

WILDTRUST

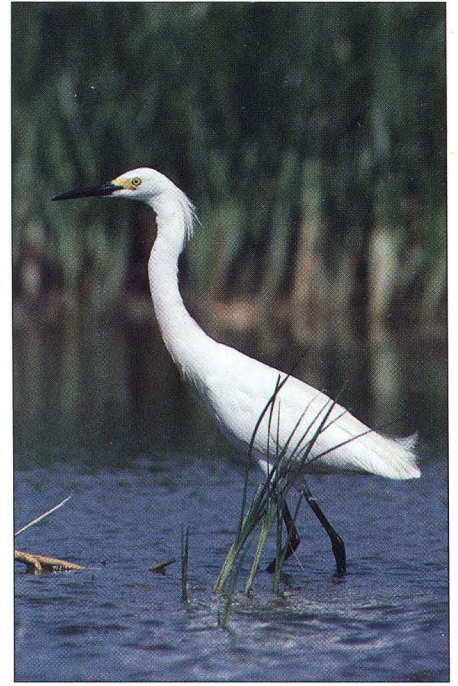
The Future Of Kansas

by **Bill Hanzlick**
WILDTRUST Coordinator
Topeka

WILDTRUST, a donation program of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, solicits and coordinates contributions of land, personal property, services and funds to the Department for the state of Kansas. Donors range from schoolchildren giving a dollar to Gulf Oil Corporation, which has donated more than 8,000 acres of mined lands in southeast Kansas. The WILDTRUST donation program allows you several ways to save our natural heritage — the great Kansas outdoors. WILDTRUST donations fall into five categories:



Buffalo roam on the Maxwell Game Refuge (on preceding page) thanks to a Kansan who donated property to preserve the native wildlife and prairie grass that covers the area. Other WILDTRUST donations have funded conservation education programs (left) and wetland habitat projects that benefit shorebirds (right).



LAND

Land donations have been for river access, outdoor education, public hunting and fishing, a big-game refuge, a fish hatchery and a state fishing lake, to name a few. A 100-acre land donation in Cowley County is pending, and numerous wills and estates list the Department as the recipient of the land when the owner dies. Land may be given outright or donated in increments over several years.

Land donors can reserve a life estate wherein they pass title to the state but occupy the property until death. Landowners may even grant the state a Conservation Easement that preserves the natural or undeveloped character of the land while retaining private ownership. Land donations take many forms and can provide big tax savings to the donor.

Private land donations are a vital element in preserving our natural resources, which are important for recreational and aesthetic purposes.

PROPERTY

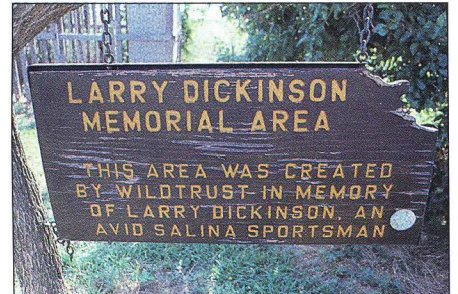
Donations of equipment, tools or materials for use in specific projects

are needed. Some examples include work boats for fisheries, plows, wildlife films for conservation education, a grass drill, rods and reels for youth fishing clinics, two-way radios, corn for captive goose flocks and fence materials, to name just a few gifts that have been donated.

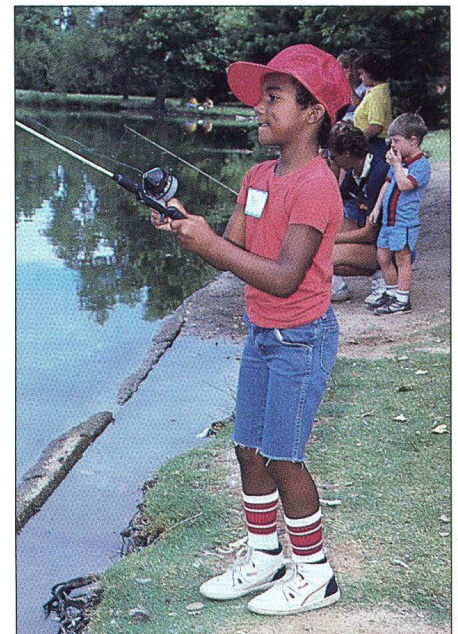
Many property donations result from contact between the donor and a field employee. A personal property form is needed for inventory and tax purposes (to record such donations). Donors include bass clubs, banks, oil companies, trucking firms, county commissions, tackle manufacturers, sportsman groups and concerned individuals.

SERVICES

Donations of such services as storage facilities for trees and shrubs, office rent, harvest of forb seed, slip rent for patrol boats and hauling gravel and pipe are only a few examples of services provided. Many of these services were donated because a Wildlife and Parks employee had a need and took the initiative to fill it.



Some property donations have been honored with a permanent sign (above). Cash donations have made fishing accessible to Kansas youths (below).



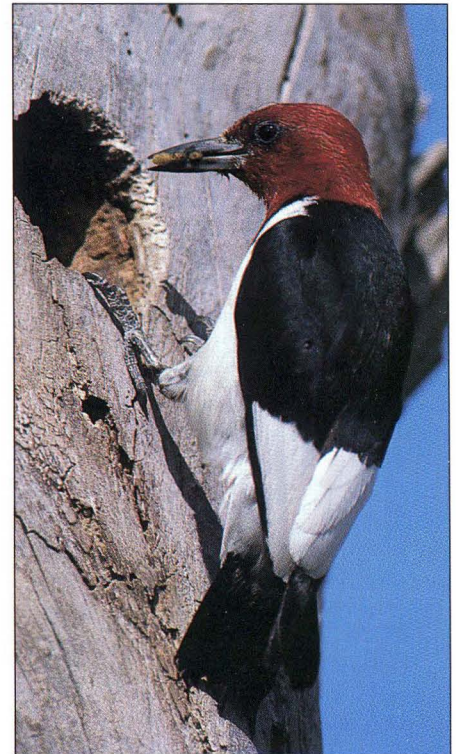
Mike Blair photos



Your WILDTRUST donation of money can be applied to the state's ongoing bluebird restoration project . . .

MEMORIALS

Memorials are established when family and friends donate money to commemorate a sportsman. The donor designates how he or she wants the money used. A few such examples include establishing a natural trail on a fishing lake, wild turkey and giant Canada goose restoration projects, hunter-safety programs, commissioning of a wildlife painting, establishing a walnut grove on public land, to name a few projects. Memorials are responsible for creating and subsidizing the present WILDTRUST donor recognition program.



. . . or toward maintaining and preserving critical woody habitat that redheaded woodpeckers need to survive.

FUNDS

Gifts of money are as varied as the

How WILDTRUST Can Benefit You Now

Tax laws have been undergoing changes in recent years, and several deductions have been eliminated. Changes in tax structure and their effect upon contributors will continue, so you may want to contact an attorney or accountant. The possibility of having insufficient deductions to itemize may exist, but a donor can change this situation by making a larger-than-usual gift in one year. This enables the donor to itemize not only charitable gifts but other expenses as well.

CASH

Gifts of cash and certain property are deductible (up to 50 percent of one's adjusted gross income in any one year) and any additional donations may be deducted over a five-year period.

REAL ESTATE

Real estate donations (if the prop-

erty has risen in value and has been owned for a year) may allow a federal tax deduction for its full value, thus avoiding the capital gains tax. Donors of property that has decreased in value are often encouraged to sell, take a capital loss and give the proceeds of the sale. Gifts of real estate and securities have similar tax benefits.

LIFE INSURANCE

Donors can name WILDTRUST as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, assign irrevocable incidents of ownership and assure themselves of a substantial gift at a small annual cost. Additionally, premiums are deductible items (on federal income tax returns) as charitable gifts.

LIFE ESTATES

Life estates are encouraged for donors planning to give property but wishing to live there until passing. This is proving particularly helpful

for the retired property donor that has ceased (or wishes to cease) land management responsibilities but wants to stay on the "home place." The Department of Wildlife and Parks has personnel experienced in both farm and ranch management. Life estates can provide the donor a chance to see how the property is developed and managed for public use.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal property donations are accomplished by contacting an agency employee and explaining the intent or desire to donate the items. Wildlife and Parks personnel will make the necessary arrangements and provide the donor with a personal property receipt that can be used for tax purposes.

Remember, donated personal property valued at \$100 or more qualifies the donor for one of the special-edition art prints.

projects the donors specify. Virtually all funds are placed in a specific account and spent on the project the donor requests. WILDTRUST accounts are not subject to normal budgeting procedures and can be spent at any time, but formal expenditure guidelines must be followed.

Once a WILDTRUST account is created (the wild turkey restoration account, for example) Department personnel responsible for the project assume responsibility for timely expenditure of funds. Following is only a partial listing of current WILDTRUST accounts: Hunter Safety, Hatchery Improvement, Youth Fishing Program, Nongame, Goose Restoration, Wild Turkey Restoration, Otter Restoration, Clark Nature Trail, Cheyenne Bottoms Restoration, Habitat Development and Operation Game Thief.

WILDTRUST donors are recognized for their generosity in several ways.

Each year 500 limited-edition prints are produced from a wildlife painting, commissioned through the Department's WILDTRUST program. The original paintings are on display in Pratt, and the prints (there are now six prints: Canada geese, quail covey, wild turkey flocks, rooster pheasant, booming prairie chickens and mallards) are presented to WILDTRUST donors meeting certain requirements. The wildlife prints are given as a token of appreciation for donations to preserve and improve Kansas' natural resources.

Donors of property, services or funds totaling between \$100 and \$500 receive one WILDTRUST art print in addition to a brass plate (bearing the donor's name) affixed to the WILDTRUST donation exhibit in Pratt. Donations exceeding \$500 receive the same attention, plus a special recognition plaque. Special news releases and media events are also held to publicly herald donations.

The agency has named properties after the donor: Maxwell Refuge, Wachs Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Green WMA, Harmon WMA and Garten WMA, to name a few areas. The agency also has affixed plaques and bronze plates to various properties to memorialize the donor. Some donors request anonymity

while others desire a higher profile.

All such memorializing is done to reflect favorably on both the recipient and the donor.

Donations of money can be sent directly to WILDTRUST personnel with instructions for its use. Anyone who donates personal property must complete and sign the upper portion of a personal property donation form. This form as well as any information you may require is available at both the Topeka and Pratt offices. If you want to donate land, money or transfer life insurance, wills or annuities, contact the WILDTRUST administrator in Topeka.

We can enjoy our parks, our wildlife and our beautiful natural resources, but we must also ensure they will be everlasting. The WILDTRUST donation program provides an opportunity for the concerned outdoor enthusiast to become actively involved in this important effort.

WILDTRUST personnel at the Wildlife and Parks office in Topeka can answer your questions.

CONTACT:

WILDTRUST Administrator
Kansas Department
of Wildlife and Parks
900 S.W. Jackson
Suite 502
Topeka, KS 66612
(913) 296-2281

The Canada goose restoration project has been funded with WILDTRUST donations.



Cene Brehm photo