



## *The Voice of Outdoor Kansas*

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P.O. Box 771282  
Wichita, KS 67277-1282

### **Hunters & Habitats**

Pages 2, 6, 7, 10,  
12, 14, 16, 20, 22

### **Natural Resource Management**

Pages 2, 13, 17-23

### **Anglers & Habitats**

Pages 3, 4, 15, 18

### **News & Events**

Pages 5, 14, 24

### **Outdoor Recreation**

Pages 7-11, 16, 17

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[www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org),  
for additional KWF information

# EPA denies petition to ban traditional ammunition

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denied yet another frivolous petition by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) — an established anti-hunting group — calling for a ban on the traditional ammunition (containing lead-core components) for hunting and shooting.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry, applauds the EPA's latest decision and called upon Congress to immediately pass the Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Sports Protection Act (S.838/H.R.1558). In the House of Representatives, the bill is also included in the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012 (H.R. 4089), an important piece of legislation that combines three other legislative priorities for sportsmen. The bill (S.838/H.R.1558) amends the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to clarify that the Congress has excluded traditional ammunition from regulation by the EPA. The legislation is supported by more than 35 national conservation and sportsmen's groups. The bill is even supported by the Fraternal Order of Police because a ban on traditional ammunition would apply to law enforcement and the U.S. military.

NSSF opposed the petition, which was filed by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and other like-minded groups. This was the second attempt by the CBD to ban traditional ammunition since it first petitioned the EPA in August of 2010. In rejecting the CBD's latest petition the EPA agreed with NSSF, telling the CBD that it did not have jurisdiction under TSCA to regulate ammunition. The CBD's petition purported to narrow the scope of the ban sought, but the EPA concluded that this change was a "distinction without a substantive difference." The EPA went on to say the new petition "contains no new information."

The CBD's serial petitions erroneously claim that the use of traditional am-

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*Continued on Page 4*

Protecting the Land...  
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KANSAS WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION  
*The voice of outdoor Kansas*



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# First range-wide lesser prairie-chicken aerial survey concluded

## New breeding grounds discovered in Kansas

Surveys have now been concluded for the first range-wide assessment of lesser prairie-chicken populations using common methods across portions of five states. The Lesser Prairie-Chicken Interstate Working Group is composed of biologists from the state fish and wildlife agencies of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Working Group collaborated with federal agencies and West Ecosystems, Inc., of Laramie, Wyo., to conduct the large-scale, helicopter-based survey to locate lesser prairie-chicken leks across the High Plains in all five states.

Leks, which are also referred to as gobbling grounds, are sites that

the birds come to every spring for breeding. These surveys encompassed more than 300,000 square miles, and survey results will be used to produce the first statistically valid, five-state estimate of the number of leks by sometime later this summer.

The lesser prairie-chicken has been considered a candidate under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) since 1998, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will release a proposed rule on the status of the bird under the ESA in September. Information from these surveys will be used as a baseline by these

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*Continued on Page 5*

# You've just bought a blackpowder gun — Now what?

## By Mark Hendricks

Many blackpowder hunters buy their first rifles and take them home in boxes. Although there's an instruction manual in the box, very few hunters take the time to read those like they should. Follow these steps after you take your rifle out of the box to get ready for hunting season.

- \* Read the manual.
- \* Break-open your rifle, and remove the breech plug. A break-action CVA rifle will have a Quick Release Breech Plug, which comes out of the barrel very easily by simply unscrewing it with your fingers and turning it 14-15 times. No tools are required.

- \* Look through the barrel to make sure there's nothing plug-

ging the barrel and no debris in the barrel.

- \* Take your cleaning rod, and push several wet patches with a solvent on them that remove grease and debris through the barrel. You want to make sure you have a really-clean barrel. If you're not going to shoot the gun immediately, next, put a light coat of synthetic gun oil on a patch, and push it through the barrel two or three times.

- \* Wipe your breech plug down with the solvent, put some fresh Breech Plug Anti-Seize Stick lubricant on the threads of the breech plug, and screw the breech plug back into the barrel.

- \* Check the gun for any damage from its being sorted or shipped.

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*Continued on Page 3*

# Bullfrog season opened July 1

Season runs through Oct. 31; fishing license required

It's already been a hot summer in the Sunflower State, and those who love outdoor activities are ready to beat the heat by pursuing bullfrogs in the cool of the night. They'll get their chance on July 1, when the bullfrog season begins.

Bullfrog hunting, or "frogging," as many people call it, is a great way to beat the oppressive summer heat. With days sweltering close to 100 degrees through much of June, the freedom of summer nights beckons with the call of the bullfrog. At this time, shorts and a T-shirt are all that's needed to cool off in the water and pursue this popular quarry.

Froggers can enjoy a season that runs July 1 through Oct. 31 although most frogging activity is in the hotter months of July and August. The daily creel limit is eight, with a possession limit of 24. While bullfrogs may be taken by hook and line, dip net, gig, bow and arrow, or crossbow (firearms not allowed), many froggers prefer to take them

by hand. All that's needed is a flashlight, a sack, an old pair of tennis shoes, and some stealth. The only other necessary ingredient is access to a local pond, lake, or stream. A valid fishing license is needed, if required by law.

The best method is to walk quietly through the water at night and shine a bright light along the bank until a pair of glowing eyes appears. Temporarily blinded by the light, frogs can be grabbed or netted.

The fruits of this effort are not only fun times but good food. Frog legs are regarded as a delicacy and have a taste and texture resembling a cross of shrimp and fish. A popular way to cook them is to dip the legs in egg and then into a mixture of flour and corn meal, seasoning salt, and pepper. Then the legs are fried to a golden brown in oil. This gourmet meal is a bonus to a great summer evening that both kids and adults will always remember.

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## GUN

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*Continued from Page 2*

Make sure that the sights are in place, if the gun comes with sights. If the gun comes with a scope mount, make sure it's secure. Be certain your forehand and buttstock are good and tight.

\* Check all the mechanical functions of the gun. Make sure the barrel release opens and closes smoothly and locks tight; cock your hammer back to be sure it locks properly; squeeze the trigger, and let the hammer down to be certain the trigger is working smoothly and properly. On break-action guns, push the hammer forward with your

thumb, because there's a hammer block in the gun that prevents the hammer from reaching the firing pin, unless the hammer's cocked. All these procedures are described in the manual that comes with the gun.

\* Use quality synthetic gun oil on the outside of the barrel.

Now you're ready to go to the range. If you'll go through these steps, you'll eliminate many of the problems you may encounter.

Mark Hendricks, the vice president of technical development for BPI - Black Powder Products, Inc., that owns several companies, including Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA).

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# Flathead catfish handfishing season June 15-Aug. 31

Kansas and Arkansas rivers,  
portions of federal reservoirs open

If you're an outdoor adventurer looking for the thrill of your life, get ready for the Kansas flathead catfish handfishing season, which opens June 15. This exciting sport not only provides thrills, but bountiful, delicious table fare awaits those hearty souls willing to take up the challenge. Reaching under logs and other structure in dark, cool water for the muscled body of a 40-pound catfish is not for the faint of heart.

The season runs June 15-Aug. 31, and handfishers may catch flathead catfish using nothing but their hands and wits — no snorkel or scuba gear, hooks, or manmade devices may be used. Although such anglers may be few, the season offers a special challenge at a time when summer heat has slowed many other types of fishing.

In addition to a limited season, there are restrictions during the handfishing season. Only flathead catfish may be taken, and legal handfishing hours are sunrise to sunset. A special \$27.50 permit is required in

addition to a regular fishing license. A stringer may be used but not until the fish are caught by hand and are at or above the surface of the water. No man-made object that attracts fish — such as a barrel, box, bathtub, or any other object — may be used. The season is only open in the following waters:

- the entire length of the Arkansas River;
- all federal reservoirs from beyond 150 yards of the dam to the upstream end of the federal property; and
- the Kansas River from its origin downstream to its confluence with the Missouri River.

Everyone who purchases a handfishing permit will be given a questionnaire they must complete and submit no later than 30 days after the close of the handfishing season. Handfishing permits may be purchased online or at select locations around the state. To find vendors or purchase permits online, go online to [ksoutdoors.com/License-Permits](http://ksoutdoors.com/License-Permits).

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## EPA

*Continued from Page 1*

munition by hunters poses a danger to human health and wildlife, in particular raptor populations such as bald eagles. The truth is that wildlife populations, including raptor and bald eagle populations, are soaring. The myth of a human health risk has been thoroughly debunked by a 2008 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that found the health of hunters consuming game harvested with traditional ammunition was not at risk.

The excise taxes raised from hunters' purchases of the very ammunition the CBD tries to demonize is a primary

source of wildlife conservation in the United States. Restricting or banning traditional ammunition absent sound science will hurt wildlife conservation. "Hunters have done more for wildlife than the CBD ever will," said NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel Lawrence G. Keane. "These relentless and unfounded attacks against traditional ammunition by agenda-driven groups like the CBD are exactly why Congress must take immediate action and pass the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012."

Keane is referencing the federal excise tax that manufacturers pay on the sale of the ammunition (11 percent), which is dedicated to the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

<b>July 14</b>	KWF Board of Directors mtg. Salina
<b>July 24-26</b>	Great Plains Windbreak Renovation Conference N. Dakota rstraight@fs.fed. US
<b>July 27-29</b>	Midwest Native Plant Conference, Dayton, OH
<b>July 31- Aug 2</b>	Tallgrass Range School, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS tdchristian@cox.net
<b>Aug 13</b>	Geary County Fish & Game Assoc. Membership mtg/fish fry 785-238-7845
<b>Aug 21-23</b>	Mid/Shortgrass Range School, Camp Lakeside, Scott County SFL
<b>August 23</b>	Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg. – Great Bend
<b>Sept 10</b>	Geary County Fish & Game Assoc. Membership mtg - Sportsman's Acres
<b>Oct. 18</b>	Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg. – Fall River
<b>Oct. 20</b>	KWF Board of Directors mtg. Location TBD
<b>Oct. 30-31</b>	Governor's Water Conference - Manhattan
<b>2013</b>	
<b>Jan. 19</b>	KWF Board of Directors mtg. Location TBD
<b>Feb. 22-23</b>	KWF Annual Meeting and CAP Banquet

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## Kansas Wildlife Federation updates its website

The Kansas Wildlife Federation has recently updated its website [www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org). Designed and maintained by One Tree Hill Designs, the website will offer a variety of items for the hunter, angler, avid conservationists and kids young and old.

This site isn't just about telling you all about KWF and what we're doing – the site exists to give you news and

information about what's happening that affects the Kansas outdoors. When you visit, you'll see regularly updated content that will keep you informed on events, pending legislation, federal news, as well as fishing forecasts and hunting tips.

Because we keep the site updated regularly and because the updates are right at the front of the web site, this gives

you the chance to participate in making our website a great place to visit.

If you want to alert the KWF audience to information and articles they should know about, all you need to do is to send a link or an email to [info@kswildlife.org](mailto:info@kswildlife.org) and from there we can get it on the site and out to the world. Your participation will make the site even more useful and fun!

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## SURVEY

*Continued from Page 2*

five state fish and wildlife agencies to monitor trends in prairie-chicken populations and to target conservation programs in partnership with private landowners, oil and gas industries, and wind-energy and electric utilities.

“These surveys will be the basis for a range-wide lesser prairie-chicken management plan that is being developed by the five states

in collaboration with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Grassland Initiative,” said Jim Pitman, small game coordinator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. “The plan is expected to be completed by next March, and we are hopeful that it will preclude the need for the Fish and Wildlife Service to designate the lesser prairie-chicken as a federally threatened or endangered species.”

The surveys this spring detected several previously unknown leks, despite the severe drought that occurred

across the region last year. They also detected leks in Kansas that are beyond what was thought to be the northern extent of the historic range of the species. Lesser prairie-chicken numbers have been largely increasing in Kansas for the last 15 years while populations have declined in parts of the southern portion of the range. Biologists believe this northward expansion may represent a shift in the population of the species caused by improved habitat from native grasses planted through the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

# Hunters needed for Manhattan-area Youth/Handicap Deer Hunt

Application deadline Aug. 1

The 10th Annual Youth/Handicap Assisted Deer Hunt is just three months away, and now is the time to sign up. The Riley County Fish and Game Association; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Tuttle Creek Reservoir are seeking participants for the hunt, to be held Sept. 8 and 9.

Kansas youth 11 through 16 years old and Kansas residents with a certified disability are eligible to participate in this hunt. Participants will need a Kansas hunting license, a deer permit, and, if required by Kansas law, to take or have taken an approved hunter

education course. Sponsoring agencies and associations can provide assistance meeting these requirements, including scholarships to help purchase licenses and permits. Rifles and/or ammunition can be provided, as well.

Each hunt participant will be paired with an experienced hunter who will serve as guide. Arrangements have been made with area lockers, where basic processing of harvested deer will be handled free of charge. Other items provided for this hunt include accessible hunting blinds, access to hunting property, hunter orange hats and vests, and transportation to the field.

Hunt participants will also be

required to attend a firearm safety presentation and sight-in at the Fancy Creek Shooting Range at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 19.

Other groups and organizations contributing to this hunt include the Friends of Fancy Creek Range, Kansas City Chapter of Safari Club International, Kansas State Rifle Association, and the Tuttle Creek Lake Association.

For more information or an application, phone Steve Prockish at the Tuttle Creek Lake Corps of Engineers Office, 785-539-8511, ext. 3167, or email [stephen.e.prockish@usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.e.prockish@usace.army.mil). Applications will be accepted thru Aug. 1.

## Kansan inducted to Hunter Education Hall of Fame

International organization honors longtime Kansas hunter education and shooting instructor

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Pass It On shooting instructor Jim Kellenberger has been named to the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) Professional Hall of Fame. The award was presented at the IHEA National Convention on May 30 in Kansas City.

With 39 years as a regional Law Enforcement Division supervisor and natural resource officer for KDWPT, Kellenberger has been involved with the agency's Hunter Education Program since its inception — as a class instructor, class coordinator, shooting instructor, and coach. His contributions have been numerous.

“Jim has been influential in the promotion and incorporation of live-fire activities into Kansas Hunter Education classes for almost 40 years,” noted KDWPT statewide Hunter Education Program coordinator Kent Barrett in his nomination of Kellenberger. “Although not a required class component, live fire is now included in 63 percent of Kansas classes. Much of the credit must go to

Jim and those pioneering instructors who saw the value in that specific training. Jim's involvement with Pass It On hunter recruitment events, along with promotion of hunter education class live fire activities, displays long-term support for Kansas hunter education.”

Kellenberger also helped develop hunter education curricula that is consistent with IHEA standards. As a game warden, he helped develop standards that made Kansas hunter education certification reciprocal with other states while maintaining the most relevant and instructive coursework possible.

Kellenberger also influenced the direction of the Hunter Education Program through the recruitment and training of many instructors still active today, and he stays involved by promoting live fire through the Hunter Education in the Schools program in Kansas. He also works with Becoming an Outdoors Woman and Women On Target programs to get women more involved with the shooting sports.

“Jim chose a career that would allow

him to be intimately involved in an activity that he thoroughly enjoyed,” Barrett added. “When hunter education was mandated and the Kansas Safe Hunter program began in 1973, Jim was immediately pressed into service. His instructor number is 66; through the years, there have been more than 18,000 Kansas hunter education instructors.”

As one of the original “go to” guys in the program, Kellenberger looked for recruits. He was the coordinator for his assigned area. He organized and taught classes, found and recruited new instructors, and trained them to teach. He saw the students come to class, pass the course, become hunters, and come full circle as instructors themselves, so they could pass the hunting tradition on to a new generation. He hasn't stopped yet.

“After 39 years of teaching hunter education, Jim remains an active and very positive teacher of core IHEA standards that remain the framework on which Kansas Hunter Education is

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*Continued on Page 9*

# Hilbish selected for national summit

Megan Hilbish, who will be a senior at Emporia High School this fall, was selected to participate in the National Rifle Association's annual National Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). Y.E.S. is a seven-day, expense paid educational experience in Washington, D.C. for outstanding high school sophomores and juniors. While in the nation's capital, Megan will learn the significance of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights while developing an understanding of government and the importance of actively participating in it.

Megan was selected from numerous qualified applicants from across the country. Megan was required to complete an extensive application, which included submission of transcripts, an essay about the Second Amendment, a personal statement and three personal recommendations.

Megan is actively involved in Lyon County 4-H, serving as Vice-President of Rinker 4-H Club and Vice-President of the Lyon County 4-H Council. She



**Megan Hilbish**

is a junior archery instructor in the 4-H Shooting Sports program where she actively participates in all disciplines. Megan competed at the National 4-H Shooting Sports match in 2010 in smallbore rifle and in 2011 in Olympic

archery. Megan competed at the Airgun Olympic Team Trials in Anniston Alabama in November and won the Kansas match in Smallbore Rifle and Air Rifle. She competed at the Junior Olympics in April. Megan is actively involved in many activities at Emporia High School including tennis, softball, debate, forensics, junior board and STUCCO. Megan hopes to shoot in college and become an attorney with the goal of becoming a Judge.

Megan Hilbish was recognized by the Kansas Wildlife Federation as the 2011 Youth Conservationist at its 2012 Annual Meeting in February. Megan enjoys hunting dove, pheasant, turkey, ducks, geese and deer. A family friend has MS and can only eat deer meat so Megan tries to shoot a deer each year so she can share the meat with her. She doesn't let her meat go to waste and especially loves making jerky with it. Teaching others how to hunt and handle firearms safely is a big priority for her.

# Neilson named 2012 Boating Officer of the Year

El Dorado officer stresses education, enforcement in keeping busy lake safe

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) natural resource officer Tyson Neilson, El Dorado, has received the agency's 2012 Boating Officer of the Year Award. The award is given annually to the boating officer who demonstrates dedication and achievement above and beyond the call of duty.

"In the course of a boating officer's career, it would be impossible to predict the number of lives he has saved or injuries he has prevented," said Dan Heskett, KDWPT's boating officer administrator. "But Tyson Neilson's efforts on one of Kansas' busiest recreational reservoirs — El Dorado — have been exceptional."

Neilson began his career with KDWPT on Nov. 11, 2001. From the beginning, he has been seen as one of the top boating enforcement officers in the state, taking pride in the safety of people who recreate on Kansas waters. He was nominated by three other officers, including a

first-line supervisor and two neighboring officers.

"Through dedicated enforcement and education, Officer Nielsen's actions have increased awareness of the dangers of violating the safety rules and laws associated with the operation of vessels," Heskett said. "Through aggressive education efforts, he has greatly increased the wear-rate and accessibility of life jackets on El Dorado Reservoir. In addition, his personal campaign to combat the operation of vessels under the influence of alcohol or drugs has had a dramatic affect on the boating community. Because of these efforts, boaters on El Dorado Reservoir now police their own ranks and have purchased preliminary breath-testing instruments for use prior to operating their own vessels after a day of partying."

Nielsen's efforts include coordination of numerous boating education efforts

such as Operation Dry Water during the summer of 2011; dozens of vessel inspections; presentation of boating programs; composition and delivery of boating-related news releases; and working numerous drug and boating under the influence cases.

Nielsen also maintains an informational blog for boaters at El Dorado. He conducts programs at local schools, hunter education classes, and KDWPT law and regulation training for other law enforcement agencies. He has recently volunteered to be one of four area coordinators for the agency's Boating Education Program.

"That El Dorado, one of the busiest reservoirs in our state, had zero boating accidents last year is a testament to Officer Neilson's philosophy of comprehensive education and law enforcement," Heskett added. "It was a pleasure to see him honored with this award."

# Life jackets key to child safety on water

National Safe Boating Week raises awareness of water safety issues

Whether part of a vacation or an ordinary summer day, boating can be fun for the entire family — as long as everyone remains safe. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that an estimated 85 percent of boating-related drownings could be prevented by the use of life jackets. Nationally, of the children who drowned while boating in 2003, more than 60 percent were not wearing life jackets, also known as personal flotation devices, or PFDs.

“On a boat, everyone should wear a life jacket at all times,” says Cherie Sage, state director of Safe Kids Kansas. “Look for a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. Water wings and other inflatable swimming aids such as inner tubes do not prevent drowning.”

Safe Kids Kansas recommends that children ages 14 and younger wear PFDs not only on boats but near open bodies of water or when participating in water sports. Kansas law requires that all boats have one U.S. Coast Guard-approved, readily-accessible PFD for each person on board. (For details, look on the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism [KD-WPT] website, [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com), under “Boating”) Anyone 12 years old or younger must wear a life jacket at all

times when on board a boat.

Safe Kids Kansas urges parents and caregivers to wear life jackets on boats or other watercraft as well. According to a 2005 study by Safe Kids Worldwide, children are much more likely to practice safe habits when they witness similar behavior by parents and caregivers. “Your children will pick up and embrace your safety habits,” says Sage.

Safe Kids Kansas also reminds parents and caregivers to follow these safety rules:

- always wear life jackets when in or around open bodies of water and on boats. Make sure the life jacket fits snugly. Have the child make a “touch-down” signal — if the life jacket hits the child’s chin or ears, it may be too big or the straps too loose;

- enroll your kids in swimming lessons taught by a certified instructor, but don’t assume swimming lessons or life jackets make your child “drown proof”;

- remember that any person ages 12 through 20 must have completed an approved boater education course before operating a vessel without direct supervision of an adult 18 or older who has completed the course or an adult

who is 21 or older. No one younger than 12 may operate a vessel without supervision regardless of boater education certification;

- avoid alcoholic beverages while boating;

- when there are several adults present and children are swimming, designate an adult as the “water watcher” for a specific amount of time to prevent lapses in supervision;

- install a carbon monoxide detector on inboard and cabin motorboats to alert you to dangerous levels of exhaust fumes; and

- learn infant and child CPR. Many local hospitals, fire departments, Red Cross offices, and recreation departments offer CPR training.

For more information about drowning and boating-related injuries, call Safe Kids Kansas at 785-296-0351 or visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). For more information about safe boat operations, contact the Coast Guard Info line at (800) 368-5647 or visit [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org).

And don’t forget boating safety classes. Class schedules and a home study course may be found online at the KDWPT website, [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com), under “Boating/Education”

## Kansas state parks mobile app available

Free Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® is ideal phone app for enjoying Kansas outdoors

Just in time for summer travel season, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KD-WPT) has launched the Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® app — a free, interactive mobile guide to Kansas state parks. The Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® app is designed to provide information and technology to guide and enhance the state park experience and to provide added safety and enjoyment for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts at all of Kansas’ 26 state parks.

The Pocket Ranger® app offers

interactive GPS and mapping technology for tracking trails, marking waypoints, and locating landmarks in state parks. Users are also able to locate friends within parks using the Friend Finder feature. The Alert feature supplies GPS coordinates to designated contacts in case of an emergency. Guests can also cache (store) park maps in advance, so they can still navigate if they lose mobile reception. The GeoChallenge feature offers the novice explorer or more adventurous geocacher various geoquest activities and games

throughout the year to guide them on their quests.

In addition to its state-of-the-art GPS technology, the Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® app has other tools that make exploring state parks a breeze. Visitors can decide which park to visit using a comprehensive list of activities or search for a park within a particular region. A Calendar of Events helps visitors find upcoming events for each park. Park rules and regulations are a click

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*Continued on Page 9*

# Nature centers enhance outdoor experiences

Dioramas, wildlife displays, educational events lure outdoor enthusiasts

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) operates five nature centers across the state, each offering great outdoor education experiences for visitors of all ages. On your next outdoor outing, take advantage of one of these or other nature centers. Information on KDWPT nature centers may be found online at [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com), and those operated by other entities may be found at [naturalkansas.org](http://naturalkansas.org), including center details, events, and other wildlife links.

Learn more about the wildlife and ecology of outdoor Kansas, and enjoy the next camping, hunting, fishing, or birdwatching trip all the more, by visiting a KDWPT nature center this spring or summer.

Great Plains Nature Center — 6232 E 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220, phone 316-683-5499

The Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC) is operated and maintained jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; and the Wichita Department of Park and Recreation. All three entities share the common goal of providing recreational, interpretive, and environmental education opportunities to the public. This nature center is an exciting place to learn about natural resources, especially the wildlife and habitats of the Great Plains.

Kansas Wetlands Education Center — 592 NE K-156 Highway, Great Bend,

KS 67530, phone 620-786-7456 or 1-877-243-9268

Operated by Fort Hays State University as an annex of the college's Sternberg Museum on KDWPT land, the Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC) includes a 2,000 square-foot exhibit gallery, classroom, auditorium, and gift store. A handicapped-accessible ½-mile nature trail displays grasslands, marshes, and woodlands. A vast expanse of windows allows visitors to comfortably view wildlife on the wetland.

Milford Nature Center — 3415 Hatchery Dr., Junction City, KS 66441, phone 785-238-5323

Located near beautiful Milford Reservoir in the Flint Hills, the Milford Nature Center offers visitors a better understanding of the natural communities of Kansas. Visitors can see and touch native animal furs, print their own animal tracks, and use their sense of touch to identify natural mystery items. Dioramas line the halls, depicting an aquatic system with more than 300 life-like fish, turtles, snakes, and insects and a terrestrial system showcasing wildlife from the prairies, marshes, and woods.

Prairie Center — 26235 West 135th Street, Olathe, KS 66061, phone 913-856-7669

Just five minutes from downtown Olathe, the Prairie Center is a 300-acre tallgrass preserve and education site with trails winding through remnant and reestablished prairie and riparian woodlands.

Most of the eight ponds on the property serve as intermittent wetlands for wildlife. There is a small lake for fishing and water studies. Visitors can explore a bedrock creek provides for aquatic life and a look back in time through the fossil remains embedded in the limestone creek bed. In mid-summer, native grasses grow taller than a living room ceiling.

Pratt Education Center — 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS 67124, phone 620-672-5911

Numerous displays, dioramas, and exhibits provide close encounters with the native birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles of Kansas. The center's winter diorama provides a glimpse at how wildlife deals with the snow and cold of Kansas winters. The grassland display depicts the three grasslands (short, mixed, and tall) of Kansas and wildlife common to each region, as well as a rare black-footed ferret mount. The raptor exhibit features owls, hawks, falcons, and kite mounts. The wetland wall depicts Cheyenne Bottoms, one of the five most important wetlands in North America.

To learn more about the nature centers of Kansas, go to the KWF website at [www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org).

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## APP

*Continued from Page 8*

away, which is especially helpful to anglers and sportsmen. Users can even reserve a campsite or cabin using the Pocket Ranger® to navigate to KDWPT's new online cabin and campsite reservation site.

The free Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® app is available on the

KDWPT home page at [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com), on iTunes, in the iPhone Apps Store, and online at [PocketRanger.com](http://PocketRanger.com) and will soon be available for Android phones. Blackberry and feature phone users can use the mobile website version of the Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger®.

The Pocket Ranger Mobile Tour Guide tutorial is available at [www.youtube.com/user/PocketRangerApp](http://www.youtube.com/user/PocketRangerApp). For more about Pocket Ranger®, go online to [www.pocketranger.com](http://www.pocketranger.com).

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## HALL

*Continued from Page 6*

built," Barrett said.

Jim exemplifies the spirit of Pass It On, since he has truly passed on his love for shooting and hunting in Kansas to thousands of young people. The Kansas Wildlife Federation presented the 2008 Outdoor Skills Instructor of the Year award to Jim Kellenberger.

The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) is the professional association for 67 state and Canadian provincial wildlife conservation agencies and the 70,000 volunteer instructors who teach hunter education in North America.

# Lake Scott boasts one of USA TODAY's 51 Great Beaches

Publication ranks best beaches in each of 50 states plus District of Columbia

To kick off the start of summer, USA TODAY asked local experts to select their favorite beach in each state and the District of Columbia. Scott State Park, north of Scott City, was tagged as having the “best” beach in Kansas.

“Lake Scott opens like a surprise package amidst the vast plains and farmland of western Kansas,” the publication stated in a May 29 article entitled “Just for Summer: 51 Great American Beaches.”

“Hidden in a wooded canyon of craggy cliffs, the park’s spring-fed lake has a pleasant swimming beach with a playground and concession stand

offering food, fishing supplies, canoes, and paddleboats. The 1,020-acre state park also has camping, hunting, nature trails, and historic sites.”

This is not the first national accolade for the area. In the 1980s, Scott was listed by National Geographic’s Traveler magazine as one of 50 “must-see” state parks in the country.

The years that carved a canyon in this area and blessed it with natural springs and the consistently-flowing Ladder Creek also made possible construction of the 100-acre Scott State Fishing Lake, at the heart of the park. Because of these precious water sources, the lake level varies less than

10 inches in any given year, even in one of the most arid parts of the state.

Located along the Western Vistas Historic Byway, the lake is a remarkable jewel in the crown of this area, which is surrounded by Ogallala rock formations rising 200 feet or more above the water. Some 150,000 anglers, campers, and nature lovers travel here each year to enjoy the scenery. Some come as far away as Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

For more information on Lake Scott State Parks, visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism website, [ksoutdoors.com/State-Parks/Locations/Scott](http://ksoutdoors.com/State-Parks/Locations/Scott).

## Wildlife Restoration Program: 75 years of success

The Wildlife Restoration Program, created through the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act in 1937, is celebrating 75 years of success in wildlife management this year. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada and Representative A. Willis Robertson of Virginia were the primary sponsors of the bill in the U.S. Congress. Funded by the Federal Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax on hunting and shooting equipment and supplies, the Wildlife Restoration Program provides money to states to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitats. Through 2011, this program provided more than \$6 billion to state fish and wildlife management agencies for conservation.

Federal agencies collect the excise taxes and import duties from partners in the hunting and shooting sports industries. The tax is 11% on sporting arms, ammunition, bows, and archery accessories, and it is 10% on pistols and revolvers. These federal funds are allocated to states through a formula based on each state’s land and water area, as well as the number of paid hunting license holders. Importantly, states can receive

P-R funding only if their laws prohibit diversion of hunting license revenues to any purpose other than administration of the state fish and wildlife management agency. Previously, license dollars sometimes were diverted to state general revenue funds where they could be used for non-conservation issues, such as road construction or public education.

Wildlife Restoration Program funds may be used for wildlife research, property acquisition, managing land and waters as wildlife habitat, hunter education programs, and the construction and operation of shooting ranges. The states provide only 25% of the funding for eligible projects supported by the program. In other words each state dollar, typically obtained through hunting license sales, is matched by three P-R dollars. Thus, hunters are supporting wildlife conservation through the purchase of hunting licenses as well as equipment and ammunition they use.

The Pittman-Robertson Act was signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt on September 2, 1937. At that time, many wildlife populations in the United States had dwindled to frighten-

ingly low numbers. The Wildlife Restoration Program has helped bring back populations of white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, wild turkey, and other species to abundance. While the Wildlife Restoration Program primarily enhances game species management, it has had much broader impacts: Acquiring and managing land for game species provides habitat for wildlife in general, thus benefiting non-game species, as well as the “non-consumptive” wildlife recreationists, such as hikers and bird watchers, who enjoy them.

The amount of P-R funds raised has risen steadily since its inception. For fiscal year 2011, the apportionment was nearly \$400,000,000. The consistent availability of funds allows long-term projects to be seen through to completion. Early examples of Wildlife Restoration Program projects include re-establishment of white-tailed deer on nearly 30 million acres of range and wild turkey on 20 million acres in Alabama; acquisition of nearly 10,000 acres of land in Connecticut, including

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*Continued on Page 11*

# New report shows economic importance and impact of outdoor recreation industry

The Outdoor Industry Association's new report, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*, shines a spotlight on the importance of outdoor recreation for the nation's economy. For the members of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, it reinforces the simple equation that drives our industry; access to healthy habitat creates recreational opportunity that creates economic activity.

According to OIA's *Outdoor Recreation Economy* report, more than 140 million Americans engage in outdoor activities each year, directly delivering \$646 billion to the economy and supporting 6.1 million domestic jobs.

"While the money that's spent on gear

and equipment is certainly significant, the real economic impact occurs when people get outside and use the equipment that they've bought," said Jim Klug, AFFTA Chairman and Co-Owner of Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures during an interview on National Public Radio's broadcast of *Marketplace Morning Report*.

The study notes that for every dollar spent on gear and vehicles, an estimated four dollars is spent on trips and travel. That spending directly supports professions like guides, outfitters, lodges and many more small business owners.

AFFTA is part of a business-led coalition championing a national outdoor rec-

reation system and recreation infrastructure. The study shows that the outdoor industry can continue to produce jobs and significant economic activity if our nation's land and water is managed as a system designed to sustain this economic engine.

"Investing in public lands conservation is good for our industry and a smart national economic strategy. Congress and the Administration should invest more, not less, in our lands and waters. Our economic future depends on it," said Ben Bulis, AFFTA's General Manager.

To download a full copy of the report, please visit [outdoorindustry.org/recreationeconomy](http://outdoorindustry.org/recreationeconomy)

## Report highlights economic value of conserving public lands, recreation

A new report shows that conserving the Rocky Mountain West's vast tracts of public lands has paid off in job, population and income growth as fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation have diversified and helped sustain the economies of rural communities throughout the region.

The report released by Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development also stresses that conserving public lands buoys local economies by drawing retirees, business owners and professionals seeking a high quality of life.

"Conserving Lands and Prosperity:

*Seeking a Balance Between Conservation and Development in the Rocky Mountain West*" shows that areas with higher percentages of lands managed for conservation and recreation experience higher job and population growth and report higher per capita incomes than other areas.

The findings of the report, produced by Southwick Associates for SFRED, underscore the need to balance responsible development of public lands with conserving fish and wildlife habitat, valuable backcountry and the great

Western landscapes that draw people from around the world, the sportsmen's coalition said.

"The Southwick report validates the simple fact that conservation of wildlife and natural places not only enriches our souls, but our wallets as well, in terms of sustained job creation and financial abundance - and reliably so, when compared to boom-bust energy development," said Jim Lyon, the National Wildlife Federation's vice president for

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*Continued on Page 12*

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## RESTORATION

*Continued from Page 10*

key wetlands along Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River; and the purchase of 57,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Kansas. Recent examples include purchase and maintenance of wildlife habitat in Pennsylvania, development of a shooting range in Georgia, studies estimating bear populations in Wisconsin, and a statewide survey of wildlife in Alabama.

The partnership between state and

federal agencies, conservation groups, sportsmen and women, and the hunting and shooting industries is the element that is critical to the continuing success of the Wildlife Restoration Program. The Pittman-Robertson Act was a ground-breaking step for wildlife conservation and was used as a model for the Sport Fish Restoration Program, supported through an excise tax on fishing equipment that began under the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950. Through excise taxes and license revenues, sportsmen and women have contributed more than \$12 billion to conservation

through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs (WSFRP), and annually they provide more than 80% of the funding for most state fish and wildlife agencies. So, if you have enjoyed natural areas and wildlife, hunting, fishing, birding, or other outdoor recreation, you should thank the WSFRP. Better yet, thank a hunter or an angler. And there's nothing stopping you from supporting conservation, even if you don't hunt or fish: You can always buy a license.

*Prepared by Anne Nemeth-Wild,  
Iowa State University*

# Point and practice

## Courtesy of the US Sportsmen's Alliance

Dove season. Those two words catch hunters' attention across the US this time of year, and the opening days are just a flip or two of the calendar pages away. Are you ready?

Besides checking for needed gear, buying licenses, and examining clothing and boots, another top priority is being ready to shoot. The average dove hunter requires 2 1/2; boxes of shotshells to down a limit of the tasty birds, and must spend more than three hours afield. That's many shots fired over hours. You could change the time requirement and shotshell expenses with a little practice.

Good first starters to improve shooting-- and hitting—with a shotgun are to pattern the shotgun with the shotshells you will use when hunting. As a reference, Winchester Ammunition ([www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)) recommends the use of No. 8 or 7 1/2; shot. Next, go out and shoot moving targets such as clay "birds," while patterning your gun with the best choke tube to fit your shooting

ability and hunting conditions. A day on a sporting clays course, or shooting clay targets tossed by hand or with a spring-activated thrower, can help you in many ways. You can repeatedly practice looking, mounting, swinging and pulling the trigger (after releasing the safety), and follow through with a shotgun. To find a shotgun facility near you that's open for practice, visit [www.wheretoshoot.org](http://www.wheretoshoot.org).

A problem with many hunters as they practice—and hunt—is the feeling of being rushed because "the dove or target is getting away!" Things generally are not moving as fast as you have led yourself to believe. A dove flies at a maximum of about 35 to 40 miles per hour. When flying up or across at some angles, doves and clay targets appear to be moving at rocket speed when they are in fact gliding at a much slower speed. The coaching offered at some shooting facilities can help you discover the speed details—and how you should react.

Just remember to visit the range you select to shoot early because the

weekend before dove seasons open can be one of the busiest times for many shooting ranges.

Doves are also in plentiful supply in most regions. To counter any anti-dove hunting arguments you might face this hunting season, learn the feathered facts. One Alabama research project discovered that a pair of doves could nest and rear up to six or seven broods per year with about four eggs per nest. That's 28 new doves into the population per year, or two doves creating approximately a limit for two hunters on opening day. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mourning Dove, Population Status, 2011 report indicates 350 million doves reside in the United States. That's a lot of birds.

Dove hunting also pumps millions of dollars into local economies and supports many jobs across the country. Shotgun manufacturers' credit dove hunting seasons with being one of their biggest business markets.

Also of prime importance, to ensure a dove hunting season next year, take a youth or new hunter with you this year.

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## VALUE

*Continued from Page 11*

conservation policy.

The National Wildlife Federation, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Trout Unlimited are lead partners in the sportsmen's coalition.

The report includes a case study of Cody, Wyo., where about 10 percent of jobs are associated with fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing. Spending related to those activities generates an estimated \$30.1 million annually, according to the report.

"Managing federal public lands for fish and wildlife diversity and abundance - as well as ensuring opportunities for quality hunting and fishing - are critically important practices that will attract sportsmen to rural areas and boost the

economy," said Ed Arnett, director of the TRCP Center for Responsible Energy Development. "In contrast to the boom-bust cycles of many other industries, the outdoor industry equals long-term, sustainable economic benefits. These new studies clearly demonstrate the power of sustainably managed natural resources and the economic impact of sportsmen."

New businesses, skilled professionals and other individuals drawn to the Rocky Mountain West have expanded the economy, helping to ease the effects of downturns in the more cyclical extractive industries often associated with the West, according to the report.

"It makes good economic sense to find a balance between conservation of hunting and fishing opportunities and development of resources on Western public lands," said Brad Powell, energy director for Trout Unlimited. "This report

clearly indicates that finding the appropriate balance is one of the keys to a healthy economy and environment in the West."

Jeff Mead, a business owner from Grand Junction, Colo., understands the importance of balance. He acknowledges the role the energy industry plays in western Colorado but stresses that public lands are key to his business, Mamm Peaks Outfitters, and others like it.

"Our family has been in the outfitting business for 26 years. I'd like my children and grandchildren to assume stewardship and sustain respect for our environment and conservation of wildlife and resources," Mead said. "Public lands that provide wildlife habitat and an opportunity for people to participate in hunting, fishing and other practices that support conservation are crucial for that to happen."

# Duck Stamps offer easy way to help protect wetland habitat

The 2012-2013 Federal Duck Stamp are now on sale across the United States, giving hunters, stamp collectors and anyone who cares about migratory birds and other wildlife an easy way to help conserve their habitat. Ninety-eight percent of proceeds from sales of the stamp are used to acquire and protect vital wetlands supports hundreds of species of migratory birds, wildlife and plants.

Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe joined representatives of the U.S. Postal Service, Bass Pro Shops and other conservation partners at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World retail store in Hampton, VA, July 1st to celebrate the first day of sale of both the \$15 Federal Duck Stamp and \$5 Junior Duck Stamp. The new stamps are now available at thousands of post offices, Bass Pro

Shops and other sporting goods stores and retail locations across the country, and can also be purchased online.

“For nearly 80 years, the Federal Duck Stamp has provided crucial funding for wetland habitat conservation efforts in every state,” said Ashe. “Buying a Duck Stamp offers hunters, conservationists, and collectors the opportunity to own a beautiful piece of wildlife art that helps sustain North America’s wildlife heritage. I can’t think of a better or easier way for everyone to make a difference for wildlife conservation.”

Since the program’s inception in 1934, Federal Duck Stamp sales have raised more than \$750 million to acquire and protect more than 5.3 million acres of habitat for hundreds of units of the National Wildlife Refuge System in

all 50 states and U.S. territories. These refuges benefit the public by providing access to outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, birding, photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

All migratory bird hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry a valid Federal Duck Stamp while hunting, but conservationists, birders, and others also buy the stamp to support habitat conservation. Anyone who holds a current Federal Duck Stamp may also obtain free admission to any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System that charges admission fees.

To read more about the Duck Stamp program and this year’s winners, go to the KWF website at [www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org).

## PF receives major Kansas land and legacy contribution

Rob Peterson, 53, of Colorado Springs, Colo., has donated his 640-acre property near Cimarron, Kans., to Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever as part of the organization’s Grassroots Conservation Campaign, furthering PF’s habitat mission and generously providing a place for future hunters and outdoorspeople to enjoy forever. Peterson, a long-time PF member and Pikes Peak Colorado Pheasants Forever chapter co-chair, noted that his father’s passion for the outdoors and the time they spent hunting and fishing are the main reasons to make Pheasants Forever the recipient of his major gift.

Peterson, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, grew up in Minnesota where he learned to appreciate the outdoors with his father, Robert Peterson, Sr., through countless hours hunting and fishing. “We spent a lot of time in the outdoors with each other,” Col. Peterson said. “The success of the hunt was not always a big deal to us. It was the experience of spending time together that we valued most.” Those outdoor experiences are what shaped his dream for honoring his father’s memory. In 2010, during one

of the last conversations Rob had with his father, he told his dad of his plan to dedicate a piece of land in his memory so his outdoor legacy could live on forever. Shortly after this conversation, Rob’s father lost his battle with cancer.

The property is currently being converted to productive wildlife habitat. “Habitat is my vision, because I realize if we don’t have the habitat, the upland hunting is going to dry up,” Col. Peterson said. “If we don’t have the habitat, we can’t ensure there will be an opportunity for young people to hunt 20, 30, 40 years from now.”

“We are extraordinarily honored that Col. Peterson chose Pheasants Forever to fulfill his dream and honor his father’s memory,” said Howard K. Vincent, President and CEO of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, “His generosity is a defining characteristic of a visionary, using his abilities to further what he is passionate about. This gift will Make a Lasting Impact for years to come, and I applaud Col. Peterson for joining Pheasants Forever’s Habitat Legacy Society through this generous legacy contribu-

tion.”

Col. Peterson credited Pheasants Forever’s Farm Bill biologist program for providing expert guidance with the grassland restoration through the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and PF Development Officer Jordan Martincich for helping execute the gift through the organization’s Grassroots Conservation Campaign.

“Rob’s father had a passion for the outdoors and the legacy partnership formed with Pheasants Forever means the Peterson family values and traditions will continue forever. We hope others join the Peterson family in their vision of permanently protecting wildlife habitat forever more,” Martincich said.

Col. Peterson will continue to manage and enjoy the property throughout his lifetime. Upon his passing, Pheasants Forever will oversee the property for wildlife habitat and public use. In addition to the land gift, Col. Peterson has donated a significant portion of his estate to Pheasants Forever with the goal

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*Continued on Page 21*

# Kids Gone Hunting publishes second edition of online kids' magazine

The second edition of KGH InSights, a publication of The Kids Gone Hunting Foundation is now available to read online at [www.kidsgonehunting.com](http://www.kidsgonehunting.com). The online magazine's easy, flip-style format is colorful and geared toward kids age 7 to 17.

This edition introduces a new column called Junior's Journeys, the Fictional Adventures of Junior Huntsman. Read about his scary night on The Lost

Baby Trail. Some of the magazine's regular columns include Great Game, Details of the Hunt, Adventure Album, On Location, Notables and Quotables and KGH Team Profiles.

"In addition to our regular columns, one of our host team members, Alli Armstrong, has returned with another great feature story called The Dime Pond Stand," said Brenda Potts, Executive Director. "There are many

stories for kids in this spring/summer edition. The first edition is still posted on our web site and available to read as well."

Sign up to receive notices of newsletters and KGH InSights postings at [kidsgonehunting.com/news](http://kidsgonehunting.com/news). Kids Gone Hunting Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization that creates DVDs of all-kids hunting, hosted by kids, and distributes them free to kids.

## Planting perfume for pollinators

Help plants native to your region and the creatures that pollinate them

Anyone who has applied a few strategic spritzes of perfume or a slather of aftershave before a big date knows that scent is one of the most potent tools of sexual seduction. The technique was invented at least 100 million years ago by plants.

Plants perfume their blooms to attract the insects and other animals they need to pollinate their flowers. Floral fragrance is a kind of olfactory come-on that proclaims to a potential flower fertilizer, "Come hither, honey, 'cause there's scrumptious pollen and sweet nectar hidden inside these pretty petals." In addition to a full belly, the pollinator leaves the flower with pollen attached to its body in a bundle or dusted on its fur. When it lands on another blossom while looking for its next meal, cross-pollination can occur.

Without their pollinators, many plant species cannot set seed and reproduce.

At a time when habitat loss, indiscriminate use of pesticides, and a host of other problems are disrupting this age-old reproductive duet, home gardeners can lend plants and their pollinators a helping hand by creating backyard habitats full of fragrant flowers. Peonies, gardenias and other exotic species may be the most familiar scented plants, but a variety of beautiful native trees, shrubs and wildflowers are fragrant, too. By cultivating them we not only help support the bees and other native pollinators with which they've coevolved, but also get to enjoy the plants' heady scents ourselves.

Every plant has its own signature scent, a complex mixture of so-called volatile organic compounds that easily

turn to gases and waft through the air. Some 1,700 different compounds from 990 different plants have been identified in flower fragrances so far, according to Natalia Dudareva, a Purdue University biologist whose specialty is floral scents.

Pollinators are picky about these flower odors. You could say that it's all in the proboscis of the beholder (or antennae, the olfactory organs of bees, beetles and moths). For example, native bees prefer blooms with a sweet fragrance, such as California wild lilacs and the white or pink flower spikes of the summersweet shrub, which perfumes eastern U.S. woodlands in midsummer.

*Continued on Page 15*

## JOIN THE KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

### Current member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Options:

- Basic \$30
- Expanded \$75
- Kansan \$150

### New member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Kansas Wildlife Federation.

MAIL TO: Kansas Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 771282, Wichita, KS 67277-1282

# 2,000 rods and reels available for military families nationwide

Military families across the United States are now eligible to receive more than 2,000 free rods and reels thanks to a national program for those interested in engaging in the sport of fishing. The Rods and Reels Program is made possible by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) Take Me Fishing™ campaign, the Sierra Club Water Sentinels, the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association (NMFWA) and Zebco, America's largest manufacturer of rods and reels. Program sponsors encourage all interested military installations to submit a request to take part in the latest distribution,

which is available now.

Since the program's launch, more than 120,000 youth on 90 military bases have benefited from the distribution of nearly 3,000 refurbished rods and reels. The Sentinels and NMFWA first teamed up to distribute fishing gear to select military bases in 2009. The partnership was enhanced in 2010 when RBFF connected the Sentinels with Zebco's refurbished rods and reels program.

"Fishing, more than any other water-related activity, has the most lasting effect on future outdoor and healthy lifestyle activities," said Tim Guilfoile, Deputy Director, Sierra

Club Water Sentinels. "We are happy to assist in providing recreational opportunities to children who reside with their families on military installations throughout the US."

"It's a pleasure to partner with the Sentinels, NMFWA and Zebco each year to support military families nationwide," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "Our goal is to get youth outdoors and on the water by giving them the tools they need to experience fishing first-hand."

Since 2007, RBFF's Take Me Fishing campaign has played a criti-

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*Continued on Page 19*

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## PERFUME

*Continued from Page 14*

Moths, which are mostly nocturnal, are attracted to wildflowers like evening primroses, which advertise their presence under the cloak of darkness with powerful sweet perfumes. One of the most cunning practitioners of floral seduction, the sacred datura of the Southwest, attracts its hawk moth pollinators to its huge white, trumpet-shaped flowers with a sweet siren scent, and to increase the chances that the insects get dusted up with pollen, keeps them inside the blossom by producing a narcotic nectar.

Bats, also night flyers with good noses, favor blooms with musty aromas. Most bats in the United States are insectivorous, but three flower-eating species pollinate dozens of agaves and giant cacti in the Southwest deserts, including the organ pipe cactus and cardón.

If they think about beetles at all, most gardeners see them as pests that chew holes through their prized flowers. But these handsome insects, often with bright or metallic-colored wing cases that are extravagantly striped or spotted, are important pollinators. In fact, beetles were the pinnacle of insect

evolution during the early Cretaceous period when flowering plants began to evolve. Although they're virtually colorblind, these primeval pollinators have a great sense of smell and follow their noses to primitive flowers with fruity and spicy scents, such as magnolias. Other favorites include California spicebush and its eastern cousin, Carolina allspice, which has odd, dark reddish-brown flowers with layers of curved, straplike petals and a fruity fragrance.

Most people don't think of flies as pollinators either, but they play a critical role in the fertilization of some flowers. Flies fancy blossoms that emit the essence of carrion or dung and look like lumps of rotting flesh. Among their preferred wildflowers are red trilliums, known as "stinking benjamins" by early naturalists, and aroids such as jack-in-the-pulpit and skunk cabbage, which has tiny flowers massed together along a fleshy pole partially surrounded by a leaf that smells like stinking fish.

Birds and most butterflies don't have good olfactory senses, and the plants they pollinate don't waste energy emitting fragrances. Instead, they strut their stuff with colorful and distinctive-shaped flowers.

The following rules of thumb can help you create a garden of fragrant

native plants that is as enticing as possible for people and pollinators alike:

- To provide pollinators with the plants to which they are best adapted and avoid introducing invasive species, select flowers native to your region.

The fragrant water-lily, for example, is a fine choice for water gardens or even small tubs in its native East but can be invasive in the West.

- Invite a variety of pollinators into your garden by offering a diverse mix of fragrant flowers, both day and night bloomers. For recommendations, consult the Pollinator Partnership, a coalition of conservation groups, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center or the Xerces Society.

- Plant favored species in drifts of at least three to five to make them worthwhile for pollinators to visit.

- Design your garden so that there is a continuous succession of plants in bloom to provide nonstop food sources for hungry pollinators.

- Plant in an enclosed space, such as inside a courtyard or a hedge of native roses, which can prevent the fragrance from being whisked away by the wind. The reflected heat from a wall or patio can intensify floral fragrance.

- Don't use pesticides, even non-chemical ones such as Bt, which can decimate pollinator populations.

# Boater education fosters safety on the water

Certification required of boat operators ages 12 through 20

Summer is just around the corner, and many Kansas boaters have already begun a new boating season. For those who haven't, there are the usual preparations such as changing the lower unit grease and putting new spark plugs in the outboard, making sure life jackets are in good condition, and checking the fire extinguisher charge. And the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) reminds boaters about the importance of boater education before taking to the water.

Any person age 12 through 20 who wishes to operate a vessel (personal watercraft, power boat, sailboat) in Kansas without direct supervision must complete an approved boater education course. Direct supervision means being able to take over in case of an emergency. For a personal watercraft, this means that the supervising adult must be on the same vessel, not

riding next to it. The supervising adult must be at least 18 years old and either have completed a boater education course or be exempt because they are older than 21. No one younger than 12 may operate a vessel without supervision regardless of boater education certification, and the course is recommended for everyone.

Courses are offered in three different formats: traditional classroom, home study, or Internet-based. Traditional instruction is provided by trained volunteers, KDWP natural resource officers, and members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Home study and online Internet course work are also provided. All courses must be at least eight hours long. A list of courses and more details may be found on the KDWP website, ksoutdoors.com, under "Boating/Boating-Education."

The Kansas Boating Education Program is designed to reduce boating accidents and violations while promoting legal, courteous, and responsible boating practices. Boating safety and responsibility are stressed throughout the course. Additional topics include ethics and courtesy, accident prevention, general information about boats, safe operating procedures, required safety equipment, boating laws, and general boating safety concerns.

More 80,000 boats are registered in the state of Kansas, so being aware of boating regulations and safe boating practices is essential. Taking a boating education class will help ensure that your trip to the lake is safe and enjoyable for the whole family, and completion of an authorized course might even entitle you to a discount on boat insurance.

## Delta Waterfowl study confirms later harvest season

A Delta Waterfowl study has confirmed what veteran duck hunters have long suspected: harvests of many waterfowl are taking place significantly later in the year than in previous decades.

The Delta Duck Migration Study, commissioned by the Bipartisan Policy Center, was written by science director Dr. Frank Rohwer, Louisiana State University graduate student Bruce Davis and senior director of U.S. policy John Devney.

The study examined data from the annual Parts Collection Survey. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has collected comprehensive harvest data from hunters since 1961.

"With few exceptions, harvest dates for mallards throughout the mid-latitude and southern states have become consistently later," says Dr. Rohwer. "Mallard harvest is on average ten days later in Arkansas, fifteen days later in California, sixteen days later in Illinois, and twelve days later in Virginia."

The study found that most migrant duck species, including gadwall, ring-necked, pintails and green-winged

teal, have significantly later harvest dates. Blue-winged/cinnamon teal and mottled ducks were the only species to run against the trend.

"Hunters have suspected this was happening, and for the first time, we've seen the data that confirms this on a big scale," says Rohwer. "As usual, hunters seem to know more than we give them credit for."

The report examined whether later hunting seasons were a simple explanation for later harvests. While it's true that most states have extended their seasons from the 60's, the report found this was not the 'sole driver' for shifts in harvest dates. For example, non-migrating mottled ducks in Texas and Louisiana are being harvested at about the same time as 50 years ago. But hunters in those states are harvesting mallards much later in the year, suggesting that Mallards - which are strictly migrants from the north - are arriving later.

So does a later harvest mean ducks are actually migrating later?

Dr. Rohwer says the best way to evaluate shifts in migrations would be a

history of waterfowl counts throughout the flyways. Unfortunately, comprehensive fall migration surveys do not exist.

"The beauty of the Parts Collection Survey is that it has been conducted in the same manner since 1961 and records the date, location and species of duck killed. It provides a good general sense of when duck harvest is taking place, which we suspect is a reasonable surrogate for timing of migration."

A hot topic in southern duck blinds is whether changes in northern agriculture that provide additional food may be holding ducks longer in northern states. The theory goes that field-feeding ducks like mallards and pintails will stay longer; fattening up on left over corn and soy beans in higher latitudes.

If food was the driver of migration and harvest dates, says Dr. Rohwer, then gadwall and ring-necked ducks that never feed in fields should migrate and be harvested at the same time as in prior decades. The harvest data, however, shows that all four species show

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*Continued on Page 18*

# State fishing lakes offer great summer outings

Survey indicates highly-satisfied Memorial Day weekend visitors

Looking for a peaceful, uncrowded summer weekend outdoor experience? Try one of the more than 40 Kansas state fishing lakes. Anglers surveyed who fished state fishing lakes reported low levels of crowding, high satisfaction, and sufficient access from shore at these small Kansas gems. In most cases, there is minimal to no wait time to launch a boat and plenty of parking available.

In addition to fishing, picnicking and primitive camping are popular activities at state fishing lakes. Some — including Kingman, McPherson, Mined Land, and Ottawa — offer modern, affordable cabins for those who prefer not

to camp. Many state fishing lakes also have ADA-compliant facilities, such as accessible docks and piers.

You don't need a boat to enjoy the state fishing lake angling experience because numerous piers, jetties, and accessible shoreline are available for easy access. Almost half of anglers visiting these lakes fish from shore and find plenty of access without a boat.

As the name suggests, most state fishing lakes are managed for anglers, so no pleasure boating, skiing, or swimming is allowed. However, because Crawford, Meade, and Scott are also state parks, they provide full-service camping and allow swimming, and

Crawford and Scott allow some recreational boating and offer recreational facilities such as sand volleyball courts, bathhouses, and horseshoe pits. Chase State Fishing Lake also has a swimming beach. Water-use restrictions may limit their appeal to some outdoor users, but for others, the limitation may be a peaceful plus.

Most visitors do not feel crowded at Kansas state fishing lakes, even on this busiest weekend of the year, so these lakes are great alternatives to large federal reservoirs. If you just want to enjoy nature, camp, and fish, you may be able to find a great family-friendly spot all to yourself.

## Southern Great Plains could run out of groundwater in 30 years

A new study looking at key aquifers beneath the Great Plains and California's Central Valley suggests that areas of Texas and Kansas are drawing groundwater at an unsustainable rate.

Key farming regions in the US are drawing water from underground sources at unsustainable rates, with slightly more than one-third of the southern Great Plains at risk of tapping out its sources within the next 30 years.

Those are among the conclusions of a study of the nation's two major aquifers — one underlying the high plains, the other beneath California's Central Valley — published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Concerns over the loss of groundwater in these areas aren't new. But the researchers say the tools they've used build a detailed picture of these critical water sources — how the amount of water they contain varies with time, location, and regional climate patterns — could allow for more nuanced approaches to local water management.

Other water specialists suggest that the ability to combine detailed well measurements with satellite data could open the door to developing regionwide, even multistate planning for groundwater use

— an approach that currently is applied to surface water.

Moreover, careful tracking of aquifers is likely to become more critical as global warming's effects become more pronounced, particularly during the second half of this century, the team suggests.

A number of recent studies have highlighted the problem of groundwater depletion globally for irrigation, notes Bridget Scanlon, who heads the Sustainable Water Resources Program at the University of Texas at Austin and was the study's lead author.

"We wanted to look in more detail at the two areas where there has been the most groundwater depletion in the US and try to better understand what is going on so that we could see if it's possible to manage them more sustainably or reduce the depletion," she says.

Ogallala aquifer

Some of the biggest surprises involved the Ogallala aquifer, a resource that stretches north along the Texas-New Mexico border through the Oklahoma panhandle and western Kansas to extend through virtually all of Nebraska and into eastern Wyoming.

Farming in the high plains contributes

about \$35 billion a year to the economy. Conventional wisdom has held that from north to south, the aquifer represents "fossil" water from the melting of the continent's glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age. And in the central and southern high plains, that remains true. This is where groundwater losses have been most pronounced.

About 4 percent of the land area above the aquifer, which falls in parts of Kansas and Texas, is responsible for about a third of its water losses, the team estimated.

But the researchers found that in the northern high plains, groundwater levels either have been holding relatively steady or have increased between 1950 and 2007 — fed by rain and seepage from lakes that come and go with the rainy season and snow melt. Some water also finds its way underground from the Platte, Republican, and Arkansas Rivers. The water percolates through soils that are coarser than soils in the central and southern high plains.

Overall, however, the Ogallala Aquifer has lost an average of 5.3 cubic kilometers of water a year between the

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*Continued on Page 19*

# Salina mall's Bruce Zamrzla Aquarium re-opened

The Salina Central Mall and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) hosted a grand re-opening ceremony of the Bruce Zamrzla Memorial Aquarium on May 12. The Central Mall is located at 2259 S. 9th St. in Salina.

The 15,000-gallon aquarium is 25 feet long and is home to many amazing species of Kansas fish and turtles. The display was originally constructed in 1987 at the urging of Bruce Zamrzla, who was the district fisheries biologist for the area. "Zam," as he was affectionately known, was tragically killed in a car accident on April 19, 1994, but he left an amazing legacy as a resource manager and cham-

pion of outdoor education. Fittingly, the aquarium was renamed and dedicated in his honor.

The aquarium has long served as an excellent outdoor education exhibit but in recent years had begun to show its age. As part of the Central Mall's 25th Anniversary, KDWPT and Central Mall teamed up to restore the aquarium to a first-class attraction. The aquarium features new designs and graphics, an educational PowerPoint display, Kansas fisheries videos, and an updated rustic look and feel. The neon fish formerly on the overhead display have been removed and replaced with a structure designed by Melissa Bowell, a commercial art

student at Salina Area Technical College. Bowell's design was judged the best in a contest with 24 other entries, and she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award for her efforts. An amended version of the design has been created and donated by Kasa Fab and was unveiled at the re-opening event.

The aquarium also received attention. The fish were transferred to the Milford Hatchery for safe keeping while the aquarium was drained, cleaned, and new filtration and water quality devices were added. The fish are in great shape, and the water is now even more crystal clear than Wilson Lake, where Bruce was the fisheries biologist.

## Two studies show environmental lawsuits paid for by programs for seniors, veterans and small businesses

Studies released independently by Notre Dame Law School and the Government Accountability Office show that environmental groups pad their claims for reimbursed legal fees using a social program entitled the Equal Access to Justice Act, and the U.S. is not keeping track of expenditures.

A Notre Dame law review article shows that a 1980 law intended for seniors, veterans, and small businesses is utilized by environmental groups to get pay-backs for their lawsuits as well. A GAO study shows that no one really knows how much money has been spent, but the amounts are at least several million dollars a year.

See the Notre Dame Law School

study at the link:

[http://www.boone-crockett.org/images/editor/ND\\_EAJA.pdf](http://www.boone-crockett.org/images/editor/ND_EAJA.pdf)

See the GAO study at the link: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-417R>

"This study made me a strong supporter of the Equal Access to Justice Act for its intended beneficiaries," said Lowell E. Baier, the author of the law review article and President Emeritus of the Boone and Crockett Club. "This law is for seniors, veterans, and small businesses that have trouble getting their legal fees reimbursed, yet many environmental lawsuits are reimbursed without ever showing a violation of environmental law. Environmental law is clear about which lawsuits should be repaid under

environmental statutes; we should stick to that clear direction and follow the intent of Congress."

"Litigation has become a routine step in environmental policy because much of it is about lobbying against decisions and forcing do-overs," said Jennifer Ellis, President of the Western Legacy Alliance. "It's not that so many environmental policies are wrong, it's that people disagree over them. Businesses protect themselves-especially against those who admit they want to destroy us-and activists try to get their way instead. Whoever files that kind of lawsuit should pay their own way."

To read more about this issue, go to the KWF website at [www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org).

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## WATERFOWL

*Continued from Page 16*

similar shifts in delayed harvest. The idea that northern agriculture is holding ducks back is 'unlikely', concludes the report.

The report also had a preliminary look at whether or not migration may be delayed because of the potential effects of climate change. While the re-

port concluded it's 'plausible', the harvest data can neither prove nor disprove any connection between migration and climate change.

Waterfowl hunters are obviously interested in the timing of migrations, says Dr. Rohwer. The importance for the outdoor industry, tourism and waterfowl management make a compelling argument for more research into migration.

"Hunters, the outdoor industry and resource managers are not passive

observers," says Dr. Rohwer. "They are expecting an answer to the deceptively simple question: Are ducks migrating later. They are holding policymakers and the scientific community accountable for an answer, as they surely should."

The Delta Migration Study is available in its entirety at on Delta Waterfowl's web site (<http://www.deltawaterfowl.org/pressrelease/120529-MigrationStudy.pdf> or [www.season-send.org](http://www.season-send.org)).

# Managing after drought serves as range school theme

“Roots, Rainfall, and Recovery... management coming out of drought is the 2012 theme for the Tallgrass and Mid-/Short-grass Range Schools set for July 31- August 2 at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, and August 21-23 at Camp Lakeside, Lake Scott, respectively. The Schools focus on grassland ecology and livestock management,” said Tim Christian, KGLC state coordinator.

With a continuing drought over parts of west central and southwest Kansas, and the fact that the Flint Hills suffered a drought through last summer the course subject matter should provide ranchers and land managers with sound ideas and a thought process to be able to successfully manage their grazing lands without sacrificing too much economically and damaging fragile plant communities, he continued. Hav-

ing a written contingency plan and following it are essential to staying the course over time in an extended drought. Our instructors - ranchers, agency, organization, and university experts - will narrow down their presentations to get at the heart of this seemingly perpetual issue of drought.

The three-day school costs \$300 per person, but KGLC and its co-sponsors will be providing scholarships to eligible ranchers, ranch employees, students, and agency staffs. Most will receive \$150, with agency attendees receiving \$100, to bring costs down making the highly-rated course a great value. Scholarship forms are available online at [www.kglc.org](http://www.kglc.org), under 2012 Range Schools in the left-side navigation bar, or by contacting KGLC staff. July 20 is the cut-off for receiving scholarship applications for the Tallgrass School

and August 10 for the Mid-/Short-grass School. Registrations are due July 23 and August 13, respectively.

Currently co-sponsoring the schools are the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Kansas State University Research and Extension; Fort Hays State University; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism; The Nature Conservancy, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Native Plant Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program, and the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management.

More information on the School can be obtained by contacting Tim Christian, KGLC state coordinator, at 620-241-3636, e-mail [tdchristian@cox.net](mailto:tdchristian@cox.net), Ken Sherraden, assistant, at 785-922-7061, e-mail [kennethsherraden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kennethsherraden@sbcglobal.net).

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## FAMILIES

*Continued from Page 15*

cal role in introducing 3.6 million youth and newcomers to boating and fishing as well as helping generate nearly \$30 million for state conserva-

tion efforts. The campaign increases awareness of the need to protect, conserve and restore the nation's aquatic resources by encouraging participation in recreational boating and fishing.

Military bases interested in receiving rods and reels donations may

contact Tim Guilfoile, Deputy Director, Sierra Club Water Sentinels, directly at [tim.guilfoile@sierraclub.org](mailto:tim.guilfoile@sierraclub.org). The request should include the number of rods and reels needed and details regarding how the equipment will be used. Shipping address and contact information are also required.

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## WATER

*Continued from Page 17*

1950s and 2007 – a rate that increased to an average of 7 cubic kilometers of water between 1987 and 2007.

For the southern high plains in particular, if consumption continues into the future as it did between 1997 and 2007, the aquifer there will be unable to support irrigation for about 35 percent of the region within the next 30 years, the researchers estimate.

In the high plains, where the aquifer spans several states, individual water districts in each state may have different approaches to management, notes Ken

Rainwater, director of the Water Resources Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Some districts have set up mandatory conservation schemes; others take voluntary guidelines.

These agencies are straddling the divide between private ownership of land, and by extension the water under it, and a growing need to manage what often turns out to be a shared resource.

Dr. Christian-Smith cites the Central Valley's King Basin as an example. The first step in any management system is to gather information on water depletion and map the aquifer's distribution. When the agency did, it found that the aquifer was connected to another aquifer that the city of Fresno draws on for some of its

water. The city's drawdown was pulling water away from farmlands elsewhere in the basin.

For the high plains, efforts may depend on how willing landowners are to cede decisions to an outside regulatory agency.

Just as with oil producers do with petroleum, landowners growing irrigated crops can get a tax break from the federal government to help offset the effect lower groundwater levels have on their property value, Dr. Rainwater explains.

If multi-state compacts, similar to those governing some surface waters, are to emerge, these are some of the issues with which the compact's architects will have to grapple.

# Federal agencies sued over failure to disclose correspondence with wind industry

Promise of government transparency not being met

In a lawsuit filed June 26 in Washington D.C. District Court, the American Bird Conservancy has accused the federal government of suppressing information about wind energy projects and their potential negative impact on America's wildlife. ABC is being represented in the suit by the Washington D.C. public-interest law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal.

ABC charges that two Interior Department (DOI) agencies flagrantly violated the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by failing to comply with statutory deadlines for disclosure of information, and by failing to provide their correspondence with wind developers and other information related to potential impacts on birds and bats, and bird and bat deaths at controversial wind developments in 10 states.

"It's ridiculous that Americans have to sue in order to find out what their government is saying to wind com-

panies about our wildlife—a public trust," said Kelly Fuller, Wind Campaign Coordinator for ABC. "ABC is concerned that many of these projects have the potential to take a devastating toll on songbirds, majestic eagles, and threatened and endangered species," she added.

Many organizations are concerned about the U.S. government's management of wind energy's impacts on wildlife. In May 2012, ABC and 60 other organizations asked committees in the U.S. House and Senate for Congressional oversight of FWS's implementation of new voluntary guidelines for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating the impacts of wind energy on wildlife. Ninety-one organizations endorsed an extensive rulemaking petition submitted by ABC requesting that FWS establish mandatory wildlife protection regulations in lieu of the voluntary approach favored by the industry.

ABC's FOIA requests were in regard to proposed and existing wind energy developments in Arizona, California, Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas. Birds that could potentially be harmed include Bald and Golden Eagles, as well as birds that have been federally designated as threatened and endangered, such as Whooping Cranes, Northern Aplomado Falcons, Least Terns, Piping Plovers, Marbled Murrelets, Snail Kites, Wood Storks, and Northern Crested Caracaras. Other birds that could potentially be harmed include night-migrating songbirds, birds of prey, and candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act such as Greater Sage-Grouse and Sprague's Pipit.

To read the complete article regarding this lawsuit, go to the KWF website, [www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org), and look under News.

## NSSF suggests 9 ways to maintain your hunting traditions

At this time of year, millions of Americans feel the tug to participate in what they consider the ultimate interaction with the natural world--hunting. For many hunters, it's a time for sharing long-established traditions with family members and friends.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and target shooting industry, notes that hunting seasons will be open for small game, big game and bird hunting across the nation over the next several months. Those who are successful in their hunts will stock their freezers with nutritious, locally obtained meat. Many also will share their bounty with food pantries to provide meals to the less fortunate.

With the list below, NSSF offers a reminder of how to maintain your hunting traditions and, for newcomers and inactive hunters, how to establish or re-

establish them this hunting season.

- Go hunting! It's sounds simple, but the activity itself, whether you successfully take game or not, is a senses-heightening, fulfilling experience.

- Share your hunting experience with friends and family members--whether afield, in hunting camp or by introducing a newcomer to hunting at, for example, a gamebird preserve, or by being a mentored for an apprentice hunter.

- Share a game meal at your table. This is one of hunters' oldest and most favorite traditions, made sumptuous because the harvest and hunt coincide at this time of year. Today many people are making an effort to use sustainable, locally acquired foods--something hunters have practiced for a long, long time.

- Tell your hunting stories. Write them down. Take photographs and videos. Share your stories on social media or with an online photo album. Such re-

cords help keep your traditions alive.

- Continue to use the ammunition of your choice--traditional (containing lead components) or alternatives that use steel, copper or other metals. Understand that some extreme groups want to ban traditional ammunition but that science does not support such a drastic measure. Also, remind fellow hunters that eating game taken with traditional ammunition does not pose a health risk, as confirmed by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study.

- Remind others that wildlife conservation is funded through the sale of hunting licenses and excise taxes paid on firearms and ammunition, a tax that hunters supported and Congress approved in 1937. Through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act), \$6.8 bil-

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*Continued on Page 23*

# ABC says rule change will lead to more dead eagles

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has charged that the eagle rule change proposed April 12 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will result in more eagles being killed at wind energy projects.

“ABC supports wind power when it is bird-smart, but this proposed rule change will lead to more dead eagles, more costly lawsuits, and more Americans who will wonder why the wind industry keeps getting a free pass to kill some of our nation’s most iconic birds,” said Kelly Fuller, ABC’s Wind Campaign Coordinator.

Currently, wind energy companies and other businesses can apply to FWS for permit that allows them to kill limited numbers of eagles as part of their normal operations if they also commit to a series of compensatory actions to offset this damage. These “programmatic incidental take permits” granted under

the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act must be renewed every five years. However, at the request of the wind energy industry, FWS has now proposed making the permits good for 30 years.

“It is simply irresponsible of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to propose granting 30-year take permits for birds such as eagles, which have populations that are still in a precarious state. Just three years ago, the FWS concluded in unpublished rulemaking that they shouldn’t grant permits for longer than five years “because factors may change over a longer period of time such that a take authorized much earlier would later be incompatible with the preservation of the bald eagle or the golden eagle.” The underlying science has not changed, and there is no proven method for fixing a wind farm so that it no longer kills eagles, short of turning off the turbines,” said Fuller.

“FWS says that it has relatively little information about the impacts of wind energy on eagles, and yet, here they are proposing to extend the permit time for wind companies to kill them from five to 30 years, without having done the requisite environmental impact studies on the species. Conversely, FWS has provided pages of analysis of the potential financial impacts on industry by granting them three decades worth of legal cover to kill eagles,” Fuller said.

“This proposed rule is yet another example of the Interior Department’s misplaced priority in promoting one energy production method at the avoidable expense of our nation’s birds, bats, and other wildlife. We hope the American public loudly protests this move to give irresponsible wind developers a free pass to kill two of our most inspiring birds - Bald and Golden Eagles.” Fuller said.

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## LAND

*Continued from Page 13*

of furthering the outdoor traditions that both he and his father enjoyed.

For more information on Pheasants Forever’s Grassroots Conservation Campaign and how Pheasants Forever can help you leave your legacy, please contact Jordan Martincich at (816) 560-1070 or Email Jordan at [jmartincich@ph](mailto:jmartincich@pheasantsforever.org)

[easantsforever.org](mailto:jmartincich@pheasantsforever.org). For all other inquiries, please contact Rehan Nana, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever Public Relations Specialist at (651) 209-4973 or Email Rehan at [mana@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:mana@pheasantsforever.org).



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# Yamaha outdoors tip: Off-season preparation for deer

By **Bob Humphrey**

Turkey season is over and deer seasons are three or four months away. What better time to start preparing your stands for the fall. You can make minor disturbances and even major perturbations without negatively impacting your hunting. In fact, you'll only make it better.

## Existing Stands

Let's start with existing stands and stand locations. Remember that low-hanging branch that blocked your shot last fall, or that pile of dead branches you had to walk through trying to sneak to your stand? Get rid of them. A lot could have changed over the winter too. Don't wait until a week or two before season to find out your stand tree was struck by lightning.

- Trim out shooting lanes - Branches fall and saplings grow into shooting lanes. Clear them out so there won't be anything that might interfere with your shot.

- Inspect your stands - Check all straps and fasteners to ensure they're snug, but not too snug. Nuts, bolts and screws can come loose and make noise, or represent a safety hazard. Tighten them up. Check ratchet straps for wear, then loosen and re-tighten. Trees grow and if straps become too tight they will

break. Also, squirrels like to chew on them, as well as seat cushions and shooting rests. Inspect and replace if necessary.

- Inspect Locks - If your stands are locked, open, lubricate and re-lock them. Locks can become rusted or corroded eventually becoming non-functioning, which can be a real pain if and when you decide to remove that stand.

## New Stands

Now it's time to move on to new stands. Remember that smokin' hot spot you found last fall, the one you noted in your hunting log and marked as a waypoint on your GPS? Okay, so maybe you're not that meticulous. But I'll bet you found one or two locations you thought would make good stand sights. And I'll bet you can find them again, especially now that you have some extra time.

Here again, you can do whatever is necessary to trim branches and clear shooting lanes without worrying too much that it will disturb deer in the area. It will initially, but they'll become adjusted to the changes long before hunting season. Try to minimize disturbance, and make sure you don't cut any rubs or branches that overhang scrapes.

Another nice thing about doing this now is that you can load all your gear in or on an ATV or Side-by-Side vehicle

and drive right to the stand location. It may not be a big deal with a simple loc-on or a climber, but try strapping a two-man ladder stand on your back and carrying it a quarter mile into the woods.

## Land Management

In addition to the passive mode of finding hotspots, you can take a more direct and active approach by creating them.

- Create Openings - Opening the canopy allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor, which means more natural deer food. It also creates more thick cover that deer prefer. And this can include the next tip . . .

- Release Mast Trees - Thin around apple or oak trees, persimmon bushes or any other hard or soft mast-producing trees. By removing or reducing the competition for sunlight and soil nutrients you can increase mast production immensely.

- Plant - If you don't have mast trees, plant some. You can also put in small hidey-hole food plots, or plant woods roads and skid roads with clover.

All of these require bringing equipment into the woods. Again, you can use your ATV or Side-by-Side vehicle now without concern over too much disturbance. You wouldn't and shouldn't be driving in to your stands three or four from now.

## What is Congress drinking on Capital Hill? Not tap water!

The House of Representatives continues its assault on clean water, trying desperately to secure the title of worst environmental Congress in our nation's history. The most recent dirty water notch in their collective belts came when they voted 152-267 to defeat Congressman Moran's Clean Water Amendment to the Energy and Water 2012 Appropria-

tions Bill.

On June 7 they continued their dirty water roll, when the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee held a markup on H.R. 4965, legislation that would weaken the ability of the Administration to protect our nation's waters.

This obsession by the House of Representatives with weakening pro-

tections for our nation's waterways and drinking water supplies makes one wonder, what are they drinking on Capitol Hill? Ironically we know it is not tap water since expensive bottled water is brought in for hearings and events, because of concern about contamination.

As Marie Antoinette might have said, "Let them drink bottled water!"

# Studies show outdoor cats are popular prey for coyotes

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) advises that as coyotes continue to move into and around large cities such as New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., Detroit, Los Angeles, and others, owners of cats should think twice before letting their pet roam free outdoors. Studies show that outdoor cats make up 13-45 percent of coyote diets in those environments.

A study just published in the spring edition of *The Wildlife Professional*, focuses on the urban coyote reality and references sightings of the carnivore in Central Park and Manhattan. While coyote attacks on humans are rare, the study says that when human attacks have occurred, "...there is a correlation between high percentages of anthropogenic food sources – such as dog food, trash, and domestic cats." It states further that reducing such incidents might require removing all exterior food sources, including cats.

According to one widely-cited scientific study on cat mortality from coyotes, *Observations of Coyote-Cat Interactions* by Shannon Grubbs of the University of Arizona and Paul Krausman of the University of Montana, coyotes regularly feed on cats. This study was published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, and chronicles researchers tracking coyotes in Tucson, Arizona, where 36 coyote-cat interactions were observed of which 19

resulted in coyotes killing cats.

Other studies have found that approximately 13% of a coyote's diet consists of cats. However, in the Grubbs-Krausman study, of the 45 instances where coyotes were observed feeding, 42% of the meals were cats. The researchers concluded that any cat outside is vulnerable to coyote attack, and recommended that cat owners keep their cats indoors.

This finding raises questions about Trap, Neuter, Release programs (TNR), where feral cats are caught, neutered, and then released back into the wild. ABC has consistently raised concerns about TNR programs because these cats kill hundreds of millions of birds each year, and also because TNR programs do not provide a humane solution for the cats themselves.

"Well-meaning but misguided cat lovers are creating unsafe conditions for domestic cats by releasing them back into areas where they may become prey for coyotes and other predators," said Darin Schroeder, ABC's Vice President of Conservation Advocacy. "Owners who let their pet cat out into their neighborhoods may be unknowingly ringing the dinner bell to unseen coyotes. We urge states, cities, and communities to reject this inhumane approach to the feral cat problem and instead, require responsible care of pets and the removal of feral cats from the wild."

Despite this risk of predation, TNR has been adopted in areas with large coyote populations. Arizona's Maricopa County, which is the fourth largest county in the country with nearly four million people, has adopted TNR.

"County officials are wrong when they say TNR is an effective and humane solution," said Schroeder. "The truth is that studies repeatedly shows that in almost all cases, TNR fails to eliminate cat colonies because not all the cats can be caught, and because people see these colonies as places they can dump their unwanted and usually un-neutered cat. The reality is that TNR perpetuates many of the problems caused by feral cats, including risks to human and health, public nuisance, and the predation of birds and other wildlife. Feral and free-roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of our nation's birds each year, putting additional pressure on the populations of many species that are in decline."

American Bird Conservancy has produced a short film, "Trap, Neuter, and Release: Bad for Cats, Disaster for Birds," which reveals how Trap, Neuter, and Release is failing to substantially reduce cat numbers despite advocates' claims, and is contributing to the deaths of an estimated 500 million birds each year. In addition, cats have been responsible for the extinction of an estimated 33 species of birds.

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## TRADITIONS

*Continued from Page 20*

lion has been collected for conservation. Another good post-hunt conversation can be about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, one tenant of which is that wildlife is held in public trust for the citizenry.

- Use the firearm of your choice as long as it meets your state's hunting regulations. These days more hunters, particularly younger hunters, are using modern sporting rifles --rifles based on the AR platform. If you prefer a wood-stocked, bolt-action rifle, that's under-

standable, but NSSF encourages you to support the choice of firearm made by others. Modern sporting rifles may not look like "Old Betsy," but after many hunting seasons, such firearms will carry the same meaning for someone as the "Old Betsy" that was passed on to you.

- Set an example for ethical behavior. Before hunting, review your state's hunting regulations; during your hunt, practice good sportsmanship. The public overwhelmingly supports hunting, but unsportsmanlike behavior by even a few hunters can tarnish the reputation of hunting in general.

- Practice safety in the field, when traveling with firearms and when storing

them at home. Practice the four firearm safety rules: Treat every gun as if it were loaded. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to take your shot. Know your target and what lies beyond it.

You may have other traditions to honor. We hope so.

NSSF offers a number of resources for hunters, including the websites [www.huntandshoot.org](http://www.huntandshoot.org) and [www.wingshoot-ingusa.org](http://www.wingshoot-ingusa.org) and video and literature titles covering firearm safety, hunter ethics and the hunter's role in conservation that can be viewed at [www.nssf.org/hunting](http://www.nssf.org/hunting) and [www.nssf.org/safety](http://www.nssf.org/safety).

**Kansas Wildlife Federation**  
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## **The Kansas Wildlife Federation is Working to Preserve a Way of Life for Kansas!**

*Conservation of the state's natural resources means . . .*

- Public awareness of our state's wonderfully diverse advantages and a determination to keep and improve them for wise use now and in future years.
- Proper safeguards—within the bounds of wise use—for the state's soil, water, forests and wildlife, to assure proper balance, use and advancement of our state's entire economy!

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- \* **Basic Membership:** As a Basic member, for \$30 you'll receive 6 issues of the KWF newsletter packed with the latest information on wildlife resources, events and issues around the state. You also have voting privileges at the KWF Annual Meeting.
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- \* **Kansan:** For an annual fee of \$150, you receive all the benefits listed above plus a copy of the book *Kansas Wildlife*.

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