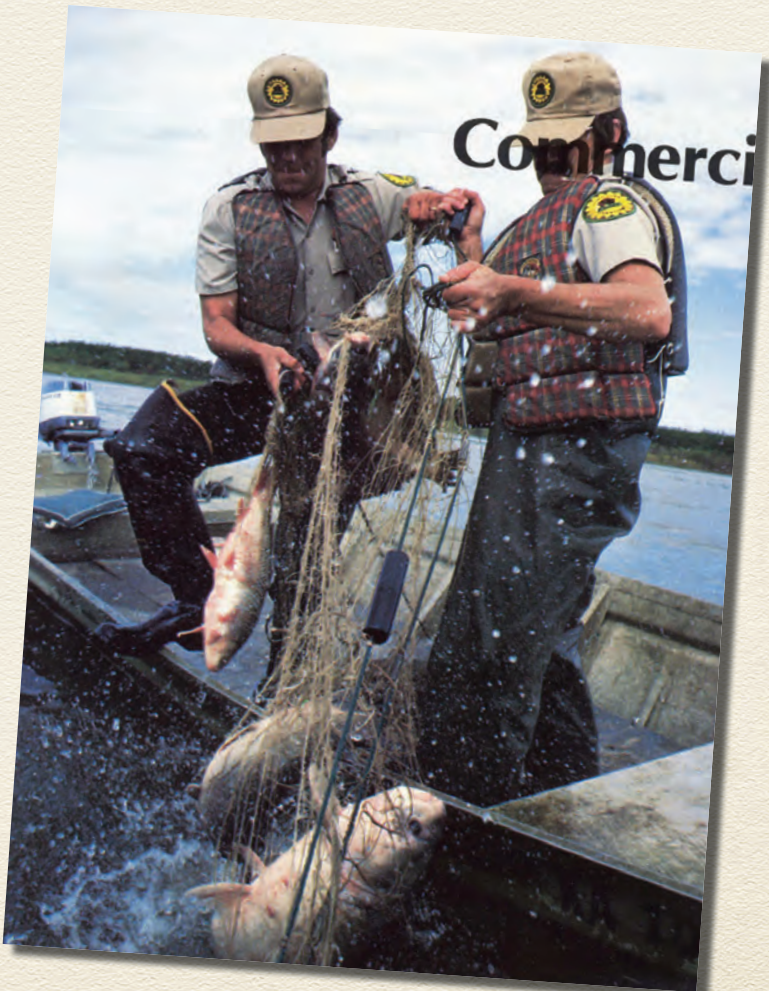
Every hunter, no matter how fond he is of stretching the truth about his shooting, knows that there is a major difference between great shooting on a hunt and great shooting on a rifle range. On a hunt, there's no one to score the misses. Any disagreement about a rifleman's ability can be settled without argument when he fires for record on the range. The holes in the paper never lie.

With the brag and exaggeration of the hunter removed, a rifle match becomes a coldly precise affair. In order to win, the shooter must consider all his natural

Courtesy of the National Rifle Association

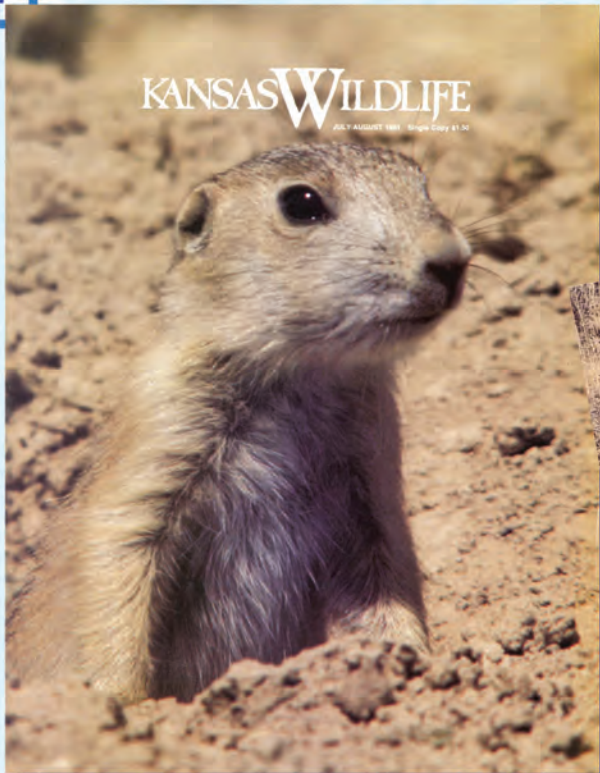


Fish and Game

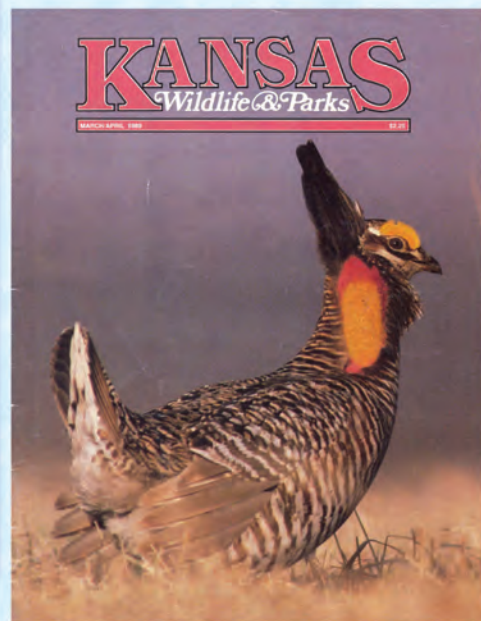
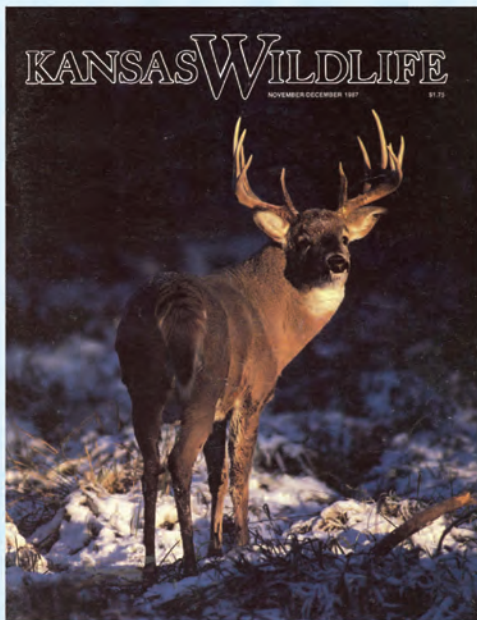
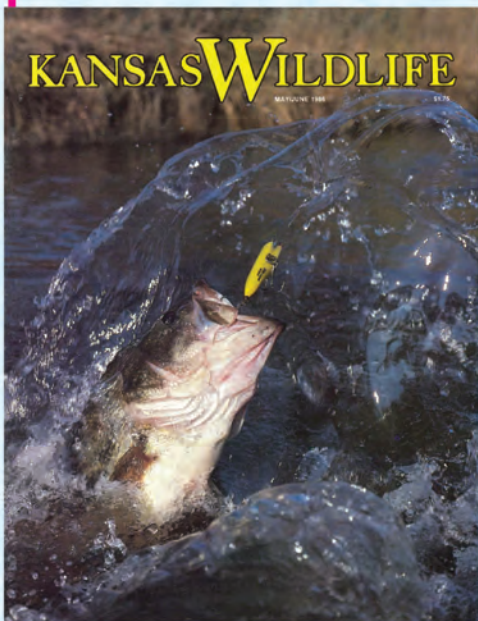
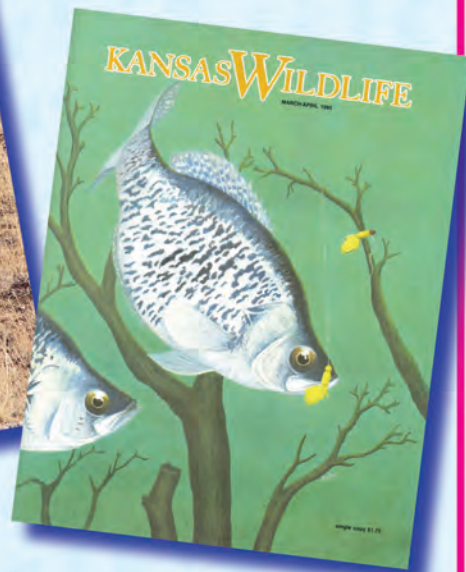
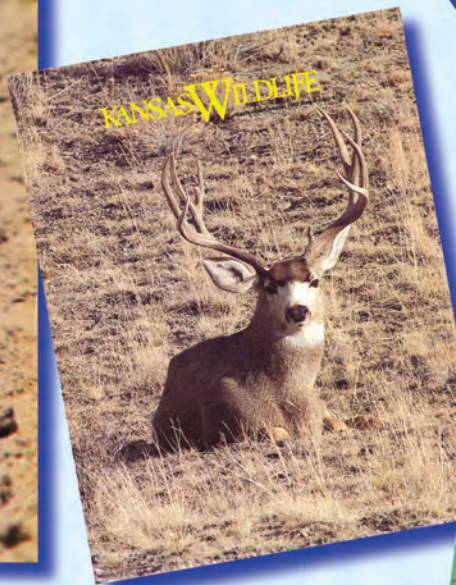


Items of random interest from 1970s issues include an article dispelling the myth that there's a "nonconsumptive" user and a "consumptive" user because we all have an impact on wildlife and wild places. Topekan Margaret Murdock, Olympic medal winner in the open small-bore rifle shooting competition, was featured. And the commercial removal of rough fish from our reservoirs is an ongoing effort today.





# Onward to the 80's



# KANSAS WILDLIFE





## Kansas Cougar?

George Anderson

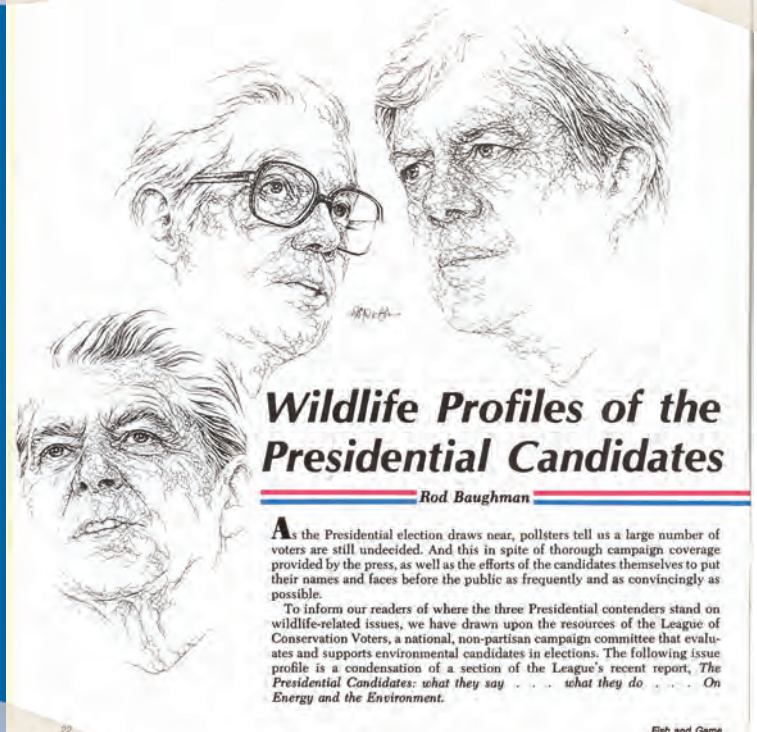
In his check list of Kansas mammals, Charles W. Hilbard credits William Applebough and J.H. Spratt with killing the last Kansas cougar on August 15, 1904 in the vicinity of Catherine, Kansas in Ellis County. At least this is the last free-living one of which there is a record at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History.

In 1899, J.R. Mead writing in the Transactions of the Annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Sciences recorded the following information on cougars: "Felis concolor (cougars) were rarely met," but he stated, this animal "was occasionally found in central Kansas in its first settlement, was common along the southern line of the state, gets more common in the Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma. Its habitat was along the timbered streams and the prairies and hills adjacent."

He further remarked that in the fall of 1859 the Sac and Fox Indians, with the aid of dogs, killed one of immense size in a heavily timbered bend of the Solomon River, a few miles above its mouth. This was probably in what is now the extreme northeast portion of Saline County. He also recalled seeing "one on the White Water in Butler County, close to Mean's ranch, where Towanda now stands" in 1865.

In the winter of 1864 he "rode almost onto a very large male lion lying at length upon the prairie some three miles south of the junction of the Medicine Lodge and Salt Fork Rivers, near the great salt plain. His color harmonized so completely with the dead, brown, buff-grass that he was not observed until I was almost onto him. He was not disposed to move from his position, and not having my rifle with me, I rode around him at a distance of fifty feet, and talked to him, but could not induce him to move, except his eyes and head, which followed my every movement. A bunch of wild horses nearby in a ravine may have been his

Fish and Game



## Wildlife Profiles of the Presidential Candidates

Rod Baughman

As the Presidential election draws near, pollsters tell us a large number of voters are still undecided. And this in spite of thorough campaign coverage provided by the press, as well as the efforts of the candidates themselves to put their names and faces before the public as frequently and as convincingly as possible.

To inform our readers of where the three Presidential contenders stand on wildlife-related issues, we have drawn upon the resources of the League of Conservation Voters, a national, non-partisan campaign committee that evaluates and supports environmental candidates in elections. The following issue profile is a condensation of a section of the League's recent report, *The Presidential Candidates: what they say . . . what they do . . . On Energy and the Environment*.

Fish and Game

Now city kids have a chance to wet a line

## Urban Fishing

Mike McFadden  
Photos by Ross Harrison



*Cougars again? Yep, this time from the 1980 issue, and there was an overview of the candidates for president during the 1980 campaign. An urban fishing program was started in 1981, and it continues today, providing catchable-sized fish close to home for urban anglers. El Dorado Reservoir was still filling in 1982 when this article ran.*

*Working with department fisheries staff, the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers left hundreds of acres of timber standing in the upper end of the reservoir for fish habitat and filled the reservoir in stages to promote optimum fish production and growth.*

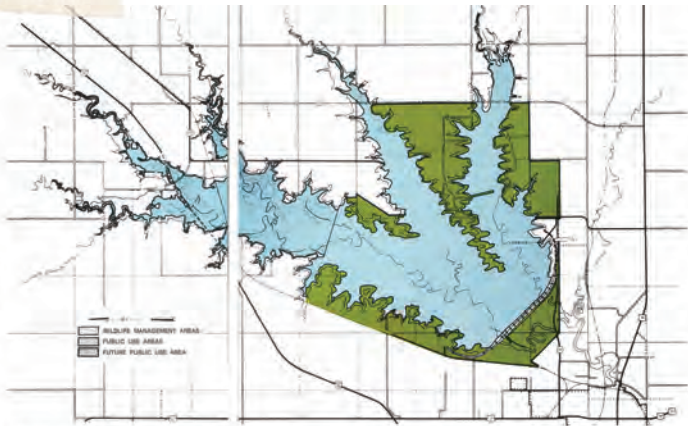
## More cover, better fishing El Dorado

Dave Willis

During June of 1981, the gates were closed on newly completed El Dorado Reservoir just northwest of the city of El Dorado. The reservoir will be fairly large, covering about 5000 acres and inundating both old El Dorado and Blounton lakes.

Thanks to diligent work by many Kansas Fish and Game Commission biologists and good cooperation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, especially personnel in the Tulsa office and project manager Jim Fry, the new reservoir will be a delight from a fisheries point of view. Because of the work of these people, a tremendous amount of structure has been left or built in the reservoir. This structure is a tremendous aid to fishermen because it concentrates fish and makes them more vulnerable in a variety of angling techniques. A large amount of standing timber was left in the reservoir while, in areas where trees were cleared for housing, utility easements, the trees were often pushed into piles and cabled down. Such sites provide excellent fish habitat. The east end of the dam has a steep rock ledge, and the west end has a series of gravelled cuts running from the shallows out into deeper water. Hand tools used by construction contractors along the face of the dam were also left to attract fish. The new railroad bed across the upper end of the reservoir has rock riprap along its trestle, the old railroad bed was left in place and still runs directly into the reservoir from the upper end. All of these areas should provide excellent fishing in years to come.

There is also a staged filling plan for El Dorado Reservoir. This plan may be the most important management tool we have for assuring the initial success of the reservoir's fishery. Last fall, the reservoir contained slightly more than 800 acres of water. This spring, the water level will be brought up to about 5,000 surface acres, and the final filling will occur by degrees until the lake reaches a size of about 8,000 acres by the spring of 1983.



All newly flooded reservoir exposures are initial bonus when fishing is excellent, mainly because exposure of diverse vegetation forms excellent living and breeding habitat for many game species. After this vegetation breaks down and is covered by silt, fishing success declines, and people wonder what has happened. At this time, a water level fluctuation plan is critical to maintaining a productive fishery. A problem with fluctuation plans often develops in Kansas because so many agencies are involved in reservoir management, and each agency has its own priorities for the water. A working fluctuation plan depends on good cooperation among these agencies—and we feel there is such cooperation at El Dorado.

Stocking began at the reservoir during the summer of 1981. Approximately 110,000 largemouth bass and 160,000 bluegill were released. Beginning this spring the Fish and Game Commission plans to stock walleye, largemouth bass, bluegill, and black crappie. Fish already present in the Walnut River flowing into the reservoir will also have an impact on the fishery. The river is almost certain to contribute a few spotted bass, white crappie, and flathead catfish, and white bass may show up as well. The all-important forage base will also come from the river. Crayfish and already present should reproduce readily in the new lake, providing a tremendous food supply which will be augmented by small carp and a wide variety of minnows. At the lake's edge, the red shiner will probably become the most abundant small bait fish.

The key to success with the El Dorado fishery will be water quality. If the water remains fairly clear, we should be able to develop a good bass population. Since the reservoir is on the edge of the Flint Hills where most drainages are in pasture, it is reasonable to expect a clear reservoir; however, the old lakes in the drainage are quite muddy for some reason. If the new reservoir takes after its predecessors, we may still be able to improve water quality with the water level fluctuation plan. If that doesn't help enough, we may have to settle for a walleye-crayfish-channel catfish reservoir. In either case, we'll do our best to build a productive fishery with the tools at our disposal.

Dave Willis is an investigator assigned to charge of reservoir fisheries in the state.





The photo above appears because it is an amazing image shot by magazine photographer Ron Spomer. And the photo below of a white-faced ibis and her young is here for the same reason. Gene Brehm snapped that shot at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. The column below marks the beginning of Paul Koenig's tenure as editor in 1986.



**THE BUCK STOPS HERE** 

## Changing Of The Guard

**I** often issues a plea from the Pacific Northwest introducing himself on this page. Said bird spent the previous 11 years living in that far corner but that his roots were in America's heartland and, well, Kansas wasn't so different from his boyhood home.

I can relate, and maybe I should, because with this issue I am the new name in the northland. I grew up in St. Louis, attended school in Missouri then traveled east and south to our abundant jobs in New York and Alabama. While living in Dixie I was lucky enough to be invited to hunt land in Kansas — twice.

I realize that's no great shakes to a native Jayhawker. Bird hunt twice in Kansas is what you do on a fall weekend. But for me, then as now, Kansas land hunts are special.

I'd heard Kansas was the state that offered good or better pheasant, quail and prairie chicken hunting. And I believed it, for sure, but it's hard to dwell on such a paradise when you're selling along Interstate 70 going to or returning from somewhere.

The Kansas stretch of I-70 winds itself to other thoughts. Like, Alan, it's true what they say about Kansas. It really is flat. Miles and miles of it. Zero in the way of scenery.

Proving scenery, of course, is not I-70's purpose. It was meant to carry travelers efficiently across the nation's midsection. Which it does.

Ramp off I-70, however, and you'll discover the Kansas and the landscape the traveler may never know. Spend some time in the Flint Hills, hunt pheasants with a friend or watch the sun set on the prairie. Better yet, live here. Get to know Kansas. Make the time. That's how you get to know something.

Take KANSAS WILDLIFE, for instance. I invite you to continue — or to begin — spending time with us each issue. Get to know us as we get to know you. You've said you enjoy the color photography on these pages. We hear you. Look for more of it.

You've said you like hunting and fishing-related stories. We do, too, and you'll be seeing those subjects covered in each issue.

You've said you enjoy reading about conservation, nature and nongame wildlife species. Likewise. Stay with us.

You've said you enjoy reading the Center Section, especially the pages devoted to Letters and The Law. Great. Count on them being there every issue.

Count on only a few changes in your magazine, in fact, as it's passed from one editor to another. Stab Scaughran, for me, has left in search of greener pastures to the north. A new feature, called HIGH GROUND, will take Stab's place. Any subject is fair game on the HIGH GROUND so long as it puts a thought in your head or a smile on your face.

By now you may have noticed the new look on the table of contents page. We wanted to give you a preview of the photos that run larger inside. And you already may have noticed a few other changes inside the magazine.

We hope you continue to find KANSAS WILDLIFE as personable as your next-door neighbor, as satisfying as an old friend. Good friends need to keep in touch. Do that, please.

We'll do the same.

*Paul*  
Paul G. Koenig  
Editor







what have we  
learned from the dewatering  
of western Kansas?

## eyes on the west

Randy Schademann

**M**y first contact with Cedar Bluff Reservoir was in September of 1980. I had been hired as the district fisheries biologist, and was taking an orientation tour of my region. I remember spending the first day of the tour driving through hundreds of miles of drought-scorched prairie. I looked forward to seeing the lake that was to be the focal point of my work. I also remember how disappointed I was when I drove across the dam the next day. I had visualized a big blue lake, but was greeted with a windswept remnant of a reservoir, which was giving way to an encroaching forest of dwarf cottonwoods, tamarisk, and fireweed. My eagerness gave way to despair.

Had I been there twenty-five years earlier, my first impression of the lake would have been exactly the opposite. Completed in 1951, Cedar Bluff dam was a recreational godsend to the people of western Kansas, who couldn't wait the five years projected for lake filling. As it turned out, they didn't have to. Locals were pleasantly surprised

and the Bureau of Reclamation began counting flood damage dollars saved as heavy rains filled the basin in less than a year. The 6,900 acres of blue water quickly became a recreational magnet, and its heyday continued for more than a decade.

Unfortunately, Cedar Bluff could be used to substantiate the eternal pessimist's philosophy: "A good thing never lasts." In the fifteen-year span between 1963 and 1978, the lake's waters receded forty-one feet in elevation and 5,000 acres in surface area.

Some 51 billion gallons of water had vanished and has not since been recouped. What is left is some 1,900 acres of water, only one quarter of its original size and one fifth the volume.

The causes of such unabated dewatering? The decline began upon completion of the irrigation canal and lateral system below the reservoir. During the irrigation district's years of operation, an average of three billion gallons of water was delivered to some portion of the 6,900 acres in the district each year. It didn't take a hydrologist to make a connection between a falling water

Kansas Wildlife

27

# Women in the Field



A surprising number of gals participate in field sports; non-hunters, they say, are missing a good thing!

Terry Shuman

**O**ur truck bounced along on uneven backroads through morning. We ceased to a stop near the dimly outlined banks of a river and uncurled ourselves from a half sleep. The air was sharp, the wind stiff. It was ideal duck hunting weather.

"Can you carry this?"

"Yes, I think so."  
"The blind is about a mile and a half away."

"Okay."  
Carrying assignments made and wind along the river bank, following a dim path. My brother, dad, and husband filed smoothly across a grass pasture and skirted a barely

discernible hedgerow, bags of decoys jouncing easily on their shoulders. We crossed another grassy patch and pushed up to a partially frozen stream. The cold had disappeared with the exertion of walking, but the darkness held. "There's a beaver dam over here we can cross on."  
"It's slippery, be careful."

Kansas Wildlife

21



Area manager Karl Grover opens a gate, the primary means of water movement on the area.

## Cheyenne Bottoms Today...

by Karl Grover  
Area Wildlife Manager  
Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area  
Great Bend

**W**hen Cheyenne Bottoms was new, the manager had the ability to drain any pool. With the inlet system, he was reasonably sure he'd have enough water to refill the pool when the management plan called for it. With this fairly reliable water source, the management of Cheyenne Bottoms was something that could be planned. Today, however, the area manager at Cheyenne Bottoms faces problems that were given little thought 15 or 20 years ago. These prob-

lems have made the current management strategy more of a reaction to weather as opposed to planned actions.

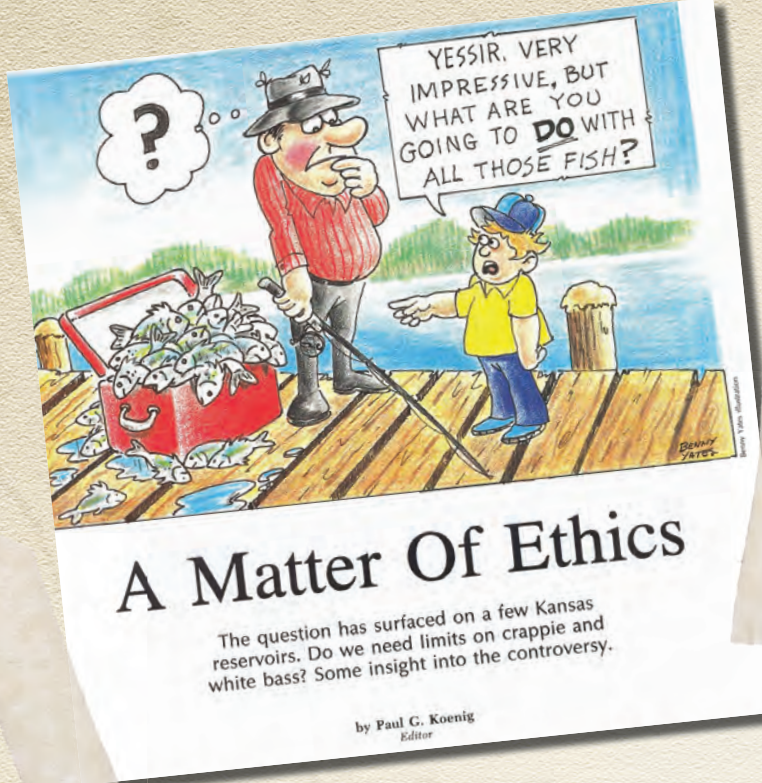
One of the biggest management obstacles is the decreased flows in the Arkansas River. Due to increased irrigation, damming and improved soil conservation practices that reduce surface run-off, the Arkansas River flows have dropped to the point where the inlet system can't be counted on to deliver sufficient water for filling the five area pools.

All pieces on this page are representative of the era and are still relevant today. Western Kansas reservoirs have been in a wet-dry cycle since they were built. In the 1980s, they were drying up and boat ramps were far from water. However, in the 1990s they filled up. Traditionally, women were often left out of hunting and fishing outings. However, that began to change in the 1980s and today women are the fastest growing segment of hunters and anglers. News about the 19,000-acre Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area has been featured many times because the wetland is so important to migrating waterfowl and shorebirds and is a highly popular waterfowl hunting area.

36

Wildlife & Parks

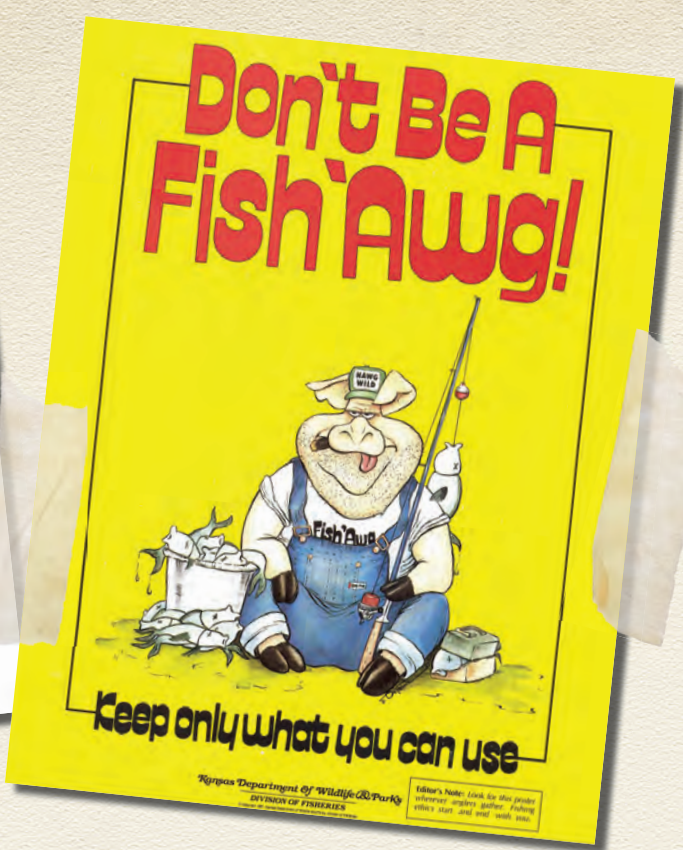




## A Matter Of Ethics

The question has surfaced on a few Kansas reservoirs. Do we need limits on crappie and white bass? Some insight into the controversy.

by Paul G. Koenig  
Editor



Biologists propose regulations with science to back them up, but sometimes unethical behavior can bring pressure to set length or creel limits not supported by data. Armadillos were present in the 1980s but were not as common or widespread as they are today. And like armadillos, computers were showing up in wildlife management. Today every office has at least one computer and we would be lost without them.

Furbearer biologist Lloyd Fox uses a computer to compile data from his furharvester surveys.



The southern half of Kansas is the dillo's primary range in the state, although the species is found as far north as the Nebraska border.

## Dillos

The common long-nosed armadillo, a curiosity and sometimes a nuisance, is here to stay in Kansas.

by Mary Kay Spanbauer  
Wildlife Information Representative  
Kansas City

photos by Leonard Lee Rue III

Across the prairie they scurry, seeking out new territory. Most Kansans are probably unaware that the Sunflower State is home to this likable little animal, whose numbers have been increasing here for the past 50 years. The finny-looking creature is the armadillo.

Worldwide there are 20 species of armadillos, (more fondly known as dillos) and all are found in the tropical Americas. One species, however, has expanded its range northward. The

common long-nosed, or nine-banded, armadillo is the only species found in the United States. Originally this armadillo ranged from Southern Patagonia through Mexico. In the past 100 years, however, it has slowly expanded its range northward. The elimination of large predators, changes in land-use and climate, introductions by well-intentioned individuals plus the occasional escapes have all contributed to this expansion.

The first written account of an arma-

dillo in Texas was at the Rio Grande in 1854. As armadillos moved north across the plains they hit Oklahoma, where the first one was spotted in the Verdigris River Valley in 1932. The first recorded armadillo in Kansas was found in Osage County in 1909. This, however, is discounted as a naturally occurring armadillo by E. Lendell Cockrum, then Professor of Mammalogy at the University of Kansas. He suspected that it was an escapee somehow transplanted far north of its

KANSAS WILDLIFE

13





Taken in mid-May, this photograph shows the Milford Conservation Education Center nearing completion. The Center, near Junction City, will educate Kansas youth about wildlife conservation. Below, three workers carry out their duties in mid-April.

## Milford Conservation Education Center

by Mike Miller  
Associate Editor

**UPDATE**

Construction of the state's first conservation education center will be complete in July. The Milford Conservation Education Center has been built on the Milford Fish Hatchery grounds near Milford Reservoir.

Just a few miles off Interstate 70, the education center is easily accessible. The facility will include displays and actual raceways to demonstrate how an intensive fish hatchery works. But the Milford Conservation Education Center will include much more. Plans call for terrestrial and aquatic dioramas to show our state's native wildlife in their natural state. Visitors will learn about ecosystems, predator-prey relationships, habitat needs and natural resource management. Conservationists believe that educating youth about conservation is vital to the future of our natural resources.

But there is still much to do before the Center can open. Nearly all the funds raised so far have gone into construction. The actual wildlife and educational displays will require additional dollars. If you're concerned about the future of wildlife, donate to the Milford Conservation Education Center. Help open the door to wildlife education for Kansas youth. For information on how you can help, call Wildtrust coordinator Bill Hanzlick at 913-296-2251.



Wildlife & Parks

11

*The Milford Conservation Education Center (now called the Milford Nature Center) opened in 1987, a new logo signaling the merger with the Parks and Resources Authority, the discovery the once-thought extinct black-footed ferret in Wyoming, and the magazine's 50th anniversary are notable 1980s events.*

## Return of the MASKED STRANGER

The black-footed ferret was once relatively common across the Great Plains states, including Kansas. Now nearly extinct as a result of prairie dog eradication efforts, the ferret's last hope is a captive breeding program.

by Dan Mulhern  
endangered species biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
photos by LuRay Parker  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

**OUR  
NEW  
LOGO**



On Sept. 30, 1988, the Commission was presented with the Department's new logo, which was developed by a committee of Department employees. The committee agreed that the new logo was both distinctive and representative of Kansas. The logo features a bison head bordered by silhouettes of grasses and grain.

Logo committee members were: Mary Jane Mansueti of Hays, Ed Alvin of Medicine, Bill Burlew of Topeka, Kathy Brown George, a commissioner from Junction City, Bill Anderson, a commissioner from Fairway, R.J. Brighton of the Kansas Wildlife Federation, Linda Cline of the Kansas Parks & Recreation Association and Mike Cox, the Department's Education and Public Affairs Chief. Kohn & Wittelsbach (K&W), a design firm based in Kansas City, Mo., designed the logo at its charge to the Department. Special thanks to K&W's Bruce Reubel and staff illustrator Patti Murphy for their graphic work.

Kansas will begin seeing the new logo on Department uniforms and vehicles early in 1989.

Wildlife & Parks

## THE BUCK STOPS HERE



### The Big 5-0

Welcome to the 50th anniversary issue of KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine. Actually, welcome to the fifth issue of KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS magazine and the 50th anniversary issue of the agency publication. Picky, picky.

The magazine you see today began as a seven-page newsletter in the spring of 1938. The first issue we know of, published in April 1938, was titled *Outdoor with the Forestry Fish & Game Commission of Kansas*. The publication was typed on legal-size paper, not including the cover and credit. A reproduction of a newsletter cover from that first year appears at right.

A little more history . . . The publication kept that long title until the June 1939 issue, when the name changed to KANSAS FISH & GAME.

For the next 41½ years, the title—KANSAS FISH & GAME—stood atop each issue even though the logo (the cover insignia) changed at least five times during that period. The name changed to KANSAS WILDLIFE with the January/February 1981 issue and kept that name until the March/April 1988 issue, when we became KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS to reflect the merging of the Kansas Fish & Game Commission and the Kansas State Park and Resources Authority.

The first half of this issue is but a small reflection of the stories that appeared in our first 50 years. We hope you enjoy the stroll through history.

A few words about the man who illustrated the July 1938 cover (at right) in our first year of publication.

Luther Hanson was a 34-year-old freelance artist when he produced the farm-boy cover at the request of then-director Dave Lealy. Hanson was living in Greenleaf, Kan., when he inked that cover and, today at 81, still calls Greenleaf home.

A freelance artist most of his life, Hanson has lettered commercial signs, catalogs and "hundreds of trucks" in addition to the other covers he did for this agency in the late 1930s. When we talked with him recently, he was in the middle of lettering for the local swimming pool.

"It's hard to get away from commercial artwork. There's always somebody needing something," Hanson says. The freelance work keeps him busy, but he still has time for a daily walk to downtown Greenleaf (pop. 462) with Laveda, his wife of 54 years.

Page 35 is home to the Kansas state deer records, which include the top 20 bucks in each of eight categories. This new listing reflects not only records we have on file in the Pratt office, but also Kansas records that are on file

Wildlife & Parks

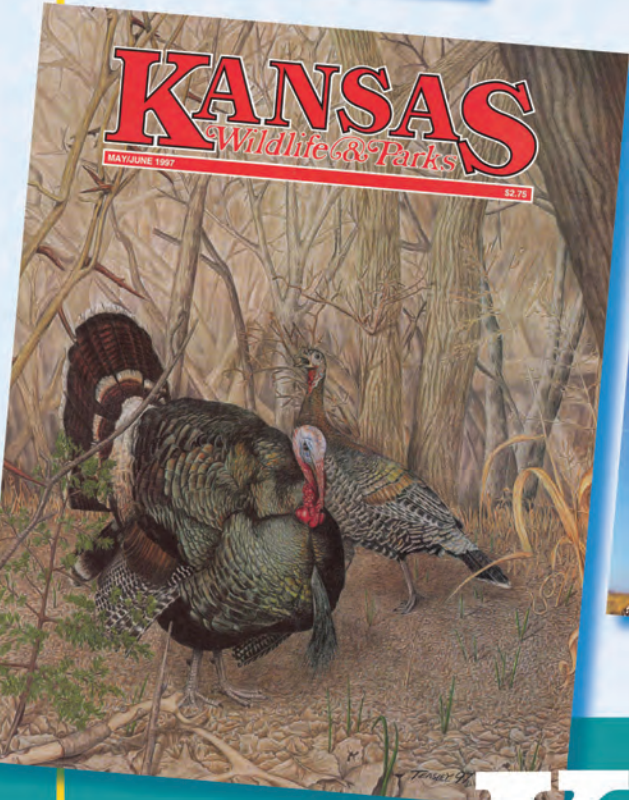
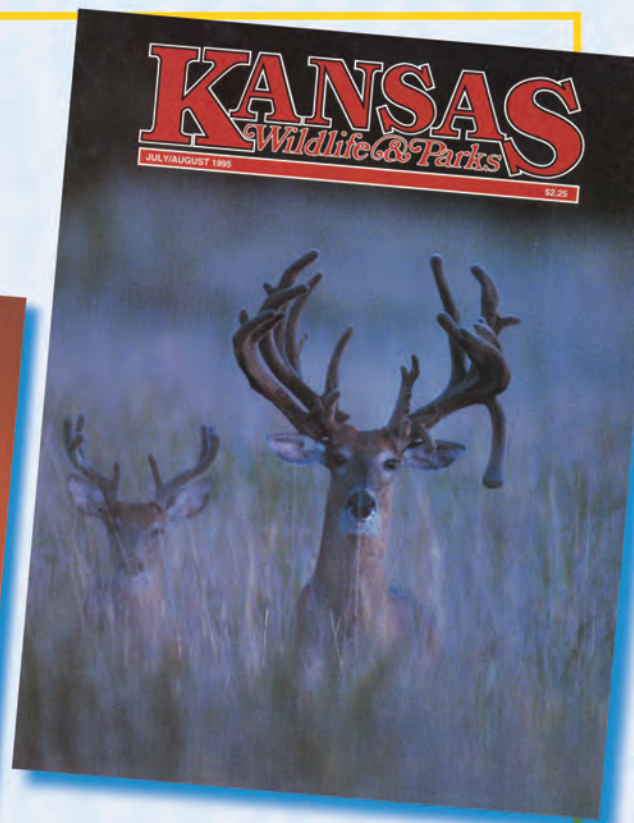
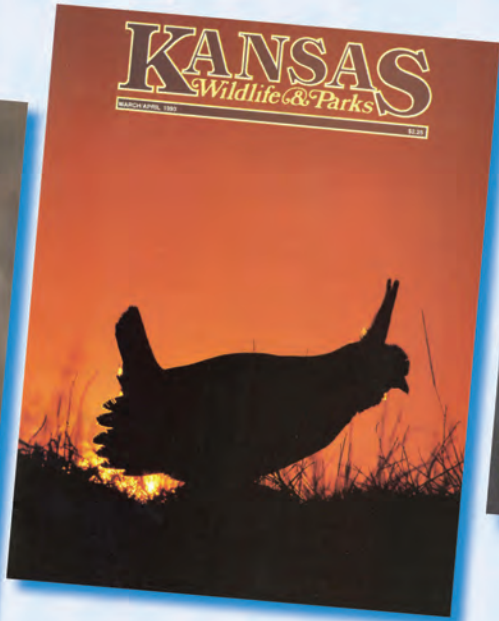
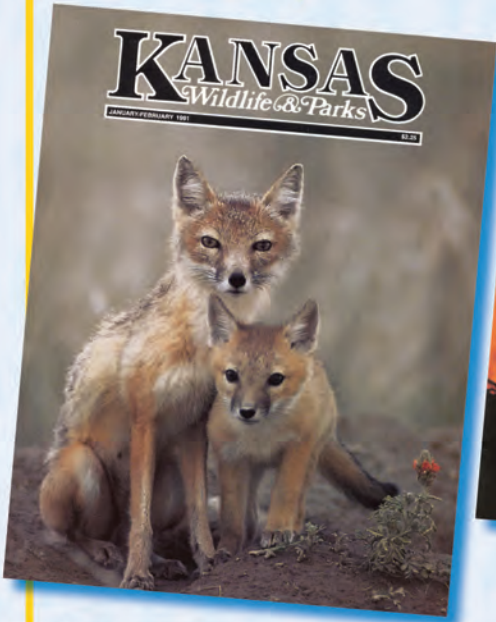


with the Boone & Crockett Club (B&C) and the Pope & Young Club (P&Y) officers. If there is any question as to the validity of our records, we consult with B&C and P&Y and follow their score or ruling.

Paul  
Paul G. Koenig  
Editor



Movin' into the 90's



**KANSAS**  
*Wildlife & Parks*





*Over the years, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wildlife biologist, Mike Watkins, wrote several articles documenting bald eagles nesting in Kansas, following the bird's amazing comeback. Mike Blair's amazing image of a barn owl bringing a mouse to her young is an editor's favorite. Secretary Robert Meinen updated readers about the agency three years after the merger. And it's hard to imagine today, but giant Canada geese, thought to be extinct in until 1963, were also on the comeback path.*

# Homegrown Eagles!



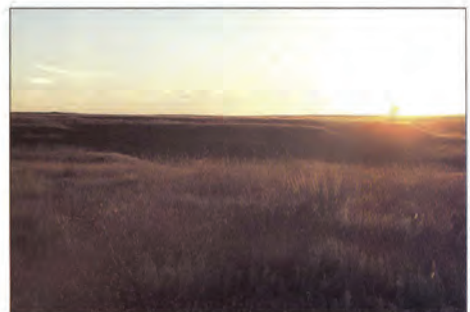
Mike Blair photo

by Michael A. Watkins  
wildlife biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District

Last spring wildlife biologists noticed a pair of bald eagles building a nest at Clinton Lake. To the biologists' surprise and delight, the pair raised two healthy young, the first documented in Kansas.

# Three Years Later

by Robert L. Meinen  
Secretary



Mike Blair photo

It's been three years since the Fish and Game Commission and the Parks and Resources Authority were combined. The now fully functional Department is ready to start a new era in resource management.

# A Giant Comeback

by Marc Murrell  
Education and Public Affairs wildlife information  
representative, Valley Center  
photos by Mike Blair

The giant Canada goose population is healthy and stable in North America, but the ancestors of modern birds that once nested in Kansas disappeared long ago. The restoration program is returning a resident nesting population of the big geese to Kansas.





## How To Stalk A Skunk

I'm not much of a skunk hunter, not that I couldn't be if I took a notion. It's just that skunk hunting has never gotten in my blood. Nevertheless, I've proven on several occasions that, if I was so inclined, I could be a darned good skunk hunter, maybe even legendary.

So, even though I don't avidly pursue skunks (at least not on purpose), I feel obliged to offer my expertise to those who might want to try. You see, I've been face to face with a number of skunks and through those harrowing encounters, I've discovered my innate ability to get very close to our most malodorous varmint. Some folks brag about stalking deer, and some like to sneak up on ducks and geese, but you never hear them boast about skunk stalking. Few have a true, instinctive skunk-stalking skill. I guess I'm just blessed.

The first step is learning about your quarry: *Mephitis mephitis*, the striped skunk. Most people know very little about the creature because they run the opposite direction whenever they sense the first hint of a skunk's presence. You'll never learn about skunks that way. And you certainly won't get hair-raisingly close to one, either.

I've spent hours learning about skunks from my deer stand. My buddies think I stayed in the tree because I was afraid of getting sprayed, but I honestly saw the opportunity to learn. I noticed right away that a skunk appears to pay little attention to anything but what's right in front of its nose. Some would interpret this lack of wariness to mean the skunk is stupid — an easy mark. I disagree. The skunk isn't so much stupid as it is apathetic. It really doesn't care if you're nearby; the striped one always has an ace up its sleeve (or under its tail if you prefer).

But when you get inside the skunk's comfort zone, things can get exciting. From my experience, that zone is about 3 feet. A seemingly preoccupied animal can suddenly become quite alert to your presence. And, to the skunk hunter's adrenaline delight, the skunk rarely turns and runs.

Most of my really close skunk encounters have been while walking into the spring turkey woods at daybreak, or leaving my deer stand after sunset. Some might assume these upclose encounters were a result of me not seeing the skunk in the darkness in time to avoid it. But I actually look forward to these meetings — to test myself under pressure.

Although I've never hunted grizzly bears in Alaska or leopards in Africa, I think my skunk episodes have been as exciting. Keeping your cool in the face of danger is the essence of skunk-stalking. And regardless of what you've heard, my pants were wet after my last skunk encounter because of an unusually heavy dew that morning.

Because of the skunk's unique camouflage, it can just appear at close range in the dark. What looked like a dark clump of grass through sleepy eyes suddenly turns toward you and does a little handstand. Boy, will that will wake you



Dana Eastes illustration

up! Think fast. Keep cool. Your first move must be swift, yet planned. To stumble now would be disastrous (and would probably inhibit your social life for about a month). Quickly check the wind's direction. Wind direction is important in all big game hunting, but big game hunters prefer to be downwind of their quarry. I've learned that just the opposite is true with skunks. Don't ask why — just get upwind fast.

The next move is what I call the standoff. You simply stand there and stare at the skunk. A buddy once accused me of being scared-still, but the truth was I was trying to disguise my next move. I was also trying to figure out which end of the skunk I was looking at (another important factor).

After several tense seconds, I usually make a casual, but hasty, loop around the still unmoved skunk, always maintaining my upwind advantage. For some reason, this fast walk through waist-high grass and sandhill plum bushes while keeping an eye on the skunk always makes my hunting partner laugh hysterically. The stumbling and near falls are all part of the plan — to keep the skunk off guard — as is the terrified look on my face.

If you're looking for an exciting, death-defying challenge, try sky diving. If you want about the same amount of excitement with less risk (getting sprayed won't kill you but you'll wish it had), try skunk stalking. It requires skill, stealth and cool actions under pressure. And if you find yourself at close quarters with a skunk, don't be embarrassed if you forget some of what I've told you. I truly believe that much of my skunk-stalking ability is natural. I guess it just comes easy to me.



## Dogs Can't Spit (And Other Disgusting Facts)

At a recent family gathering, my grandmother was concerned that something was wrong with her dog, a Yorkshire Terrier. He was eating sandbars as he pulled them from the hair on his stubby little legs. I reassured her, "Other than Rusty is good for nothing (he can't point a quail or retrieve a pheasant), there's nothing wrong with him. It's just that he can't spit the stickers out when he gets them in his mouth. Dogs can't spit," I added authoritatively.

Grandma was unimpressed. "How do you know?" she replied dryly.

"Well, why else would he swallow something that has to hurt twice: once going down, and once... well, you know," I said trying to disguise my lack of scientific reasoning with humor.

Grandma gave her typical "tsk" to show she didn't think I was funny. "I just wish he wouldn't eat those things," she ended the discussion.

The episode got me thinking about my theory. I wasn't sure how I decided dogs couldn't spit. Maybe it was watching my Brittany try unsuccessfully to spit out dove feathers, eventually washing them down with some muddy pond water. Or it could have been watching our old Lab fiddle with a sandbar for several minutes before finally gulping hard and swallowing it. It's obvious. Dogs can't spit.

Ever tell your dog to spit something out? You might as well kiss whatever it was goodbye. Not only is the dog physically unable to obey, but when you told him to spit it out, he decided that you wanted whatever it was, and he became very determined to make sure you didn't take it away.

If dogs could spit, they wouldn't have to drool. They could simply wait until they had a good supply of spit built up, and pitifully, they could expel what they usually smear all over your pant leg. They'd do it, too. Dogs, especially hunting dogs, love disgusting things. The more disgusting the act, the harder it is to keep your dog from doing it. Rolling in dead, really nasty smelling stuff is a good example. You know that with a dog's super-sensitive nose, that stuff has to smell even worse to them, but I think they derive great pleasure from repulsing humans.

I can just hear two Labs talking through the fence: "Hey Tex, I nearly made my female human puke today. I found a mess



Dana Eastes illustration

the stupid cat made and, well, you know since I got it in my mouth, I couldn't spit it out. Well, anyway, she kept yelling at me to spit it out, spit it out," her voice getting higher and higher. So, I swallowed it, then licked my lips like it was delicious. It lasted terrible, but the look on her face was worth it. She turned white as a setter, gagged, covered her mouth and ran from the room."

"That's great, Bully, but get this. My humans had company yesterday and you know how my male likes to show me off. Well he called me in, begging about what a great retriever I was. And the female guest walked and asked and said how she loved big dogs. So, you know, I cooed right up to her. But what the humans didn't know was that I'd rolled in a dead squirrel that morning. Smashed right in the middle of the street, that squirrel was aged some and had a wonderful bouquet. She petted me then started to give me a hug before the aroma hit her. She looked disbelieving at her hands, then slowly moved one closer to her nose. When she realized that her hands were covered with rotting squirrel guts, she screamed like a Poodle with its tail caught in the door. I've never wagged my tail so hard."

If you live with a big dog, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Look at your dog right now. He may look like he's sleeping, but he's really trying to dream up new ways to make you shudder with disgust. It's his life's joy, aside from hunting at your side, of course. And I think that, more than anything else, proves that dogs can't spit. Think how much more disgusting they could be if they could spit. If they could spit, they would!





## 20 Years Of Kansas Hunter Education

*An anniversary, two beginnings and a surprise visit appear from the 1990s. Hunter Education turned 20 years old 1993 and the trend in declining hunting-related accidents continues. A Shiras moose wandered into Kansas, probably from states west of here. The young bull attracted lots of attention.*



## Becoming An Outdoors Woman

by Becky Johnson  
*Becoming An Outdoors Woman* program coordinator, Emporia  
 photos by Steve Stackhouse  
 chief of Education Section, Pratt

*Could a workshop that provides women the opportunity to learn about outdoor activities in a fun, nonintimidating atmosphere be successful? YES, say those who attended Kansas' first such program.*



## CRP: A Future Of Hope?

by J. Mark Shoup  
 associate editor, Pratt  
 photos by Mike Blair

*What does the future hold for what some say is the most successful government farming program ever?*

*The first Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshop started what has become a highly successful program that introduces women to outdoor recreation. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was just gaining steam, and the addition of millions of acres of native grassland had huge positive impacts on wildlife and erosion.*





The angler above shows spunk and style while enjoying the winter trout program. A wet weather pattern in the early 1990s brought Cedar Bluff, Webster, Sebelius and Kirwin reservoirs from extremely low levels to overflowing by 1995. High water created ideal spawning conditions, and fishing was fantastic in the second half of the 1990s. Dustin Ritter's 13.16-pound Wilson Reservoir walleye caught in 1996 stills holds the state record. Upland bird biologist Randy Rodgers' byline appeared frequently in the magazine throughout his career and this life story of a Kansas pheasant from the March/April 1992 issue was one of his best.



## GLORY DAYS RETURN TO WESTERN WATERS




by Lynn Davignon, *district fisheries biologist, Hays*  
and Steve Price, *district fisheries biologist, Stockton*

*If you haven't been to Cedar Bluff, Kirwin, Webster or Sebelius reservoirs recently, you might not recognize them. The water has returned, and fishing should be outstanding.*

In the September/October 1983 issue of Kansas Wildlife (now Kansas Wildlife & Parks) an article "Eyes On The West," depicted the effects of devastating on western Kansas reservoirs. Completed in the 1950s and 1960s, these Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) reservoirs were designed to provide irrigation, recreation and flood control benefits. Changes in hydrology that occurred after construction, however, resulted in reduced inflows, and consequently, these projects were failing to meet expectations due to inadequate water supplies when the article was written. Critically low water levels during the 1970s exemplified the severity of the situation. By 1981, Cedar Bluff, Webster, Kirwin and Sebelius were 43, 28, 34, and 28 feet low, respectively. These low water levels might be best illustrated by comparing surface acres of water at normal levels to surface acres at the low levels. Cedar Bluff covered 8,000 acres when full, only 500 at its low point, Webster covers 3,739 full, only 815

Wildlife & Parks 17



# A Pheasant Odyssey

by Randy Rodgers  
*wildlife research biologist*  
Hays  
photos by Mike Blair

*Since introduced in Kansas in 1906, the ring-necked pheasant has adapted well. But each day of each passing season brings new challenges as the pheasant struggles to survive and perpetuate the species.*

Wildlife & Parks 3





# Let It Snow

## GEESE

by Marc Murrell  
public information officer, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

*Snow geese commonly concentrate in large numbers in northeast Kansas, and they provide great late-winter hunting opportunities. But waterfowl experts are concerned that the continental snow goose population is too large. They may be eating themselves out of house and home on their arctic nesting grounds.*

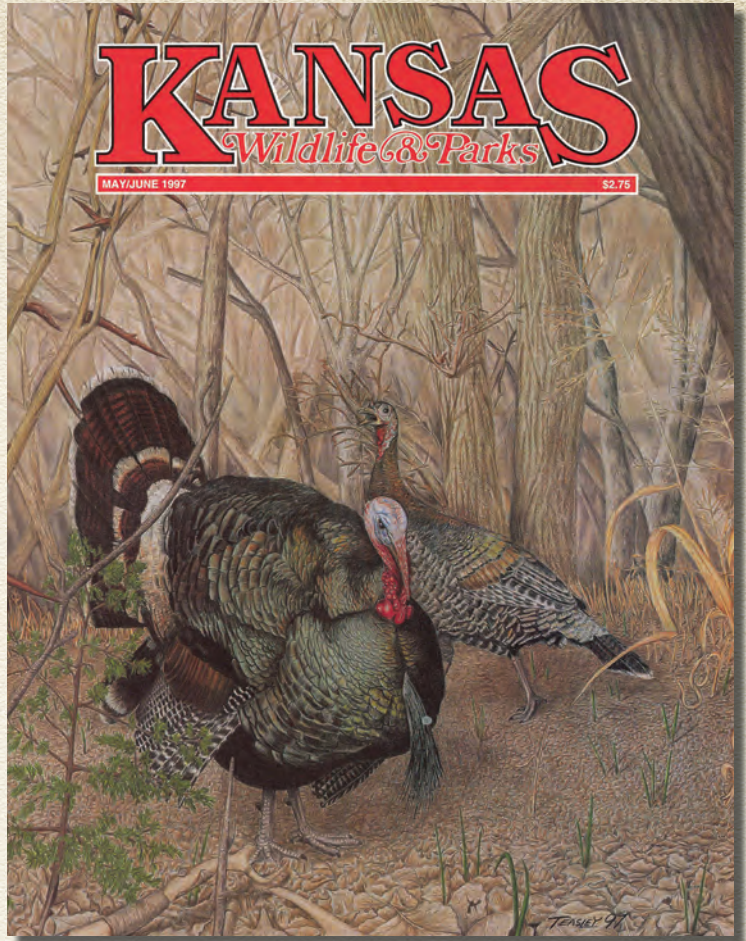
Each winter, the skies over eastern Kansas turn white, but it's not your usual frozen precipitation — it's snow geese. Common visitors to the Sunflower State, snow geese arrive in late fall and early spring during migration. Snows may congregate in huge flocks and seeing several thousand birds descend on a field can be awesome, not to mention deafening. There are two subspecies of snow geese, the lesser and the greater. The lesser exhibits two color phases: a dark phase, which is blue/gray with a white head; and the more common white version, which is all white with black wingtips. The dif-

ference is a genetic color variation, similar to the Labrador Retriever's black, chocolate or yellow color phases. Lesser snow geese generally weigh from 4-6 pounds and measure 27-29 inches from head to tail. The greater snow goose occurs only in the white plumage, weighs 6-8 pounds and is typically 29-31 inches in length. The Ross' goose, a separate species, is similar in appearance to the white phase snow goose but is much smaller, usually less than 4 pounds. Most snow geese following the airborne interstate through Kansas are lessers and comprise the Mid-Continent Population (MCP), one of

Gene Brehm photo

Wildlife & Parks

3



*In the 1990s, snow goose populations were twice what biologists felt nesting habitat could support, so liberal limits and longer seasons were implemented. Eventually, a conservation order was issued, which opens the season through the end of April and removes some equipment restrictions, as well as bag and possession limits. Dustin Teasley showed off his talents with a detailed color pencil illustration of Rio Grande turkeys on the cover on the May/June 1997 issue. The WIHA program began in 1996, leasing private land and opening it to public hunting. Today, more than 1 million acres are enrolled.*



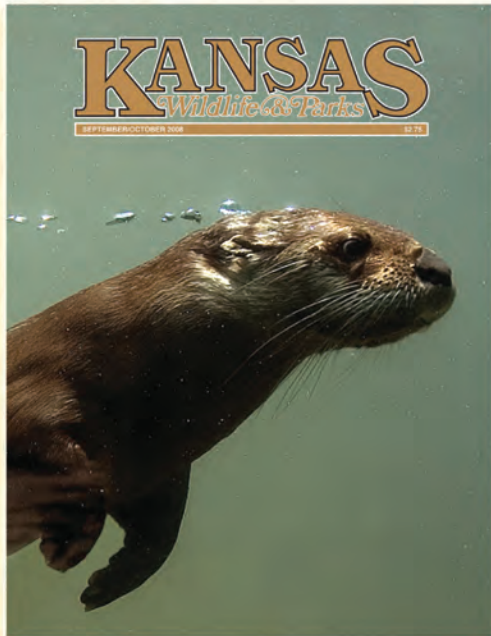
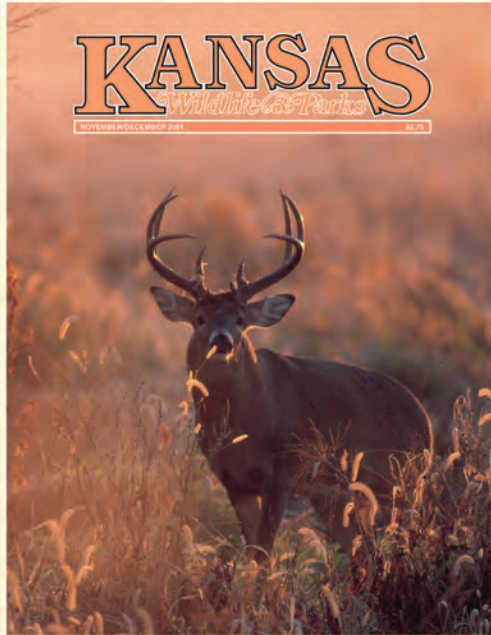
## WIHA OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT

text and photo by Marc Murrell  
public information officer, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

*Riding enormous popularity, the Walk-In Hunting Area Program includes 330,000 acres for 1997, nearly double what was enrolled in 1996.*



A Century is upon us **2000s**



**KANSAS**  
*Wildlife & Parks*





**The View From Here**  
by Steve Williams

**Youth Seasons: Mark Your Calendars**



*The top left picture shows Fisheries Division director Doug Nygren helping a youngster land his channel catfish at a kids' fishing derby in Pratt. It's a smile worth publishing again. Secretary Steve Williams' column announced youth hunting seasons, designed to provide young hunters quality hunting opportunities and combat declining hunter numbers. Today, youth deer, waterfowl, pheasant, quail and turkey seasons are popular with Kansas youngsters.*

**GRAND OPENING:  
GREAT PLAINS  
NATURE CENTER**

by Marc Murrell  
manager, Great Plains Nature Center

photos by Bob Gress  
director, Great Plains Nature Center

After years of work, planning and setbacks, this unique nature education center will finally open on September 1, 2000.



*The Great Plains Nature Center opened in 2000. The facility, located in Wichita, houses a free nature center and KDWPT regional office, and exists through a MOA between the department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Wichita and the center's friends group. The center provides nature education and outdoor experiences to thousands of youngsters each year. Another mountain lion article appeared, and this was seven years before the first lion was officially documented in the state.*

**Cougars In Kansas?**

by Kirk Johnson  
Grand Junction, Colo.

Are there cougars in Kansas? A lot of people think so, and credible sightings occur each year. However, investigations have yet to uncover hard evidence in the form of a photograph or track.



Wild  
currents

## NO LEON LION

Last winter, the department received dozens of emails from people all reporting the same story, with slight variations, about a giant mountain lion being shot near Leon, Kansas, during our 2003 firearms deer season. Unfortunately, these folks were victims of one of many email hoaxes that circulate the web.

The circulated photograph was actually featured in the fall issue of the Boone and Crockett Club's magazine, "Fair Chase." The lion had been taken earlier in the year within an hour's drive of Seattle, Washington. This email hoax first began when it was said to have been taken near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Since then, the department's website feedback email has received messages claiming it was taken in Alabama, Montana, Texas, and Wyoming, as well as the hoax claiming Leon.

Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here. Check out dubious email stories before passing them around. Two good places on the internet are truthorfiction.com and snopes.com. The following is an example of the email hoax and the lion photo it circulated. It's big, but it wasn't taken in Kansas:



"Got this from one of my friends at [name a workplace]. This mountain lion was shot near Leon, Kansas. This guy is a friend of one of the guys who works with my friend. He was going deer hunting when he heard his neighbor's cows making noise. He discovered this cat attacking some calves.

"He shot and reportedly the cat jumped 8 feet into the air, ran about 100 yards, and died. The man in the picture is over 6 feet tall and the cat weighed over 200 pounds."

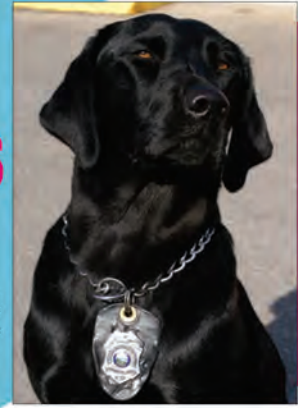
To track the validity of supposed "trophy" game animal emails, click the "Trophy Watch" link on Boone and Crockett's website, [www.booneandcrocketclub.com](http://www.booneandcrocketclub.com).

—Shoup

# K-9 Wardens

by J. Mark Shoup  
associate editor, Pratt  
photos by Mike Blair

The American Kennel Club calls the Labrador retriever the most popular dog in America. But after four new K-9 pooches begin making cases this year, Kansas poachers might disagree.



The article above, left, ran after the photo was circulated in emails claiming the cat was killed near Leon, Kan. A little investigation proved the photo was taken from Boone and Crockett's magazine Fair Chase, and the cat was legally killed by a hunter in Washington. The K-9 program began in 2003 when four game wardens went through training with their new partners. K-9s are trained to trail people, find game meat, guns and other evidence. Today, there are nine K-9 officers in the field. A prairie chicken gained fame when it challenged an oil company employee trying to service a well each morning. Marc Murrell, Bob Gress and a KSN photojournalist, Scott Dietz, received same treatment when they visited with cameras.

# Ninja Chicken

by Marc Murrell  
manager, Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita

Working for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for the past 11 years, I thought I'd heard it all. Calls to our office claim unusual and amazing things being done to, or by, wildlife of all species. Most of the calls don't pan out, but occasionally, one like this comes along.

I first heard about the "ninja chicken" from an acquaintance. He knew a guy who checked oil wells, and a greater prairie chicken was attacking his truck and him every morning.

"The guy says it has been going on for several weeks, and the chicken is there every day!" my friend related.

I figured it was just another wild goose chase, but out of curiosity, I called the gentleman who'd been battling the prairie chicken. He confirmed my friend's story, but I was still skeptical.

For the heck of it, I decided to check it out. I took wildlife photographer and Great Plains

Nature Center Director Bob Gress and KSNW photojournalist Scott Dietz along to the Cowley County pasture.

We arrived at the site shortly after sunrise, parked, and watched the scene unfold. The oil pumper pulled his truck to where he normally parks and got out. Sure enough, to our amazement, a prairie chicken emerged from the knee-high grass and started toward him. The chicken strutted and boomed, occasionally bumping the man's leg just as if defending its booming territory from other chickens.

Gress and I had to laugh at the surreal scene. Dietz, however, already had the video camera rolling. The three of us slowly approached on foot. The chicken never missed a beat. The bird challenged each of us, booming and strutting and letting us know we were in its territory. While Dietz continued the shooting video, Gress and I took still photographs.



"I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. Gress"



"The bigger they are, the harder they fall"



Both Gress photos

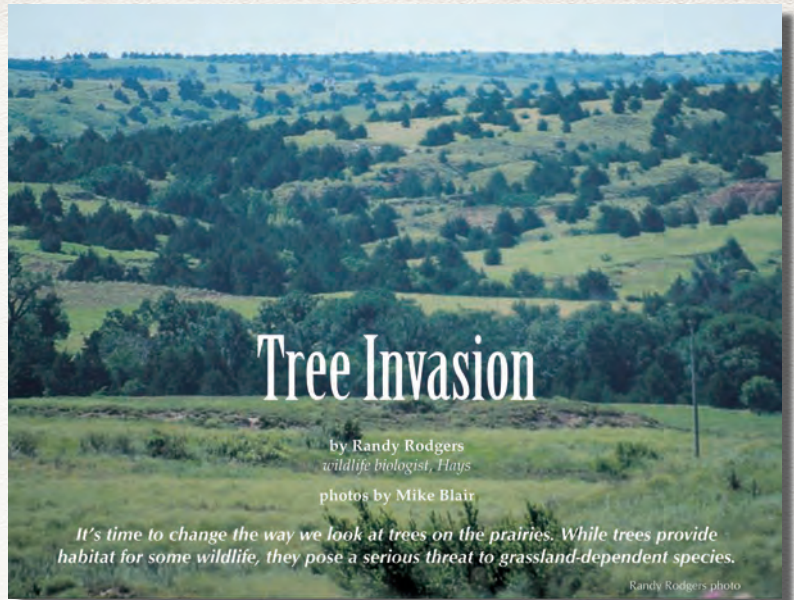
"I ain't afraid of no chicken . . ."



... yes I am, yes I am!"



Tree Invasion outlined how trees, mainly eastern red cedars, threaten our native prairie and the wildlife that thrive there. In 2004, Clinton Boldridge caught the state and world record paddlefish, weighing 144 pounds, from an Atchison City Lake.



## Tree Invasion

by Randy Rodgers  
wildlife biologist, Plains  
photos by Mike Blair

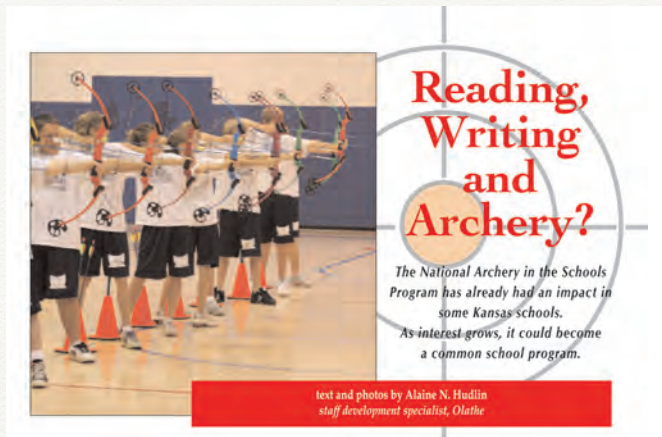
*It's time to change the way we look at trees on the prairies. While trees provide habitat for some wildlife, they pose a serious threat to grassland-dependent species.*

Randy Rodgers photo



**Riley Man Lands Potential World Record Paddlefish**


Archery in the schools began in 2007 and today more than 100 schools participate. The photos at right show a greater and a lesser prairie chicken on the same lek in northwest Kansas.




## Reading, Writing and Archery?

*The National Archery in the Schools Program has already had an impact in some Kansas schools. As interest grows, it could become a common school program.*

text and photos by Alaine N. Hudlin  
staff development specialist, Olathe



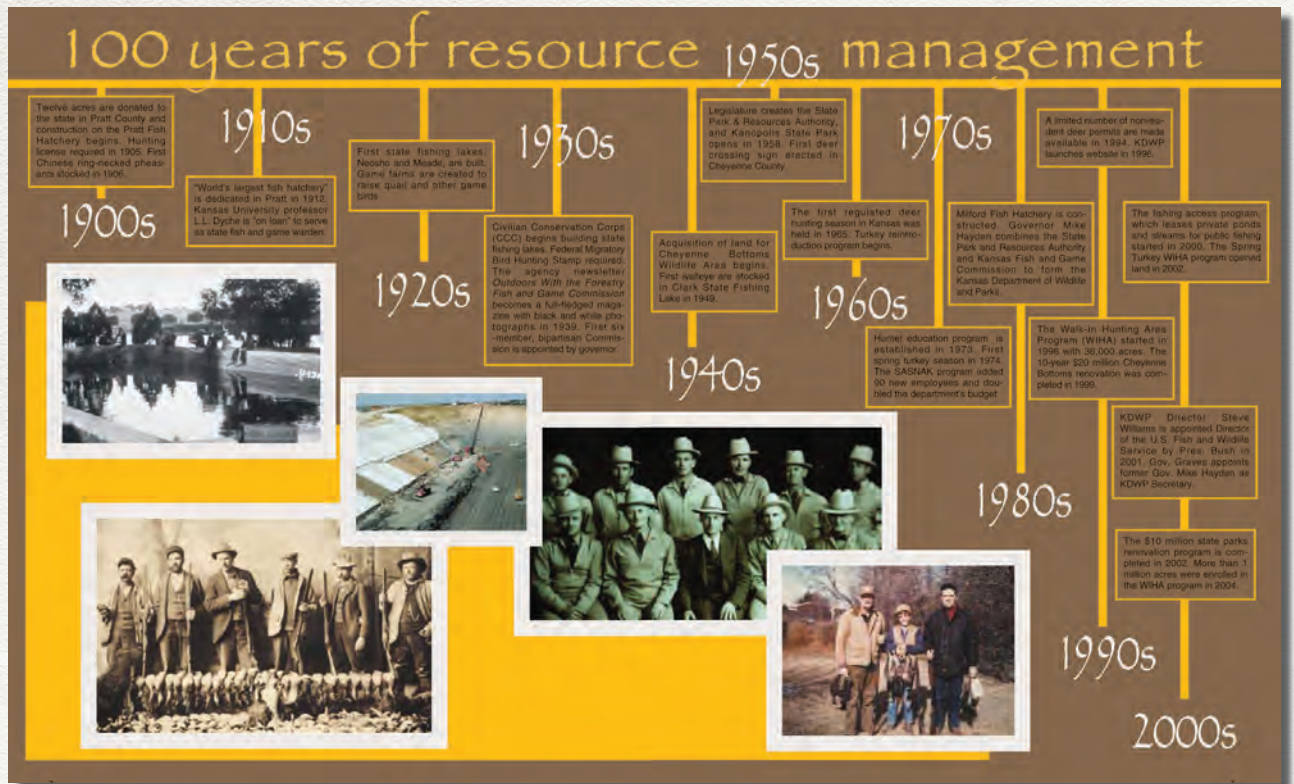
This male drops low, wings extended, while in display as a hen approaches. To select this male as a suitor, the hen will step on its back.



J. Mark Shoup photo

A sight rarely seen before – a male lesser, left, and a male greater on the right on the same lek. This photo was taken in Gove County. Both greater and lessers have taken advantage of CRP grasslands in western Kansas, and expanded their ranges.





The department celebrated 100 years in 2005 and the January/February issue of that year included this timeline. Below left shows some of the evidence found when a search warrant was served at a serial poacher's home - 60 deer heads, 114 turkey beards, one eagle talon, and waterfowl. The poacher was sentenced to thousands of dollars in fines, jail time and lost his hunting privileges for 10 years. After black-footed ferrets were discovered in Wyoming an artificial breeding program produced enough individuals to reintroduce them in states where they were native, including Kansas. The ferrets rely entirely on prairie dogs for food and shelter.



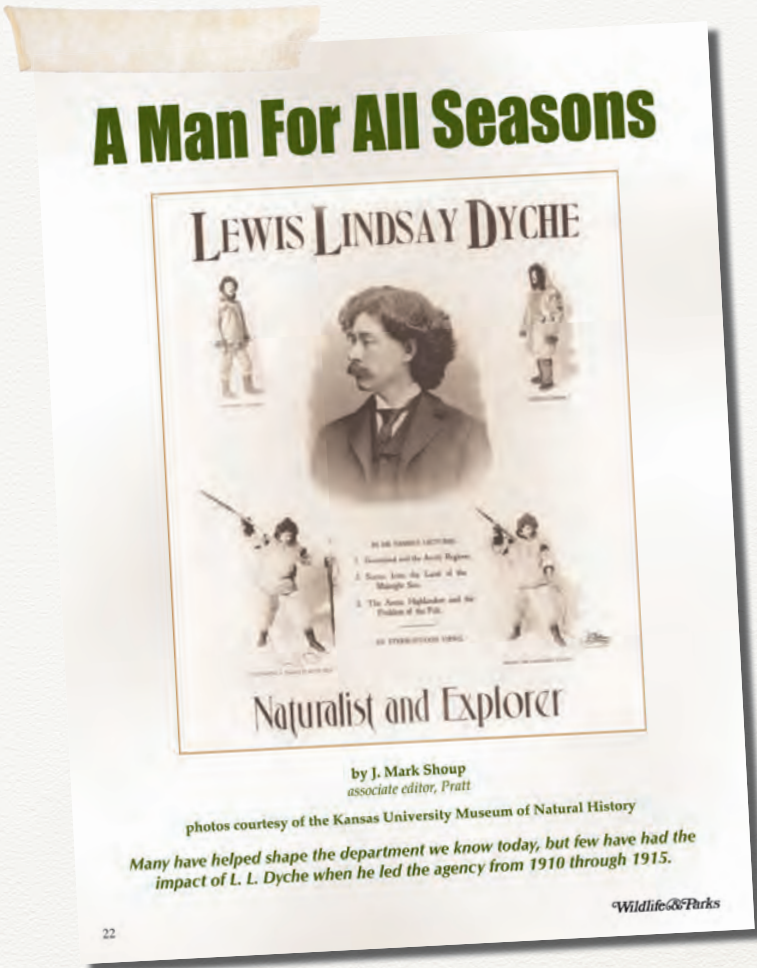
In addition to parts of more than 60 deer, officers collected 114 turkey beards when the search warrant was served on the suspect's home.







Frequent contributor, Marc Murrell, wrote often about hunting and fishing with his daughter, Ashley, and twin sons, Brandon and Cody. When Healy native Harold Ensley was inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, his story was featured. He was a pioneer in outdoor television and his weekly show, "The Sportsman's Friend," ran for 48 years.



L.L. Dyche headed this department from 1910-1915, and he was a remarkable individual who also explored the Arctic. Furbearer biologist Matt Peek, pictured above with one of his subjects, wrote about trapping swift foxes in northwest Kansas for reintroduction to the Lower Bruel Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.





In 2005, licensing went electronic and a database of all licenses sold was established. A variety of historical articles, such as one about wildlife law enforcement by Dan Heskett, were featured in 2005, the agency's centennial.

# A CENTURY OF WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

by Dan Heskett  
assistant director, Law Enforcement Division, Pratt

The history of Kansas fish and wildlife law enforcement is rich with unique and dedicated individuals who are responsible for the outstanding natural resources we enjoy today.



2005 marked the 40-year anniversary of deer hunting in Kansas. J. Mark Shoup wrote about Kansans Osa and Martin Johnson, who hunted and fished around the world. There is a museum about their exploits in Chanute.

## Forty Years of Deer

by Mike Miller  
editor, Pratt

Today it's hard to imagine not having deer and deer hunting in Kansas, but after settlement in the 1800s deer were quickly wiped out. There were still a few around in 1881, when eventual Greensburg resident Cashin "Cash" Hopkins wrote about his month-long hunting trip in southcentral Kansas and northern Oklahoma. Just 20 months later, deer would be all but extirpated from the state, and it would be more than 60 years before deer hunters would venture to the Kansas fields. Below is an excerpt from Hopkins' journal as transcribed by his granddaughter Ruth Mead.

Monday, November 22, 1881, 10 o'clock on the bank of the Arkansas showing game and birds. The river is about 600 yards wide, very shallow, full of sand bars, poor country along the river but very fine back one mile down the river. (Cash and his three partners traveled from Hutchinson to Kingman by train, then on to Harper and then to Medicine Lodge by wagon. From there they camped and hunted westward) ... killed one wild turkey and one coon - turkey for breakfast. Sunday noon - take dinner at Salt Plains. The Salt Plains on the east side of the road. The plains are about 3 miles square, where is woods. Past through cattle ranch 50 miles square - 6000 head of cattle. Sunday Dec. 3, 1881, camped for night on the bank of Indian Creek 150 miles

from Hutchinson - deer scarce here, turkey scarce also. Dec. 5, tore up camp - morning up Indian Creek. Mr. Cox killed one deer 10 o'clock a.m. Weather cloudy and warm. Deer signs plenty. Country sand ridge and brush. 4 o'clock p.m. taking dinner for the last time on Indian Creek. Saw five deer today. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1881. Took dinner on Eagle Cliff 20 miles from Indian Creek. Saw eight deer, killed none. Hunting up to mine to a ranch six miles. Thursday, Dec. 7, 1881. Camped on Eagle Cliff at the mouth. The sun bright and warm, game very scarce. Going to mine 25 miles farther. The Indians have made a raid thru this country and killed all the game. I find great piles of deer horns piled up - where they have torned their holes.

The notes from Hopkins' hunting journal clearly show that there were still some deer left in southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma in the late 1800s, but it was also evident that they were becoming less common. By 1900, deer were as good as extinct in Kansas. Along with most other game animals, unregulated hunting, market killing, and subsistence hunting and changes in the landscape from farming and grazing had wiped out white-tailed and mule deer across Kansas. It would be 65 long years before deer would again be the topic of a hunter's journal.

In the Winter 1962 issue of Kansas Fish and Game magazine, an article titled "Kansas Nears Big Game Status" highlighted a growing deer population. Even though no deer were trapped or



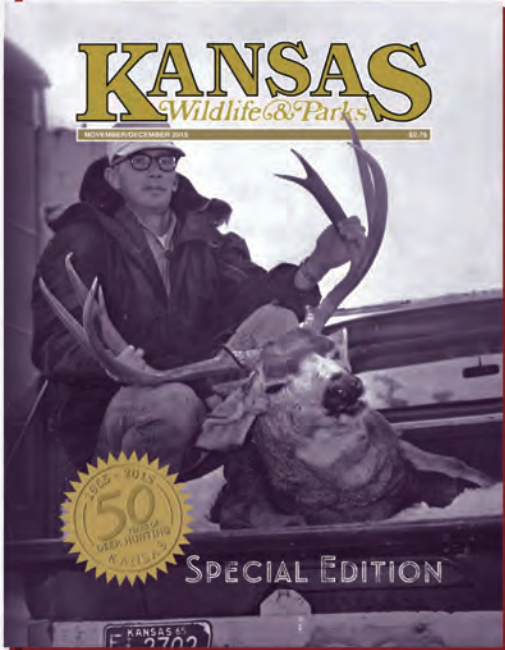
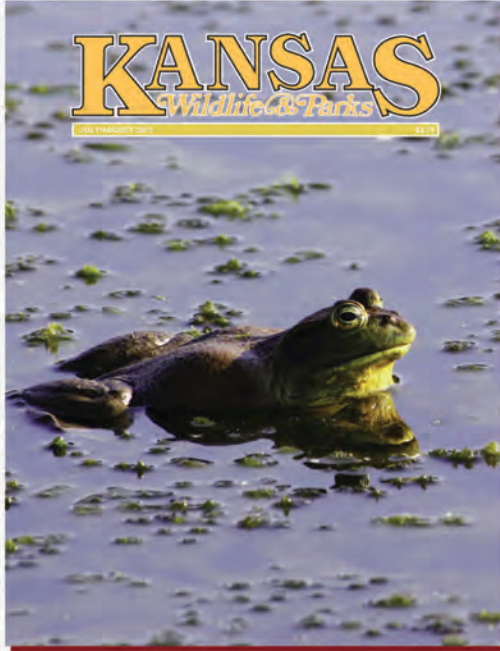
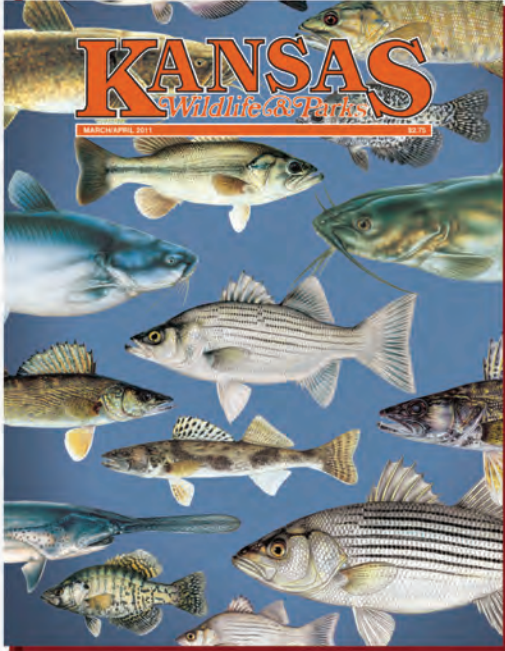
## STAR OF THE CAST

by J. Mark Shoup  
associate editor, Pratt  
photos courtesy of the Martin and Osa Safari Museum, Chanute

Osa and Martin Johnson gained enormous fame producing exciting movies of their travels in the South Pacific. And while the camera often caught Osa hunting exotic or dangerous game, fishing may have been her first outdoor passion.



NEW ERA 2010<sup>s</sup>



**KANSAS**  
*Wildlife & Parks*

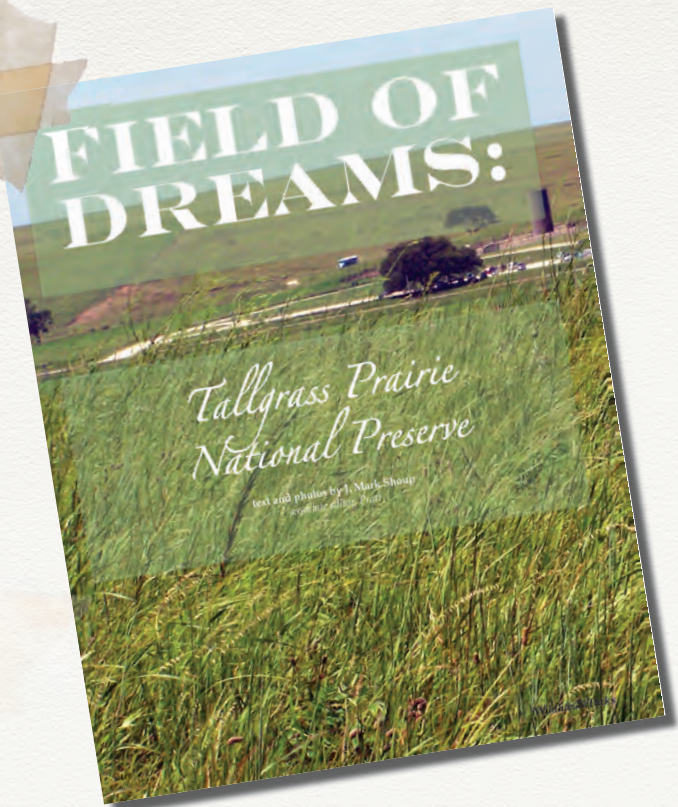




### NEW SMALLMOUTH RECORD

A new Kansas state record smallmouth bass was caught in Milford Reservoir on April 4 and has been certified by KDWP. Frank Evans Jr., of Salina, caught the 6.88-pound smallmouth on a jerk bait about 1 p.m. KDWP fisheries biologist John Reinke confirmed the species of the fish, which was 21.5 inches long and 16.5 inches in girth. Evans' catch continues a Salina-Milford connection for smallmouth bass. The previous state record of 6.68 pounds was also taken from Milford by Salina resident Jason Heis in August of 2004.

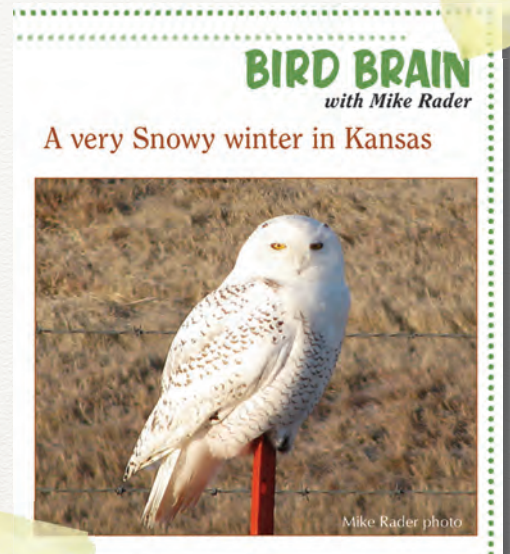
—KDWP News



*A 6.88-pound smallmouth bass made the pages in 2010 and it is still the state record. "Field of Dreams" covered the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, which represents the importance of our Flint Hills heritage. The photo below merely shows unadulterated joy a young angler felt during a Fishing Has No Boundaries event at El Dorado Reservoir. The snowy owl irruption occurred in the winter of 2011-2012 when excellent nest success in the Arctic produced more young owls than the habitat could support, and young owls dispersed. More than 100 were spotted in Kansas that winter.*



The smile on the face of the angler is all the reward volunteers need. An event of this magnitude requires months of planning, donations and hundreds of volunteers, but a picture of pure joy like that above will motivate all to make next year's event even better.





# Shots In The Night

by Mike Miller  
editor, Pratt

Kansas game wardens answer a deer poaching report from a Red Hills rancher and step into a cesspool of deer poachers with no regard for wildlife laws. A collaborative effort among state and federal agencies exposed one of the largest deer poaching cases ever prosecuted in the U.S.

## OPERATION OMBIA

The gravel road was dark that evening, especially in this part of the county where ranch house yard lights are few and far between and streetlights from the nearest town are miles away. The rancher had been traveling this road all of his life, and even in the pitch black, he knew exactly where he was. When he saw headlights bouncing in the inky distance to the west, he knew they were in his pasture and they weren't supposed to be there. He turned west toward the lights, and the vehicle, which had been moving slowly, turned and sped toward the road. The rancher accelerated and closed the gap, close enough to read part of the license tag number. But the mystery truck's driver drove at desperate speeds, and the rancher soon gave up the chase.

He had a hunch about what those in the truck were up to. It was November, and the deer rut was on. He drove back to the pasture lane where the truck had pulled out, rumbled over

the cattle guard, and shined his headlights across the prairie. As he slowly turned the truck in a circle, his eyes following the high beams' illumination, he hoped maybe he was wrong or they had missed. But then he saw it, a lifeless brown lump barely visible in the brown grasses. As the truck rolled up slowly, he could make out the body of a white-tailed buck – a truly large buck. His suspicions were confirmed. The vehicle he had chased carried deer poachers, trespassers – criminals. To prevent the poachers from returning later and stealing the buck, he hauled it home and locked it in a shed. He called Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWP) district Law Enforcement supervisor Tracy Galvin, who lived nearby in Coldwater. Galvin promised to visit the next morning. Later that night, someone attempted to break into the shed that held the dead buck. When they couldn't get in, they loaded up the rancher's ATV and took it.

*"Shots In The Night" documented the investigation of one of the worst deer poaching cases ever prosecuted in the U.S. Kansas game wardens and federal agents made cases against 30 defendants and confiscated more than 100 illegally-taken white-tailed deer. J. Mark Shoup was the associate editor for 26 years and wrote many employee profiles during his career. In the September/October 2012 issue, the profile was of him, announcing his retirement. As more eagles were observed nesting in Kansas, the magazine continued to feature their story.*

### PROFILE: with Mike Miller

#### J. Mark Shoup



Metaphorically, Mark Shoup's career path has been a long, winding journey, but he ended up not far from where he started. Literally, Shoup is the associate editor for Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine, and he also coordinates the department's weekly news release program and printed brochure production.

Shoup grew up in Larned, only 60 miles from KDWP's Pratt office where he works, and he has fond memories of a childhood in that small rural community. His early years prepared him well for his eventual career.

"I can remember when I was 12 carrying my shotgun, wearing my hunting vest, and walking down the street through town to hunt doves just outside the city limits," he recalls. "The neighbors didn't give me a second glance."

As a youngster, Shoup honed a natural wingshooting ability hunting ducks, doves and upland birds with his father. He also speaks reverently of fishing and setting hawk lines in Pawnee Creek and the Arkansas River where the streams meet on the southeast corner of Larned.

After high school, Shoup attended college for a couple years before he was drafted into the army and spent a tour in Vietnam. When he returned to the states, hunting ducks that winter with a high school buddy reminded him how much the outdoors meant in his life.

Shoup spent several years working as a carpenter before going back to college. He received a master's degree in English and a master's of fine arts degree in creative writing from Wichita State University. But he didn't find a career that put his education to work for several years. In 1982, while working as a wholesale hardware representative, a seal was placed. On a trip to Pratt to visit a customer, he dropped by what was then the Kansas Fish and Game Commission headquarters just southeast of town. He didn't receive much encouragement from the information staff when he inquired about potential opportunities, but the seed still grew.

Several years later, he contacted Paul Koenig, who was the editor of the magazine then, and Koenig gave Shoup a feature writing assignment. Shoup wrote several magazine features and discovered something that combined his love for the outdoors with his education and writing skills. He set a goal of one day working for the department. However, he learned that he would need nine more

hours of college courses to meet the minimum education requirements.

Maybe it was luck, good timing or fate, but not long after Shoup completed the coursework he needed, Koenig decided to move back to his hometown of St. Louis. I was hired as the editor, opening the associate editor's position. In 1989, I offered Shoup the job and he accepted without hesitation.

Shoup has held that position ever since, longer than any associate editor before him. Over the last 23 years, he has written and assembled more than 1,100 weekly news packages in the old days, the release package was typed, printed in-house, folded, stapled and mailed out to more than 900 media contacts. Today, the weekly package is instantly emailed out to more than 3,000 media and individual contacts. He has contributed his writing and editing skills to 135 bimonthly issues of Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine. And he's helped update, assemble, print and distribute 23 years worth of hunting and fishing regulation pamphlets, atlases and thousands of other publications and information materials.

But Shoup's contributions to magazine readers, hunters, anglers and wildlife conservation won't be measured in numbers or even longevity. His legacy will live in the words he wrote and the messages he conveyed. He was especially articulate and passionate when writing about his family, wife Rose and sons, Logan and Will. His pride in his family and the joy of raising two boys while passing on his love of the outdoors often filled his columns. He was also gifted in his ability to paint a picture with his words, describing a breathtaking view from a hiking trail high above Elk City Reservoir or the eerie feeling of walking into the bowels of the Kanopolis Reservoir Dam.

Shoup took readers with him on his travels, which resulted in feature articles on the Arkanearc Breaks on northwest Kansas ("Arkarear: Breaks Dance"), Big Basin Preserve in southeast Kansas ("A Hidden Mystery Of Big Basin"), and the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve ("Field Of Dreams"), as well as historical features on Ota Johnson ("Star Of The East"), L.L. Dyche ("A Man For All Seasons"), just to name a few.

"I think the most rewarding part of this job was working on these articles with department field staff," he said. "I was impressed to learn how dedicated they are to their jobs, and I've always appreciated what they do. And I felt that way every time I worked with them. They are remarkable people."

Shoup isn't retired yet, but he can see the light. This will be his last magazine as associate editor. I'll hold a page for him in the next issue if he chooses to write a farewell column. Metaphorically, Shoup's career may have come full circle in that he's uncertain what lies ahead. Literally, his words will live on in the archives of Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine.

*"I think the most rewarding part of this job was working on these articles with department field staff."*







# Accidental HUNTRESS

with Nadia Marji

GOODBYE FLIP-FLOPS, HELLO MUCK BOOTS!

When you're a senior in college, everyone asks you "what are you going to do after you graduate?" My answer was always the same: "I don't know, but something with the outdoors." Most of my classmates had dreams of a corporate position or moving to a big city, but I just wanted a job where wildlife and nature meant as much to my coworkers as it does to me. I also wanted to follow my mom's advice, who said that if you have to go to work everyday, you might as well do something you love. I love wildlife, so when I was offered a position with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, it was a no-brainer. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let me take you to the beginning.

Growing up in California, I could always be seen in a tanktop and a pair of flip-flops. The daily weather forecast was always the same - sunny - and I liked it that way. After all, rain wasn't conducive to cute hair-dos, and snow meant having to cover up my hand-carved tan.

When I was younger, my grandpa would take my brother and me fishing at Big Bear Lake in the mountains west of Los Angeles. The two-hour drive up the mountain gave me plenty of time to work in a map and feed up on a box of Pringle Ribbles. Upon arrival, we would unload our poles and get to work. Rainbow trout was our favorite catch, although it was usually grandpa doing the catching. I vividly remember the first time I saw him descale a trout with an old Swiss army knife he always carried. What a sight! I remember how much it grossed me out as a little girl, but these days I cherish that memory.

When my grandpa died, so did my passion for the outdoors, or so I thought. It just wasn't the same without him. As I entered my teenage years, those memories were filed away, left to collect dust and make room for newer and "cooler" memories.

When I reached 14, my life flipped upside down. My mom remarried to a man from Kansas, and it was just a matter of time before she visited his home state. I thought nothing of it at the time, but that trip was a turning point in our lives. When she came back to California, there was no changing her mind - we were moving to Kansas. I was devastated. Beaches or fields, beaches or fields - in my mind, there was no contest. How could anyone want to trade sand and surf for cows and hay? Unable to change my mom's mind, I unwillingly packed my belongings and said my goodbyes. At 14 you don't have much say in these matters, but looking back, perhaps that's a good thing.

Two years went by in my new home state and before I knew it, I was a sophomore in high school. The transition was still rough, but I eventually made new friends and became more involved with school. The following year, I had my first boyfriend. I remember the first time he took me fishing on his family pond. It wasn't a walk on

the beach at sunset, but I decided to give it a whirl. It took me a while to tie on that first hook, but a few casts later, the skills that Grandpa taught me came back. I finally found something that made Kansas feel like home. It took 12 years and 1,500 miles, but my childhood memories of fishing with Grandpa became timeless, and nothing would ever replace them again.

In time, that relationship ended, but my love for the outdoors continued to grow. At 18, I moved again, but this time by choice. It was my freshman year of college and Pittsburg State University was at the top of my list. On the weekends, my new-found friends and I would grab our fishing poles and drive to Botee Creek Lake. I loved fishing, but I wanted a new type of adventure. It wasn't until my current boyfriend took me to the Neosho Wildlife Area that the hunting bug got the best of me. From mysterious tracks on the ground to rabbits hastily jumping through bushes, I couldn't think of a more exciting place to be.

From that point on, I tagged along on any hunting trip I could. Deer, duck, turkey - it didn't matter, I enjoyed it all. Before I knew it, it was out with flip-flops and in with Muck boots, and these days I like it that way.

When I lived in California, I thought there was no better place to live, but now that I'm in Kansas, I can't imagine ever leaving. Whether I'm climbing into an ice-covered tree stand at 5 a.m., or admiring the stealthy movements of a coyote as it searches for food, I feel more at home in Kansas than I ever have before. It's funny how things work out sometimes. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy my tank-tops, and I refuse to refer to soda as "pop," but a lot of things have changed, mostly for the better. Staying true to my city-girl roots though, I prefer hunting and fishing equipment that has the other pink on it somewhere (preferably in a prominent location).

Looking back, I realize that the days of fishing with grandpa were just the beginning of my outdoor adventures, most of which I'm glad to say are ahead of me. Although somewhat inexperienced, I'm not a stranger to the outdoors. I've had some great first hunts for doves, turkey, deer, pheasants and ducks, and I've caught some nice catfish and bass, too. In fact, I even snagged my first spoonbill last year! Regardless, there are still so many experiences that I've yet to enjoy. That's why I'm making it my mission to explore all the wildlife and outdoor fun that Kansas has to offer, and I want to take readers on that journey with me.

This column is about learning to embrace the outdoors, whatever your zip code might be. It's about poking fun at the silly things we do as beginner hunters, but most importantly, this column is about getting more women and girls to believe that they can turn "I wish I could" into "I just did." I may not have been raised a hunter, but don't underestimate an accidental huntress.

# Q&A **CAVIO** WITH A QUEEN

by Nadia Marji (Theresa Vail, Miss)

An expert marksman in the United States Army, a double-major in Chemistry and Chinese at Kansas State University, and an avid bowhunter, Theresa Vail, Miss Kansas 2013, has never been one to back down from a challenge. The perfect mix of tough and tender, Vail is the quintessential "girl next door" meets The Hunger Games' fearless, arrow-slinging heroine "Katniss Everdeen."

Being an outdoorswoman, Vail's newest endeavor has been serving as spokeswoman for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Whether she is making guest appearances, mentoring youth on archery, or simply blogging about her passion for the outdoors, Vail's all-but-cookie-cutter lifestyle has been a welcomed addition to the agency.

I sat down for an exclusive interview with Vail in August. Here's an excerpt from our conversation.

**What is it about hunting that appeals to you?**

Hunting was always a family experience for me. My dad and I started doing it when I was 7, and it was my bonding time with my dad. Being with him was what interested me then, but now I just enjoy being outdoors. It doesn't matter if I see anything or not, I just like sitting out there.

**What is your favorite hunting season?**

Uh, the rut.

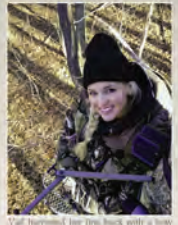
**If you could hunt any animal, what would it be?**

A moose. They are just so huge!

**How do you think female hunters differ from male hunters?**

I think we as female hunters don't go "oh I want that monster buck, or I want that big buck." We enjoy hunting for the environment. We

don't care about what we shoot like men do. They have that big ego they have to fill.



Theresa Vail hunting for the buck with a bow last year during an evening hunt. The buck was a 20-point.

**Why do you think more men hunt than women?**

Our culture. Society says "women have to do this, and men have to do that," and unless a girl was raised around it, she probably isn't going to hunt on her own.

**Where does your drive to overcome challenges come from?**

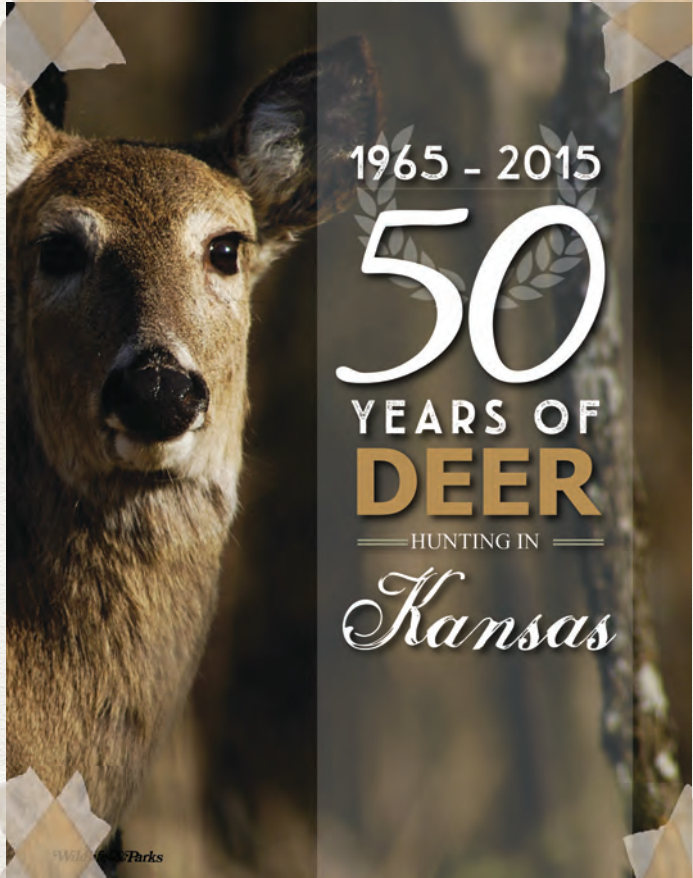
From children and everyone saying "I can't." I grew up with almost a complex, like "okay, you say I can't? Then I definitely have to!" It was like "if you say I can't, then I make it a point to do it."

**How has life changed for you since being crowned Miss Kansas?**

I always have to be put together. I don't get my down time. My life is no longer my own, and I can't even think about hunting because I just don't have the time. It's sad. Although, I will say since I'm in the spotlight, a lot of hunters with a lot of land are wanting me to come hunt with them and do celebrity hunts with them, so that's a plus. If that's the sacrifice I have to make, then okay.



Miss Vail poses in a signature gown during the evening. What tradition the Miss America contestants.



1965 - 2015  
**50**  
YEARS OF  
**DEER**  
HUNTING IN  
*Kansas*

Nadia (Marji) Reimer came on as associate editor in 2013, and her column, "Accidental Huntress" first appeared in the March/April issue. Since then, she changed her last name (she got married), the name of the column - "Life Unpaved," and assumed the role of managing editor. Theresa Vail, Miss Kansas 2013, broke the mold of pageant title holders: she was an avid bowhunter and in the military. Below left, the November/December 2015 issue was entirely devoted to 50 years of deer hunting in Kansas. It was one of our more popular issues.





*Department staff conduct and participate in numerous youth outdoor skill events around the state, passing on their love of the outdoors. In the photo above, you can see former Public Lands chief, Brad Simpson, almost willing the young archer to hit the target.*

## - Joseph R. Tomelleri - NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE

by Mike Miller, executive editor, *Prairie*  
photos by Marc Murrell  
fish illustrations by Joseph R. Tomelleri

Have you ever wondered how to tell the difference between a sand shiner and a big-mouth shiner? (Maybe you haven't, but humor me.)

The differences are not obvious, but if you really had to know, Joe Tomelleri can help. Tomelleri, born and raised in Kansas City and now living in Leawood, is perhaps the premier scientific fish illustrator of our generation. He has made a career of teaching people what fish species look like, exactly what they look like.

For more than 30 years, Tomelleri has been creating precise color illustrations of fish, which have graced the pages of more than 30 books, dozens of magazines, regulation pamphlets, advertisements, greeting cards, posters, identification guides, t-shirts, and even beer cans. When asked how many species he has illustrated, Tomelleri pauses to think.

"Oh, I haven't counted recently, but I know it's somewhere between eleven and twelve-hundred," he says with a dry chuckle.

Many of his illustrations were produced on contract with state agencies or universities to document species native to a drainage, state or region. For example, he recently completed more than 90 illustrations for a book on the fish species found in Puget Sound. Although logistics didn't allow Tomelleri to spend much time on Puget Sound, he is usually very involved in the collection effort for a project, working with biologists and scientists to capture spec-

Wildlife & Parks

## Women Conservation

by Nadia Marji, Associate Editor

They're helping you enroll your land in the Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA) program; educating your children on the importance of leaving young wildlife alone; stocking your local public waters with sizeable catches; compiling surveys to figure out your hunting and fishing desires; assisting you with prescribed burns; making sure you have a quality camping experience; they're the women of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) — they're women in conservation.

Here are seven unique women who hold positions at KDWP that you may not have been aware of; and although their daily duties vary greatly, they each share the same goal of making your hunting, angling, and outdoor recreation experiences the best they can be.

### Pat Silovsky- nature center director

"I was only going to spend five years at this job, but I'm still here after 28. I always thought I would leave when I ran out of ways to make it better, but that has never happened, and I still have more ideas."



If you've ever taken a trip to the Milford Nature Center in Junction City, chances are you've seen the handiwork of Pat Silovsky. Serving as director of the center, Silovsky devotes her days to providing public

things are connected, and how we are a part of this connection and not separate from it."

For someone who has spent 26 years in the field, most onlookers would assume it's been a lifelong plan of Silovsky's, but the truth is, the veteran nature center director had other plans for her life.

"I wanted to be a mission specialist on the space shuttle," said Silovsky. "I didn't even know interpretation was a field of study."

Silovsky said that all changed when she became a herpetology lab assistant at Pittsburg State University (PSU) while pursuing her Master of Science in biology. Silovsky and a fellow grad student would routinely collect salamanders, frogs, turtles, and snakes, all of which eventually found a home in the PSU Biology Department. A pet boa constrictor was even donated to the department, providing Silovsky the perfect show-and-tell item for other classes. Their love of collecting animals and sharing their finds with others eventually led to the creation of the biology department's Nature Reach program, which is still in existence today. Looking back, it's no surprise that Silovsky ended up in the career path that she did.

Her advice to future directors?  
"You need to know a little about everything. You need to be able to fix a toilet, know how to feed a baby bat, change the oil, or write a brochure, as well as be able to identify anything people bring you. Be a jack of all trades," Silovsky said. "You also need to understand that wildlife biology isn't about managing the animals, it is about managing the people. The animals will do just fine without [them]. Make sure you like dealing with people if you get into this field."

### Jessica Mounts- district fisheries biologist

"When I'm talking to young children about my career, I tell them 'I make sure that there are places for people to go fishing and fish for people to catch.' People commonly tell me 'You have the coolest job!' and most days, I have to agree."

You can often find Jessica Mounts sporting a wide-

*Kansas Joe Tomelleri, fish artist extraordinaire, was featured in the November/December 2016 issue. His illustrations have appeared numerous times in this magazine, as well as the annual fishing regulations summary. While numerous articles about women enjoying outdoor recreation have appeared in the magazine, this article about women in conservation was a first. It featured the women who work for the department in varied roles, from fisheries biologists to nature center directors to public land managers.*



# KANSAS

## Wildlife & Parks Magazine

FOR HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS | \$2.75 | JULY-AUGUST 2017



SPECIAL  
Camping Issue

**CAMPFIRE FUNNIES**

"I was patrolling the park one summer afternoon and saw a group of guys at the fish cleaning station. I pulled in to check their catch and licenses. The gentlemen had already cleaned their fish and were sitting on the tailgate enjoying adult beverages when I pulled up. I checked their licenses and asked what they had caught for the day. We continued to visit about where on the reservoir they had been fishing and what lures they used when another truck pulled into the parking lot. The individual got out, reached in the back of his truck and pulled out a nice stringer of crappie. I watched as the individual walked over to the disposal, laid his fish on the table and began to take them off a stringer. He then turned on the water and grinder and pushed all of his crappie down the disposal. He began to pace, head down, looking underneath the station. I asked him if he had lost something, to which he responded 'No, I'm just trying to find where the fillets come out.' Incredulous, I asked him if he just did what I thought he did - put his uncleaned fish straight into the grinder. He said, 'Yes, isn't this an automated fish cleaning station?' I explained it was designed for anglers to clean their fish and then throw the carcasses down the grinder. He looked at me, shook his head in disbelief, and said he bet it happened all the time! I checked his licenses and went on my way. I didn't have the heart to tell him that was the first and only time I'd ever seen that happen."

"I had to make an arrest one time on our wildlife area early one Saturday morning. It was a camping disturbance where one camper thought it would be a good idea to turn off another camper's generator who left it running during quiet hours. The problem was, he turned it off with a 9mm handgun."

The July/August issue was another issue totally devoted to a single topic: camping. Backlash in the 2017 January/February issue paid tribute to recently retired wildlife biologist Lloyd Fox, who left after more than 37 years. In the November/December 2017 issue, a feature described how Kansan Joe Bucher carves and paints tremendously detailed and beautiful commemorative duck calls.

## AN Artist's Call



Text and photos by Marc Murrell, manager Great Plains Nature Center

Waterfowl hunting and fine art have a long history. The Federal Duck Stamp contest, which started in 1949, attracts some of the best wildlife artists in the

world, who compete to have their artwork appear on the annual duck stamp. Duck and goose hunters must purchase the stamps, and millions of dollars in revenue protect, conserve and enhance critical waterfowl habitat. And there is the history of hand-made duck and goose

decoys, which were built out of necessity 150 years ago. Today, original hand-made decoys are collectors' items, and the art of carving and painting decoys has evolved to create wooden ducks that are difficult to discern from the real thing. But there is a lesser-known art and medium

20 | Wildlife & Parks



## Backlash

with Mike Miller

### Farewell To Dr. Fox

On Dec. 16, 2016, Lloyd Fox retired from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism after a 37-year wildlife biology career. If you have any interest in Kansas deer, you've probably heard of Fox. You might have read his quotes in newspaper articles, listened to him make deer regulation recommendations to the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission, or maybe you corresponded with him through mail, email or telephone.

Fox has been in charge of our deer management program for nearly half of his wildlife career and if you hunt deer, you know the Kansas herd is the envy of the Midwest. Under his watch, deer hunting in Kansas evolved from good to great, providing ever-increasing opportunities while the population remained healthy and robust.

Fox will be first to tell you about the vision of our first deer biologists, Bill Peabody and Lee Queal, when they developed the management program and hunting regulations for our first modern deer season in 1965. He credits one-time deer biologist Keith Sexson, now Assistant Secretary of Operations, with carrying on that vision and building a healthy deer herd and hunting tradition that emphasized doe harvest for management and allowed bucks to grow old enough to sport trophy-class antlers.

You might say Fox's tenure covered the glory days of hunting opportunities expanded during the 2000s. The Kansas landscape's mix of agriculture, native prairie, scattered timber and Conservation Reserve Program grasslands turned out to be near perfect white-tailed deer habitat. However, as the deer population grew, conflicts arose. Fox dealt with growing crop damage issues and when speed limits increased and the number of annual deer/vehicle accidents hit 10,000, Kansas drivers reached their limit.

In just a few short years, deer management went from a page-two story to a front-page, contentious and polarizing issue. The debate was no longer about how we could increase our deer population, but rather how we could reduce it. Discussion about deer and deer management evoked emotion. Hunters were passionate about deer hunting, some landowners resented deer because of the damage they caused, nonhunters loved seeing deer - until they hit one with their car. Fox weathered the storm, maintaining a professional, scientific presence, while amassing information about deer, deer hunting and deer hunters in Kansas. He became adept at dealing with an aud-



ience that was divided and sometimes confrontational.

In my more than 30 years in this business, the time I spent working with Fox and attending public deer meetings with him taught me more about being a wildlife professional than all my other experiences combined. No matter how he was challenged, Fox remained calm and amiable. He presented facts and he never took exchanges personally. I never saw him allow his own biases cloud his decision-making. He continually surveyed stakeholders, and he sought and considered input from everyone.

In my experience with him, Fox was a true professional scientist, but he always had compassion for wildlife and the people who value it. No one has been more dedicated to the resource and stakeholders or worked harder in this field - no one. A prominent trademark of Fox's tenure can be described with one word: opportunity. Under his watch, deer hunting opportunities in Kansas reached a level we never imagined 50, or even just 20 years ago. Kansas has evolved into one of the top white-tail hunting destination states in the nation.

Pretty amazing for a transplanted New Yorker. Yep, Fox grew up in New York. After listening to him recite statistics and survey numbers from memory or describe wildlife management philosophies, you might assume Fox was a brainy city boy from back east. You would be mostly wrong. Although he is brainy and was born in New York, he's never been to New York City. He grew up a country boy, hunting, fishing and trapping in New York's Finger Lakes Region, where he walked out his back door with a blue-tick Beagle or Fodson in tow to hunt rabbits, pheasants and grouse. Fox still loves to hunt and fish and looks forward to doing more of both while training his new yellow Lab puppy, Yuko, this season.

Fox's absence will leave a massive void in this department and in the field of wildlife management. On that December Friday, Lloyd Fox walked out of the Emporia Research and Survey Office, taking with him a body of scientific and institutional knowledge that won't easily be replaced. I've joked that we need to install a USB port to his brain so we can download the data he doesn't have on his computer's hard drive, but that might be where he ceases to be amiable.

So long my friend. Your colleagues, Kansas wildlife and everyone who appreciates our wild resources are going to miss you.





# Backlash

with Mike Miller

## The Editors

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This magazine may be just a collection of words and pictures on pages. But to the people who created it over the past 75 years, it's much more than that. Produced in-house by small staffs, it has survived as a labor of love and each person who contributed left their mark.

In 1938, K. C. Beck is listed as the editor. It was called a bulletin then, made up of mimeographed, typed pages and line art covers. From 1939 to 1944, Helen DeVault is listed next to the title "Publicity" on the masthead, and I assume she was instrumental in producing the magazine. The publication evolved in this era, moving to slick, offset paper, typeset copy and black and white photos.

When the magazine reappeared in 1949 after a brief hiatus, Harry Lutz, a newspaper publisher from Sharon Springs, was hired as publicity director and editor. Lutz was listed as the editor through 1955, and during that time period, George Valyer's name appears on the masthead under Publicity. Issues were filled with relevant hunting and fishing information, as well as photos of happy Kansans with fish and game they had taken.

In 1961 Bob Todd's name was listed on the masthead along with Valyer's. That same year, Todd was listed as editor and he kept that title through 1963. From 1963 through 1966, the magazine was "edited by the Information-Education Division." Valyer's byline still appeared, but most articles were written by staff in other divisions.

Thayne Smith came on as Information-Education Division chief and magazine editor in 1966, and he held that post until 1970. Under Smith, pages were dominated with stories and pictures about hunting and fishing and what the agency was doing to enhance those opportunities. Smith is a founding member of the Outdoor Writers of Kansas.

In 1970, Leroy Lyon, who was assistant editor under Smith, was listed as the I&E chief and editor. Vic McLeran's name appears on the masthead, first as a staff writer, then as managing editor. In 1972, McLeran became editor.

McLeran manned the helm through 1977. Under his guidance, most issues were filled with short hunting and fishing features, but wildlife natural history pieces became more common. A photographer was added to staff, and color photos were included. The magazine converted to paid subscription distribution.

Chris Madson was hired as a staff writer in 1977, and he took over as editor when McLeran left. Madson, whose father, John Madson, was a renowned conservation writer, carries on that family tradition, and the magazine evolved to include more in-depth, sometimes issue-oriented features. With the January/February 1981 issue, the title of the magazine was changed to *Kansas Wildlife*.


When Madson left in 1983, Wayne van Zwoll took over. van Zwoll was a meticulous writer and editor who focused on increasing the magazine's circulation during his two years.

Paul Koenig was hired as editor with the March/April 1986 issue. Koenig was an enthusiastic editor and his writing was personal and efficient. I moved into the associate editor's position just after Koenig became editor and he was a great boss and mentor. The magazine's name was changed to *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* in 1987, reflecting the merger of the Kansas Fish and Game Commission and the Kansas Parks and Resources Authority.

I started with the magazine in 1983 as illustrator, just a year out of college and feeling like I had won the lottery with that job. After serving as associate editor for three years, I won again and assumed my dream job when Koenig left in 1989. You're probably wondering why I remained editor for 29 years when most of my predecessors moved on after only a couple. I stayed because of the people. The work has been rewarding, but I love the people I have had the good fortune to work with. And, the truth is, my job has evolved to include much more than editing the magazine.

My current title is Information Production Section chief, and I oversee production of many department publications, as well as website information and social media. My masthead title of executive editor reflects a shift of magazine responsibilities to managing editor, Nadia Reimer. Starting in 2013 after Mark Shoup retired, she quickly demonstrated a talent for writing, editing and design. Today, Reimer, Dustin Teasley and I publish this magazine and it's just a small part of our jobs. Teasley has been the graphic designer since 1994 and his graphic, computer and organization skills allow us to produce a top-notch publication with a small staff. Annie Fischer assists with circulation and fulfillment.

Many others deserve more than just a mention, but I simply don't have room. Circulation: Bev Aldrich, Kathy Gosser, Barb Theurer, Teri Simpson. Photographers: Ken Stiebben, Bruce Kintner, Ron Spomer, Gene Brehm, Mike Blair. Associate editors: Bob Mathews, Rob Manes, J. Mark Shoup. Regular contributors: Randy Rodgers, Tommie Berger, Dave Case, Joyce Harmon Depenbusch, Mary Kay Spanbauer, Ken Brunson, Lloyd Fox, Mike Ehlebracht, and Marc Murrell.

We tend to think about government agencies as bureaucracies or institutions, but they're really made up of people. I have been a part of creating nearly half of the 458 issues of this magazine, and I would do it all over again, if only to work with the amazing editors, photographers, designers, biologists, and writers I've known. And the readers; I can't forget the readers who have supported us. We do it all for you. 





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