



## *The Voice of Outdoor Kansas*

January-  
February 2012

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

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Go to our Web site,  
[www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org),  
for additional KWF information

## **Fish and Wildlife Management: Where the money comes from**

75th anniversary of landmark legislation  
that brought wildlife back from the brink

Hunters and anglers pay for wildlife management in Kansas. If you've heard that before, you were probably talking to an employee of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP). There is a popular myth, probably because KDWP is a state agency, that general taxes pay for its programs. Actually, State General Funds make up less than 7 percent of the agency's budget, and that money is dedicated to state park programs and administration. The bulk of KDWP's budget is derived from the sale of licenses and permits, and the rest of the budget used for wildlife and fisheries management comes from federal funding — a self-imposed excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment lobbied for by hunters and anglers themselves.

This funding can be traced back to the beginning of modern wildlife management. In 1900, wildlife populations in the U.S. were dwindling to dangerously low numbers, and some

species were near extinction. Wildlife management, while desired, wasn't funded by Congress or the states. And even though there were Kansas laws on the books designed to protect game populations, there wasn't funding to pay for enforcement.

In the 1930s, hunters and the hunting and shooting industry urged Congress to act before it was too late for many wildlife species. Congress acted by extending the life of a 10 percent tax on ammunition and firearms used for sport hunting and earmarked the funds to be distributed to the states for wildlife restoration. On Sept. 2, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, now called the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (P-R) after its principal sponsors, Sen. Key Pittman of Nevada and Rep. A. Willis Robertson of Virginia.

The money has been distributed to

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**Protecting the Land...  
Passing on Our Traditions**

**KANSAS WILDLIFE  
FEDERATION**  
*The voice of outdoor Kansas*



# KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

## Officers and Board of Directors

**Kansas Wildlife Federation, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 771282  
Wichita, KS 67277-1282  
Business: 316-648-8827  
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**The Kansas Wildlife Federation promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters and anglers. KWF supports the sustainable use and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats through education, partnerships, outreach and policy oversight.**

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### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Please send your mailing label and new address, clearly printed. Allow 2 to 6 weeks for the change to be made. Send to:  
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Newsletter  
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# 2012 KWF Annual Meeting set

The Kansas Wildlife Federation's 2012 Annual Meeting is set for Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25, at the Quality Inn at 2110 W. Crawford Street in Salina. The 2011 Conservation Achievement Program (CAP) awards banquet will be held Saturday night at the same location.

Friday night we will convene a meeting to review pending Kansas legislation dealing with wildlife issues and discuss any resolutions to

be brought before the membership at the meeting Saturday morning. Come participate in this important process.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the special rate of \$65 per night and will be held until February 10. Call the Quality Inn at 785-825-2111 to make reservations. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Kansas Wildlife Federation to receive the special room rate. Call soon before the rooms run out.

See you in Salina.

## 2012 Annual Meeting Registration Form

Yes – I am registering for the KWF Annual Meeting to be held February 24 & 25 at the Quality Inn at 2110 W. Crawford Street in Salina.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Meeting Registration (includes Lunch): \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 (before 2-17-12)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 (after 2-17-12)

Conservation Achievement Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 (before 2-17-12)  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 (after 2-17-12)

Total Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring an item to be auctioned for KWF's education programs.  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Kansas Wildlife Federation**

## **MAIL TO:**

**KWF Annual Meeting  
Kansas Wildlife Federation  
P. O. Box 771282  
Wichita, KS 67277-1282**

# New Year, new licenses

2011 licenses expire Dec. 31, some changes for 2012

Ready or not, here comes 2012, and saying goodbye to 2011 means saying goodbye to last year's park permits and hunting and fishing licenses, which expired Dec. 31. It's easy to forget about buying new licenses because the holidays are so busy, but it's never been easier or more convenient to purchase your new licenses and permits. Most licenses and park permits are sold at more than 200 vendors across the state, including all Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) offices, and licenses and permits can be purchased online from the convenience of home with your computer and printer.

While deer permits purchased in 2011 remain valid through the January seasons, hunters will need a 2012 hunting license before venturing out in January. Fishing licenses, trout stamps and third pole permits

also expire Dec. 31, and it's a good idea to buy all your licenses at once so you're ready when an outdoor opportunity comes along.

Annual Kansas State Parks Vehicle Permits expire Dec. 31 and the off-season prices are available through the end of March. Park goers who buy now can save 20 percent on the cost of an Annual Vehicle Permit. However, the KDWP Commission approved a recommendation to eliminate the Annual Second Vehicle Permit, which was available at a reduced cost. Other Commission action aimed at maintaining state parks services included increasing overnight camping fees \$1 per utility.

More information about license and permit fees is only a click away at [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us). Make a list and get all your 2012 licenses and permits so you can ring in the New Year outdoors.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

- Jan. 14** Kansas Wildlife Federation BOD Mtg. Wichita  
**Jan. 21** Managing Drought Risk on the Ranch, Emporia [www.kansaruralcenter.org](http://www.kansaruralcenter.org)  
**Jan. 26-27** Kansas Natural Resources Conference — combined meeting — Airport Hilton, Wichita  
**Jan. 27-29** Monster Buck Classic, Topeka  
**Feb. 16** Comanche Pool Grassland Management for Wildlife Seminar, Wilmore [www.kglc.org](http://www.kglc.org)  
**Feb 16-19** Wichita Sport, Boat and Travel Show Wichita  
**Feb. 17-19** Pheasant's Forever 2012 National Convention Kansas City, MO  
**Feb. 23** Comanche Pool Adaptive Management Workshop, Coldwater [www.kglc.org](http://www.kglc.org)  
**Feb 24-25** Kansas Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting Quality Inn, Salina  
**March 3-4** Flint Hills Mall Hunting & Fishing Expo, Emporia  
**March 10-11** 3rd Annual Kansas Hunting & Fishing Expo, Emporia  
**March 19-23** Spring Break for KS Regents Schools  
**April 1-4** Playa Symposium, Lubbock, TX  
**April 27-29** Kansas Birding Festival, Wakefield  
**June 9** Symphony in the Flint Hills, Place TBA  
**June 23** Great American Backyard Campout

## KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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## KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

### Officers and Board of Directors

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## A call for 2012 resolutions

Resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the Kansas Wildlife Federation are an opportunity for the membership to guide the future direction of the Federation's activities. The following is an example of a previous KWF resolution you can use as a guide to develop your proposed resolution. Utilize a Whereas to explain the facts involved in the resolution. The Resolves are used to state actions called for by the resolution.

If you have an issue you would like to see addressed by KWF mem-

bers at the 2012 Annual Meeting February 25 in Salina, please send the proposed resolution to KWF by February 8, 2012 at KWF Resolutions P.O. Box 771282 Wichita, KS 67277-1282 or e-mail it to [info@kswildlife.org](mailto:info@kswildlife.org).

The proposed resolution will be reviewed Friday night, February 24, and presented to the membership for adoption at the annual meeting. If you have any questions regarding the process, contact Steve Sorensen, Conservation Vice President, at 316-214-3001.

## Supporting water quality protection of Kansas streams

Whereas, the mission and policy of the State of Kansas is to protect the environment for existing and future generations of Kansans along with the wildlife resources of our rivers; and,

Whereas, it is the purpose of the Kansas Wildlife Federation to support sound conservation measures in support of the same purposes; and,

Whereas, clean water is a precious resource in short supply in Kansas which without adequate protection will limit economic growth; and,

Whereas, current legislation is designed to dismantle water quality protection criteria in Kansas and will do great harm to the maintenance of healthy stream systems for wildlife and people by requiring adequate water quality standards on only the largest of our Kansas rivers; and,

Whereas, current legislation will result in a bypass of any public involvement in the water quality criteria setting process, violating provisions of the Clean Water Act and lead to extensive litigation and loss of state authority over water quality protection in Kansas; and,

Whereas, current legislation requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to assess the social, economic, and regulatory impacts of each stream prior to classi-

fication which is beyond their capabilities and will subject all streams to a state of no classification if this legislation is passed; and,

Whereas, requirements of any legislation that only endangered species considerations are relevant for streams that don't meet the 7Q10 flow criteria do not address the significant sport fish and wildlife use and needs of our streams and rivers.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting on Feb. 17, 2001, in Salina, Kansas, opposes any legislation which reduces water quality protection for Kansas streams; and,

Be It Further Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation urges the State Legislature and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to uphold the water quality standards of Kansas and provide protection of rivers and lakes from degrading pollution so as to prevent any necessity of the Environmental Protection Agency from assuming regulatory authority over Kansas's water quality enforcement; and,

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be supplied to the Governor, appropriate state agencies, and key members of the Kansas Legislature.

# Great fishing predicted for 2012

KDWPT biologists use data to predict fishing prospects, stocking needs

"Statewide, I think we're looking at a very good year for anglers in 2012," says Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). What leads Nygren to this conclusion? The results of fish biologists' 2011 fall fish sampling.

To monitor the health of fisheries and help anglers find the best places to fish, KDWPT's 16 district fisheries biologists spend the fall sampling Kansas lakes. In addition, the agency raises and stocks millions of fish throughout the state annually, providing anglers abundant opportunities to catch a wide variety of species. Sampling lakes is the best way to determine population health and stocking needs, and fall is the best time to sample fish because it's the end of the growing season.

Although biologists can't sample every lake in the state every year, periodic sampling results are assembled to show trends and multi-year averages for some lakes. This information is compiled into

the KDWPT Fishing Forecast, available on the agency's website ([www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us)) in January and published in the March/April issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine. The forecast is a valuable tool that can help anglers decide where to fish. Biologists also use sample and creel survey data to help them make stocking requests and length and creel limit recommendations for the 26 reservoirs, 40 state fishing lakes, and 230 community lakes the monitor and manage.

In the meantime, Nygren gives a brief preview of what anglers can expect:

"Our crappie populations look really good," he says, "some of the best in years because of a resurgence of water levels in several reservoirs that flooded woody vegetation and created excellent fish habitat." According to Nygren, fall fish sampling data indicates that a number of reservoirs will provide fine crappie fishing in 2012, including Lovewell, Hillsdale, Melvern, Big Hill,

Perry, Elk City, Tuttle Creek, Milford, and Clinton.

"Next year should be one of our better years for largemouth bass, too," Nygren adds. "Wilson, Sebelius, LaCygne, Webster, Perry, Hillsdale, and Big Hill reservoirs should all provide plenty of largemouth action."

For those who prefer bigger fish, Nygren says this outlook is good, as well. "It's going to be an outstanding year for wipers. Sebelius, Marion, Cheney, and Clinton will likely be our best reservoirs.

"But it's not just these three species. Walleye fishing should be better than most years, especially in Webster, Kirwin, Glen Elder, Milford, and Cedar Bluff reservoirs."

Nygren adds that outstanding fishing can also be found in the smaller state fishing lakes and community lakes. Two relatively new lakes — Critzer Reservoir, near Mound City, and Horsethief

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## 2012 fishing regulations summary available

Latest rules; how, where and what to fish for; new bait fish rules included

Printed copies of the 2012 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary booklet are now available, according to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). Among other things, the publication lists new regulations that take effect Jan. 1, 2012. From new regulations regarding bait fish to new lakes and ice fishing regulations, the booklet has everything the angler needs to begin the New Year right.

The following information details Kansas fishing regulation changes for 2012:

### **ANS-designated Waters**

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) waters are defined as waters containing the prohibited species Asian carp, white perch, and/or zebra mussels. Fish may not be transported alive

from ANS-designated waters.

### **Bait**

Wild-caught bait fish shall only be used on the body of water where taken. If taken on a flowing stream or river, wild-caught bait fish shall not be transported upstream across any dam or natural barrier.

### **New Lakes**

Critzer Reservoir, near Mound City, was opened to fishing last spring. And ponds on the Grand Osage Wildlife Area, near Parsons, may be opened for fishing in 2012.

### **Transporting Fish/Bilges and Livewells**

Stocking or releasing of wildlife on navigable publicly-owned rivers and federal reservoirs and department lands and waters is prohibited.

Livewells and bilges must be

drained and drain plugs removed from all vessels prior to transport on a public highway.

No person may possess any live fish upon departure from any designated aquatic nuisance body of water.

### **Trout**

Opening day of trout season for 2012 will be Nov. 1. Colby Villa High Lake has been added to the Type 1 list of waters stocked with trout.

### **Ice Fishing**

Motorized electric or gasoline-powered two-wheeled vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, work-site utility vehicles, golf carts, and snowmobiles may be operated on ice-covered department waters only for the purpose of ice fishing from one-half

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# Hunters donate 11 million venison meals

In 2010, Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (KSHFH) helped collect 1,108 donated deer, plus other meat, providing nearly 225,000 meals to the needy. KSHFH has been doing this for years, but they're not alone. A new study commissioned by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and conducted by Mile Creek Communications reveals that last year, 11 million meals were provided to the less fortunate through donations of venison by hunters throughout the U.S. Nearly 2.8 million pounds of game meat made its way to shelters, food banks, and church kitchens and onto the plates of those in need.

The study revealed that donations were largest in the Midwest and the South. The Midwest provided 1.3 million pounds of game meat, amounting to 46.1 percent of total donations, with the South close behind at 1.25 million pounds and 45.7 percent. The Northeast contributed 7.2 percent of total donations and the West 1 percent. Though lower than other regions, the West's contribution still accounted for 108,520 meals.

Ground venison is a versatile food, with cooks using it in pasta sauces, chili, tacos, meatloaf, burgers, and other dishes. Individual hunters donate game meat and even pay for process-

ing, though many hunters choose to work through organizations such as KSHFH.

The organization invites anyone to donate legally-harvested deer or elk to participating meat processors. There is no cost to donate deer or elk as long as the KSHFH organization has sufficient funding to cover the processing expense. Donated game must be field dressed and legally tagged. Hunters may also donate a portion of the meat they have processed to a participating processor. For more information and to find participating meat lockers, visit the KSHFH website, [www.kshfh.org](http://www.kshfh.org).

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## PREDICTIONS

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Reservoir, near Jetmore — are just beginning to mature and will offer some great fishing.

In May, fisheries biologists may use electroshocking for bass, which temporarily stuns the fish, so they can be counted and then released. In October and November, gill-nets and trap nets are used to sample all sportfish. The nets are pulled onto a boat and the fish removed. Biologists then count, weigh, and measure each fish and record this

information, taking care to get the fish back in the water quickly. Netting results are recorded on waterproof paper or a laptop computer.

With a laptop, biologists can enter data on the water, then enter it directly into the department's Aquatic Data Analysis System (ADAS) when they get back to the office, eliminating paperwork. ADAS also allows biologists to enter paper-recorded testing data into the system through a desktop computer. They can then compare results with past years' data, which lets them know the population dynamics of the lake tested and make management decisions, from stocking plans to length and creel limits.

Biologists also use Fisheries Analysis and Simulation Tools (FAST) software program, developed in conjunction with 20 other states. This computer application allows the field biologist to use data from the ADAS system and separate age and growth testing to predict what would happen if certain length or creel limits were imposed on a given lake. Tools such as this allow biologists to better manage fish populations and enhance angling opportunities.

Now that sampling is complete, anglers across Kansas can look forward to the 2012 Kansas Fishing Forecast, which will be available on the KDWPT website early in the new year.

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## RULES

*Continued from Page 5*

hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. These vehicles shall enter onto the ice only from boat ramps and points of entry as established by posted notice.

The 2012 booklet also features state park and cabin information and detailed regulations for each body of water managed by KDWPT.

In addition, a full-color fish identification guide lists all the state's sportfish, complete with text descriptions and detailed illustrations

by renowned fish illustrator Joseph Tomelleri. Look-alike species are grouped together with complementary text to help the angler discern the difference between such closely-related species as white bass and wipers; blue catfish and channel catfish; the state's three black basses; black and white crappie; and pallid, shovelnose, and lake sturgeon.

The booklet also provides the latest information about aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in Kansas waters, including a listing of ANS-designated waters by county. Three pages are dedicated to this subject, complete with detailed illustrations and tips on how to prevent the spread of ANS

plants, mollusks, and fish.

Anglers who want to contact a district fisheries biologist will find a listing of names and phone numbers of the nearest biologist, as well as regional supervisors. A listing of natural resource officer contacts is also included.

For more information, contact the nearest KDWPT office or pick up a copy of the 2012 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary wherever licenses are sold. Copies may also be downloaded from the KDWPT website, [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us), in early January. Click the "Fishing" icon at the top of the page, then "Fishing Regulations" in the left-hand column.

# KWF offers Remington Model 870 shotgun

The Kansas Wildlife Federation is offering a Remington Model 870 Youth Express 20 gauge pump shotgun. This shotgun is ideally suited for the youth and ladies.

We are offering chances to win the

rifle at \$1 per ticket, 6 for \$5 or 25 for \$20. Funds generated go to support KWF's youth education efforts, including the Outdoor Adventure Camp.

The drawing will be held at the

KWF Annual Meeting in Salina on Feb. 25. Fill out the tickets below and help us expand our youth education efforts. Mail the tickets to KWF P.O. Box 771282 Wichita, KS 67277-1282.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Telephone _____	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Telephone _____	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Telephone _____
Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Telephone _____	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Telephone _____	Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

## 2011 Kansas State ECO-Meet brings heavy competition

Twenty-six teams, 101 students, 20 high schools display conservation knowledge

On Nov. 3, the 13th Annual State Finals ECO-Meet competition was held at Camp Wood YMCA facility near Elmdale. The event was held in the Flint Hills, making for a great day of competition. The event proved to be an exciting, hard-fought contest, with the following results posted:

### Overall Team Competition

**First Place** — Maize High School Team B, Ana Fornoza, Deanna Hazelton, Sann Nguyen, Zac Thiessen, and team coach Jay Super — \$300 student scholarships;

**Second Place** — St. Mary's-Colgan High School of Pittsburg, Hayden Compton, Ben Cortes, Joe Otter, Taylor Thomas, and team coach Donna Maus — \$200 student scholarships; and

**Third Place** — Maize High School Team A, Luke Bartz, Maureen McCafferty, Shannon Nelson, Kris Super, and team coach Jay Super — \$100 student scholarships.

### Individual Events

**Ornithology** — First Place,

Stephen DeHart, Olathe South High School, \$200 scholarship — Second Place, Blake Bradford, Clay Center High School, \$100 scholarship; and

**Woodlands Ecosystem** — First Place, Stephen DeHart, Olathe South High School, \$200 scholarship — Second Place, Shannon Nelson, Maize High School, \$100 scholarship.

Twenty-six teams consisting of 101 students from 20 high schools across the state competed. An additional seven students qualified as individuals from five other schools in the two test events. Nine regional qualifying competitions determined representatives from across the state. Regional locations were Wilson Reservoir in Russell County, the Sternberg Museum in Hays, the Milford Nature Center near Junction City, the Lakewood Discovery Center in Salina, the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, the Dillon Nature Center in Hutchinson, Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, the

Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush, and the Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe. The Kansas ECO-meet committee is considering at least two new locations for 2012 to host regional competitions.

Sponsors of the Kansas ECO-Meet include the Kansas Wildscape Foundation; the Kansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Simpson Farm Enterprises of Ransom, Superior/Essex of Hoisington, Barton Community College of Great Bend, Friends of Milford Nature Center, Mid-America Awards of Salina, Goodwin Sporting Goods of Hays, and the Wildlife Education Service Section of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

To view the results from all regional events and the state competition or for more information about the Kansas ECO-Meet, go online to [www.kansasecommeet.org](http://www.kansasecommeet.org), email Mike Rader at [mike.rader@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:mike.rader@ksoutdoors.com) or phone 620-672-0708.

# Hunting is safer than golf and most other activities (not to mention football, basketball and soccer)

Don't let anyone tell you otherwise: Hunting with firearms is safe; in fact, hunting with firearms is one of the safest recreational activities in America.

With hunting season in full swing across the country, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms industry, has compiled data that shows hunting ranks third in safety when compared to 28 other recreational pursuits, ranging from baseball to wrestling. Hunting with firearms has an injury rate of 0.05 percent, which equates to about 1 injury per 2,000 participants, a safety level bettered only by camping (.01 percent) and billiards (.02 percent). For comparison, golf has an injury rate of 0.16 percent (1 injury per 622 participants), while tackle football topped the list of activities with an injury rate of 5.27 percent (1 injury per 19 participants).

"Many people have the misconception that hunting is unsafe, but the data tells a different story," said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF's director of industry

research and analysis. "Comprehensive hunter education classes that emphasize the basic rules of firearm safety and a culture of hunters helping fellow hunters practice safe firearms handling in the field are responsible for this good record."

To put hunting's safety standing into perspective, compared to hunting a person is . . .

- 11 times more likely to be injured playing volleyball
- 19 times more likely to be injured snowboarding
- 25 times more likely to be injured cheerleading or bicycle riding
- 34 times more likely to be injured playing soccer or skateboarding
- 105 times more likely to be injured playing tackle football.

The number of hunters who went afield last year is estimated at 16.3 million. Of that total, approximately 8,122 sustained injuries, or 50 per 100,000 participants. The vast majority of hunting accidents--more than 6,600--were tree stand-related. Though recent

accurate figures on fatalities related to hunting are not available, statistics from 2002 show 99 fatal hunting accidents.

It's not just in the hunting fields that firearms are being used safely either. The most recent data (2008) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that firearms constitute just 1/2 of 1 percent of all unintentional fatalities in the United States, including those in the home.

The injury data NSSF used to compile this hunter-safety report comes from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System of the Consumer Products Safety Commission 2010 and the International Hunter Education Association's Hunter Incident Clearinghouse. Activity participation figures are from the National Sporting Goods Association Sports Participation in 2010 report.

See NSSF's full Hunting Injury Fact Sheet, go to: <http://www.theoutdoorwire.com/media/Hunting-Safe-Activity-Chart-NSSF-branded.jpg>

## Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission moves to protect Kansas waters

### Wild-caught bait may only be used in waters where caught; other restrictions passed

During a special public hearing Tuesday evening, Dec. 6, Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commissioners acted on regulations governing the use and movement of wild-caught live bait fish and the transport of fish from waters designated as having aquatic nuisance species (ANS) present.

The new regulations change the way Kansas anglers collect and use live bait fish and were approved to curtail the spread of invasive aquatic species—particularly Asian carp, zebra mussels, and white perch—in Kansas lakes and streams. These and other aquatic nuisance species are often spread accidentally by people using the state's lakes and rivers.

The Commission listened to public

comments and considered various options before taking action. Commissioners voted on regulations that will take effect Jan. 1, 2012 and will

- 1) allow anglers to use wild-caught live bait fish only in the pool of a lake or impoundment where taken;
- 2) prohibit anglers from transporting wild-caught bait fish taken from a flowing stream or river across any dam or natural barrier;
- 3) prohibit anglers from transporting any live fish upon departure from any ANS-designated body of water;
- 4) prohibit releasing any fish in department waters (unless the fish was caught from the water into which it is being released), navigable publicly-owned rivers, and federal reservoirs; and

5) require that vessels being removed from all waters of the state have livewells and bilges drained and drain plugs removed before transport on any public highway.

Aquatic nuisance species are animals and plants not native to Kansas that can threaten lake and river ecology, harm native or desirable species, and interfere with the state's economy. Negative impacts on Kansas waters include, but are not limited to, the following:

- diminished food supplies and degraded habitat for other species;
- reduced numbers and variety of desirable fish;

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# KDHE issues revised fish consumption advisories

## Agency evaluates waters annually

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), has issued revised fish consumption advisories for 2012. The advisories identify types of fish or other aquatic animals that should be eaten in limited quantities or, in some cases, avoided altogether because of contamination.

Fish consumption advisories are formulated using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) risk assessment methods. Cancer risk assessment is a method to determine the added increase in cancer levels in a human population if fish in the advisory areas are consumed regularly (one 8-ounce serving per week) over a 70-year period. Assessments that estimate the increased risk of cancer as greater than one in 100,000 persons are regarded as unacceptably high. Risk assessments for contaminants assessed as non-carcinogens (mercury, lead, cadmium) are based on 8-ounce serving sizes for adults and 4-ounce serving sizes for children nine to 18 years old. For further technical information, go online to [water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/techguidance/](http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/techguidance/)

### Water body-specific advisories

KDHE provides the following guidelines:

1. Do not eat bottom-feeding fish (carp, blue catfish, channel catfish, flat-head catfish, freshwater drum, bullheads, sturgeons, buffalos, carpsuckers and other sucker species) taken from the Kansas River from Lawrence (below Bowersock Dam) downstream to Eudora at the confluence of the Wakarusa River (Douglas and Leavenworth counties) because of PCB levels;

2. Avoid eating all forms of aquatic life, including fish, taken from Horseshoe Lake located in units 22 and 23 of the Mined Lands Wildlife Area (Cherokee County) because of perchlorate levels;

3. Do not eat shellfish (mussels, clams, and crayfish) taken from Spring River from the confluence of Center Creek to the Kansas/Oklahoma border (Cherokee County) because of lead and cadmium levels;

4. Do not eat shellfish taken from Shoal Creek from the Missouri/Kansas border to Empire Lake (Cherokee County) because of lead and cadmium levels;

5. Do not eat bottom-feeding fish taken from Cow Creek in Hutchinson and downstream to the confluence with the Arkansas River (Reno County) because of PCB levels; and

6. Do not eat bottom-feeding fish taken from the Arkansas River from the Lincoln Street dam in Wichita downstream to the confluence with Cowskin Creek near Belle Plaine (Sedgwick and Sumner counties) because of PCB levels.

The state recommends restricting consumption of any species of fish from the following locations:

1. Little Arkansas River from the Main Street Bridge immediately west of Valley Center to the confluence with the Arkansas River in Wichita (Sedgwick County). Limit of one 8-ounce serving per month for adults or one 4-ounce serving per month for children for all types of fish because of mercury and PCBs;

2. Blue River from U.S. 69 Highway to the Kansas/Missouri state line (Johnson County). Limit of one 8-ounce serving per week for adults or one 4-ounce serving per week for children for all types of fish because of mercury; and

3. Kansas counties with current fish consumption advisories include Cherokee, Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Reno, Sedgwick, and Sumner.

### General advice for eating locally caught fish in Kansas

1. Women who are pregnant, may become pregnant, or are nursing and parents of children under twelve years of age may wish to consult with their physician about safe levels of fish consumption and mercury exposure. This sensitive group should restrict their total mercury intake as related to both super-market fish and locally-caught species. Kansas recommends that this sensitive group restrict consumption of locally-caught fish, from waters not specifically covered by an advisory, to one 8-ounce meal per week for adults or one 4-ounce meal per week for children.

2. People who regularly consume locally caught fish (more than one meal/week) can reduce their mercury intake by limiting their consumption of large predatory fish such as largemouth bass, walleye, and wiper. Larger/older fish of all types are more likely to have higher concentrations of mercury.

3. Available data comparing contaminant levels in whole fish versus fillets indicate that higher concentrations of PCBs and some other fat soluble contaminants are associated with whole fish. Kansas recommends avoiding the consumption of parts other than fillets, especially when eating bottom feeding fish.

4. Consumers can reduce their ingestion of fat soluble contaminants such as PCBs by eating fillets only, trimming fat from fillets, and cooking in a manner in which fat drips away from the fillet.

5. In water bodies where advisories or warnings related to harmful algae blooms have been applied, fish should be consumed in moderation and care taken to only consume skinless fillets. Avoid cutting into internal organs, and as a precaution rinse fillets with clean water prior to cooking or freezing.

It should be recognized that eating fish is considered an integral part of a healthy and balanced diet. Concerned consumers should educate themselves by seeking further information about the health benefits and risks of eating fish.

Details of monitoring efforts and protocols may be found in the Fish Tissue Contaminant Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Monitoring Plan on the KDHE website at [www.kdheks.gov/environment/qmp/download/FTCMP\\_QAMP.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/environment/qmp/download/FTCMP_QAMP.pdf).

Information on the Kansas Fish Tissue Contaminant Monitoring Program can be found at [www.kdheks.gov/befs/fish\\_tissue\\_monitoring.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/befs/fish_tissue_monitoring.htm). Advisories are also posted on the KDWPT website at [kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/Fishing/Are-My-Fish-Safe-To-Eat](http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/news/Fishing/Are-My-Fish-Safe-To-Eat).

For further information about mercury in fish, national advisories, and advisories in other states, go to the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/advice](http://www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/advice).

# Historic limits on toxic mercury become final

## NWF hails conservation victory championed by EPA administrator

On December 21, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized new air pollution standards that will result in the first-ever national limits on the amount of mercury spewing from the nation's coal-fired power plants. Over 20 years in the making, the new pollution limits on power plants will cut mercury emissions by 91 percent, while also cutting acid gas, arsenic, lead and nickel emissions.

Larry Schweiger, NWF president and CEO: "Our children and grandchildren will inherit a safer world thanks to the leadership of President Obama and Administrator Lisa Jackson. At long last, these prudent and overdue limits on unchecked mercury and toxic air pollution will ensure our fish will be

safe to eat, and our children can breathe easier."

Each year EPA's new air toxic pollution rules will prevent 11,000 premature deaths, 4,700 heart attacks, 130,000 cases of childhood asthma and 6,300 cases of acute bronchitis. It also will prevent mercury exposure to children that can adversely affect their developing brains – including effect on their ability to walk, talk, read and learn.

Mercury poses a massive threat to wildlife. Mercury pollution spewing from power plants settles in lakes and rivers where microscopic organisms convert the inorganic mercury into methylmercury, a toxin that moves up the food chain in fish and then into

other animals when they eat fish.

Every state has issued a fish advisory of some type because of unsafe mercury levels according to the National Wildlife Federation's recent report, "Game Changers." Roughly half of U.S. lakes and reservoirs have mercury amounts exceeding safe levels and nearly all fish and shellfish contain traces of mercury, according to EPA. Over half of human-caused mercury in the U. S. comes from coal-fired plants.

Over 900,000 Americans commented on the proposed rule, the vast majority of whom urged EPA to press ahead with mercury limits, including hundreds of hunting and fishing groups.

For more National Wildlife Federation news visit [www.nwf.org/news](http://www.nwf.org/news).

## Kansas Salutes the Troops

The 2nd Annual Kansas Salutes the Troops (KST) event ([www.KansasSalutesTheTroops](http://www.KansasSalutesTheTroops)), organized by Paralyzed Veterans of America-Outdoor Recreation Heritage Fund (PVA-ORHF) ([www.pva-heritagefund.org](http://www.pva-heritagefund.org)), matched 13 wounded military heroes and 16 corporate sponsors for a weekend of premier pheasant hunting, sporting clays competition and camaraderie at Flint Oak, a five-star resort in southeast Kansas.

The recent, three-day event is part of PVA-ORHF's mission to raise funds to support PVA's Outdoor Sports Programs and to organize outdoor events for America's injured and wounded veterans that help them heal from their wounds, while they rediscover their abilities, build confidence and support networks.

This year's participants included veterans from recent conflicts, who now face daily life with loss of vision, prosthetic limbs, IED/shrapnel and bullet wounds, as well as Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They embraced the shooting venues with enthusiasm, enjoying the outdoor setting, the wonderful facilities at Flint Oak and the chance for some friendly competition.

Sponsor(s) provided quality outdoor and safety equipment, as well as an assortment of welcome gifts given to all

the vets. Winchester Ammunition supplied the ammo for all shooting activities at the 2011 KST outing.

"The Kansas Salutes the Troops event," said Ray Oeltjen, KST Committee member, "is a resounding tribute to our brave men and women in uniform, as evidenced by the comments and reactions of our honored attendees. Their selfless sacrifice has been an inspiration to all involved, as it is everyone's goal to continue making it better and more rewarding every year. It is very humbling and a great honor to be involved."

Participating veterans also proclaimed the event valuable and fun.

"This weekend is a weekend that I will remember for the rest of my life....A weekend where Great Americans gathered for one reason-to live that American Dream that is Freedom. The freedom to live life to the fullest and give thanks for what we have," observed retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant, Christian Curtright of Milford, KS.

LCpl Gerald Shores, USMC (Wichita, KS) said, "This trip was one of the better things I've got to experience since I started having medical issues. The hospitality, the understanding and the support was beyond what I would have imagined. It's just good to see that even though it seems like the world is against

us, it was amazing to find a group of people that genuinely care and share their support."

After a challenging European shoot for pheasants, the event's friendly, sporting clays competition recognized the best shooters with awards of binoculars by Leupold and knives by Benchmade and Puma. The winning teams were:

1st Place: 1st Sgt. Ken Sanchez, US Army (ret) and Jeff Lampe, ORHF Board member

2nd Place: Sgt. Dave Sterling, U.S. Army (ret) and Becky Bowen (Everham Anderson & Assoc., Inc.)

3rd Place: Corporate Sponsors Dustin Deines (Preferred Ag Services, Inc.) and Cecil Campbell (Cecil's Tractors)

Sgt. Sanchez was the 1st Place Individual Winner in the "Warrior" Division and Cecil Campbell took top individual honors in the "Sponsor" category.

Sponsors were also touched by the meaning and impact of the event. "My weekend at the Kansas Salutes the Troops was amazing! I haven't stopped telling everyone I know about it-how inspiring it was, how much good it does, what the organization does for our warriors and selfishly what the weekend did for me. My heart is full." Becky Bowen,

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# Toll-free phone hotline puts poachers on hot seat

1-877-426-3843 makes reporting wildlife crime easy

Each year, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) natural resource officers (NROs) check tens of thousands of hunters in the field, and about 96 percent of them are found to be law-abiding. Unfortunately, many non-hunters sometimes associate these ethical hunters with that small percentage who are not. KDWP has 73 NROs to cover the entire state, so they need the help of hunters — and anyone else who enjoys the outdoors — to watch out for those who don't take wildlife crime seriously. Whether it's trespassing, shooting from a vehicle on the road, any other activity that appears to be a violation of the law, KDWP officers need your help.

The easiest way to fight wildlife crime is by phoning KDWP's Operation Game Thief hotline, 1-877-426-3843. Using this toll-free number, concerned hunters and landowners can quickly turn in wildlife criminals simply by picking up the phone. All calls received through the Operation Game Thief line are immediately relayed to the natural resource officer nearest the violation. The line is available anytime of day or night, every day of the year, and callers may remain anonymous.

Nothing can spoil a good hunt more than poachers, who should not be considered "hunters." Although



they may seldom describe themselves as poachers, wildlife thieves are just that. These are the people who trespass, road hunt, litter, take more than their bag limit, drink while they hunt, use illegal equipment, take game out of season, take wildlife for which there is no season, or vandalize. Poachers not only damage the natural resources they should be committed to conserving, they reflect poorly on hunters in the eyes of the general public.

Operation Game Thief calls have resulted in arrests and convictions on violations ranging from public lands vandalism to deer poaching. In many cases, poachers have been arrested

within minutes of the call. Even drug operations have been uncovered by alert hunters using this number.

But remember these two important reporting rules:

- never confront suspects; and
- provide as much specific information as possible, such as vehicle descriptions and license tag numbers, descriptions of people involved, locations, and the time and location the incident occurred.

Remember, when you see someone violating wildlife laws, they are stealing from you and damaging the image of legal hunters. Help bring them to justice by phoning 1-877-426-3843.

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## FISH

*Continued from Page 8*

- reduced fishing and other recreational opportunities;
- lowered property values and decreased quality of municipal water sources;
- fouled water lines, clogged intakes, burned out pumps, damaged power generating facilities, and decreased water system efficiency; and
- increased risk of flooding due to overcrowded biomass and clogging of

lake outlets.

Biologists have identified the movement of wild-caught bait fish and water as a significant factor in the spread of these dangerous species. With the passage of these regulations, anglers will be restricted to using wild-caught bait fish caught only from the waters where they are fishing or using live bait fish purchased from certified bait dealers.

Anglers will not be able to transport any live fish from waters listed in the *Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary* (available wherever licenses are sold) as harboring ANS species. And finally, all boaters will be required to remove drain

plugs and drain livewells and bilges before transporting vessels on public highways from waters of the state.

For details on aquatic nuisance species, including the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan, go online to [www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/content/search?SearchText=ans](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/content/search?SearchText=ans).

The Kansas Wildlife Federation commends the Commissioners for their efforts to protect Kansas waters from further spread of invasive aquatic nuisance species. Without these important regulations, ANS expansion would be inevitable.

# Kansas landowner honored with National Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award

Grassland restoration projects, educational efforts garner national attention

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) — the organization that represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies — has honored the Alexander Ranch of Barber County with the 2011 National Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award. The award recognizes an individual- or family-run farm, ranch, or forest operation that has incorporated proactive conservation and environmental protection measures into its operation. The Alexander Ranch is owned and operated by Ted, Brian, and Mona Alexander.

The Alexander Ranch became eligible for the national award by winning the 2011 Kansas Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award. The national award program receives one nomination from each of the 56 states and territories represented by AFWA.

Ted Alexander was the recipient of the 2001 Kansas Wildlife Federation Farmer/Rancher of the Year Award under the Conservation Achievement Program.

"The Alexanders' decades of dedication to the improvement of native grasslands in an area once over-grazed and degraded by the encroachment of eastern redcedar deserves statewide recognition," said Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) wildlife biologist Chris Berens, who nominated the Alexander Ranch for the award. "Their management efforts created a diverse grassland that benefits livestock and a wide variety of wildlife species."

The ranch covers more than 7,000 acres and has flourished as a custom grazing operation for the past 27 years. Partnering with several agencies, the Alexanders have leveraged resources to optimize the land's environmental capabilities. Through these partnerships, the ranch operated on a rotational grazing system with three grazing cells, each split into many smaller paddocks, allowing 40-45 days post-grazing recovery time for the grass in each paddock. However, in the past two years, the Alexander

Ranch experimented with a higher stocking rate, higher stock density, and herd impact along with a shorter grazing season — resulting in longer periods of grass recovery — which seems to be a success.

Additionally, a cooperative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and KDWPT was key to many of the accomplishments on the ranch, which is home to several wildlife and aquatic species considered at-risk or in need of conservation. This partnership helped the Alexanders interseed forbs on old cropland acres previously converted to native grass, enhance water developments, restore riparian areas, and expand the grazing system.

The ranch has also entered into a "Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances" with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. This voluntary agreement guarantees to address

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## KDWPT issues free permits and licenses to National Guard members and disabled veterans

Too late for pheasant and quail season, but KDWPT offers refunds

Active members of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard who are Kansas residents may obtain free Kansas hunting and fishing licenses, as well as free state park entrance permits. For those wanting to hunt the opening day of pheasant and quail season, it's too late to obtain one of these permits or licenses, but the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) offers refunds to those guardsmen who buy a license and apply for the free one later.

To receive free National Guard licenses and permits, apply through the KDWPT Pratt Operations Office. Depending on the particular licenses and/or state park permits requested, applicants

will be required to submit appropriate documentation.

For those who do not already have this year's permits or licenses, application forms can be downloaded from the KDWPT website at [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us). Click "Other Services/Publications/Hunting," and then "Application 2011 KS National Guard Hunting, Fishing, and Park Vehicle Permit." The forms must be signed by the National Guard member's unit commander and mailed to KDWPT with photocopies of appropriate documentation. Anyone who has already purchased a license or permit will automatically be reimbursed once their application is completed.

Free hunting and fishing licenses are also offered to all Kansas veterans who have been certified by a physician with at least a 30-percent service-related disability. Disabled veterans who enlisted as regular servicemen can apply for free hunting and fishing licenses (not applicable for park permits). These applications are also available at the above website.

These permits and licenses are paid for from the state general fund and are allocated by the Kansas State Legislature.

As with other KDWPT permits and licenses, 2011 National Guard and disabled veterans licenses expired Dec. 31, 2011. Licenses and permits for 2012 went on sale Dec. 15.

# Permission required to hunt all private land

The Kansas firearm deer season began November 30, and many other hunting seasons are currently open, as well. With this in mind, officials with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) are reminding all hunters that it is illegal to hunt on private land, posted or not, without the owner's permission. Whether someone actually enters private land without permission or shoots onto it from another landowner's property without permission, it is illegal.

Not only is trespassing illegal, but hunting from public roads requires permission of the landowner adjoining the side of the road being hunted, the center of the road defining who should grant permission. Railroad rights-of-way require permission from the railroad. In addition, written permission is required to enter land posted with hunting and/or trapping "By Written Permission Only" signs or bordered by trees or fence posts painted purple.

In any situation, shooting from a vehicle is illegal unless the hunter has a disability permit on land where permission has been granted. Shooting from a road is also extremely dangerous, threatening landowners, other hunters, livestock, and equipment.

According to KDWP's Law Enforcement Division, Kansas convicted 285 poachers for trespassing-related violations in 2010. Whether trespass-

ing is accidental or intentional, it damages the hunting heritage. Because trespassing harms landowner-hunter relations - and because the penalties for trespassing can be severe - hunters should be aware of the following:

- landowner permission should be obtained before pursuing wounded game onto private property. If the landowner cannot be found, contact a local natural resource officer or sheriff's office;

- hunting from roads or railways without legal permission is a form of trespassing called criminal hunting;

- conviction of trespass or criminal hunting may prevent the convicted person from enjoying hunting privileges in other states. KDWP is a member of the Wildlife Violator Compact, to which 34 other states currently belong. Under this compact, anyone who has had hunting, fishing, or furharvesting privileges revoked or suspended in a member state cannot hunt, trap, or fish in other member states;

- conviction of simple criminal hunting can result in a maximum fine of \$500, plus court costs, and one month in jail on the first conviction. Additionally, the court can suspend or revoke license privileges for up to a year. A second conviction requires at least a one-year suspension of privileges in addition to any fines or jail time;

- if big game or turkey hunting is involved, the penalties get stiffer. Upon first conviction, the law states that the violator "shall not be fined less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six months, or both." The law requires fifth and subsequent conviction penalties of a minimum \$1,000 fine and minimum 90 days in jail;

- refusing to leave property when told is a form of criminal trespassing;
- it is illegal to hunt on land requiring written permission without having written permission on one's person;
- in any of these cases, hunting privileges may be revoked; and
- by law, all hunters should have permission whether the land is posted or not.

Hunters can address this problem by always asking for permission courteously and accepting denial in the same manner. Hunters can also help by reporting trespassers. Take down the license tag number and all other details of the violation before phoning a local natural resource officer, sheriff's office, or KDWP's Operation Game Thief toll-free hotline, 1-877-426-3843. Do not confront the violator. A list of phone numbers for all natural resource officers and other KDWP staff, listed by counties they cover, can be found online at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/KDWP-Info/Locations/County-Information](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/KDWP-Info/Locations/County-Information).

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## TROOPS

*Continued from Page 10*

Evernham Anderson & Assoc., Inc. (Leupold sponsor guest.)

Over 50 sponsors donated product, time and/or funds to help make the KST event a rewarding and memorable event. Sponsors included: Division Commanders: MENASHA CORPORATION, CTI, LBP Manufacturing, Keller & Miller CPA's, LLP, Brookover Land Enterprises, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc., Coleman; Battalion Commanders: Crosscreek Investments, LLC, Preferred

Ag Services, Inc., Precision Ag & Seed Services, LLC, Rapak, Leupold & Stevens, Inc., Utility Contractors Inc., Wind River Grain LLC, Shamrock Specialty Packaging, Cecil's Tractors, Inc., The Engle Family Trust, CASE Construction / The Victor L. Phillips Company, Palmer - American Holding, Inc., Grundfos Pumps Corporation, Bema Corporate, Midwest Mailing Services, Savage Arms, Inc.; Company Commanders: Otis Technology, Sojitz Plastics, Extreme Fowl, Inc., Intrust Bank, Shamrock Specialty Packaging, Publishers Dev Corp (Firearms Marketing Group), The Mark & Mary Ann Kaufman Family Fund,

Bema Corporate; Platoon Commanders: Janet Johnson, Amarillo Brokerage Co., Filmtech, Inc., Charter Films, Sportco Marketing Inc., CASE Construction / The Victor L. Phillips Company, Pepsi, M. Holland Company.

The 3rd Annual Kansas Salutes the Troops Event is scheduled for October 5-7, 2012. Companies interested in sponsorships to honor American Military Veterans and help support their rehabilitation and enjoyment of the outdoors and shooting sports can contact Marsha Stumpo. PVA-ORHF, [Marsha@AnglerDevelopment.com](mailto:Marsha@AnglerDevelopment.com); Phone (540) 349-5080.

# Rare minnows restored to Arkansas River

Two rare minnows are once again swimming in the Arkansas River thanks to pioneering research efforts at the John Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility.

Plains minnows (*Hybognathus placitus*) and suckermouth minnows (*Phenacobius mirabilis*) are native species on the Colorado threatened and endangered list. The small minnows were stocked into the Arkansas River above John Martin Reservoir in the vicinity of the Rocky Ford and Oxbow State Wildlife Areas in November. The fish will be monitored annually to determine the success of the stocking effort.

"We've been working on getting them re-established in portions of their native habitat for over a decade but were unable to reproduce them successfully until recently," said Paul Foutz, Southeast Region Native

Aquatic Species Biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Because plains minnows and suckermouth minnows are exceedingly rare, efforts to aid in their recovery were hampered by the fact that very little research was available about the optimal conditions for them to reproduce in a hatchery. Since 2000, the staff at the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility near Alamosa has worked meticulously and persistently to produce viable offspring. Several times they were able to achieve successful reproduction, only to encounter difficulties raising the young fish to maturity.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife hatchery technicians worked in conjunction with fish culturists at Colorado State University and the Albuquerque Aquarium investigating spawning and rearing techniques using methods

similar to those that were successful for another small fish, the silvery minnow.

After a breakthrough in 2010, hatchery staff was able to create the proper conditions and reared approximately 38,000 plains minnow and 4,000 suckermouth minnows in 2011. The fish ranged in size from one to two inches.

As State listed endangered species, re-establishing populations of plains minnow and suckermouth minnow will have no impact on normal agricultural operations.

The original bloodstock of plains minnows came from collections in Kansas on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River in Barber County. The suckermouth minnows are offspring of fish that were collected from the wild in Colorado in areas where small populations existed in the Arkansas River.

## ALEXANDER

*Continued from Page 12*

the conservation needs of a species before they become listed as endangered or threatened by specifying actions that will remove or reduce threats to the species.

"Any number of landowners could have won the National Private Lands Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Award based solely on habitat enhancements

and other stewardship accomplishments on their ranches," said Berens. "However, it's the off-the-ranch activities that make the Alexanders stand out."

One of the most notable is their willingness to share what they have learned throughout the years with other ranchers, either through one-on-one mentoring or through one of the many conservation organizations to which Ted and Brian belong or serve on the boards. Additionally, they have opened their ranch to train-

ing opportunities for public, state, and federal agency staff and have allowed many university students to conduct wildlife research, including the interaction of wildlife and grazing practices.

"The Alexander Ranch is a great example of how excellent ecosystem management can benefit both the producer and Kansas wildlife," Berens added. "Congratulations and many thanks to the Alexander Ranch for their contributions to promoting wise working-land practices in Kansas."

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Please make checks payable to Kansas Wildlife Federation.

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

# Louisiana receives second group of whooping cranes

A second group of juvenile whooping cranes was delivered Dec. 1 to White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA) in Gueydan as part of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) species' restoration project in progress.

"Our biologists will continue their work to establish a non-migratory population of whooping cranes in coastal Louisiana to assist with this endangered species recovery effort," said Robert Barham, LDWF Secretary.

Sixteen whooping cranes were flown to southwest Louisiana on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) aircraft from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Md. The White Lake location in Vermilion Parish is the site where 10 whooping cranes, the first cohort in the long-term restoration, were released in March. That group of birds marked the first presence of whooping cranes in the wild in Louisiana since 1950.

"This is an impressive project launched by the Louisiana Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to bring the whooping crane back to this part of its historic range and marks a bold step for

its ultimate recovery," said Cindy Dohner, USFWS Southeast Regional Director. "We are excited about their work and proud of our partnership with Secretary Barham and his agency as we continue working together to bring this majestic bird back to Louisiana."

LDWF continues to work cooperatively with USFWS, USGS, the Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and the International Crane Foundation to bring the species back to the state. Project funding is derived from LDWF species restoration dedicated funds, federal grants and private/corporate donations.

"The USFWS Migratory Bird Program is honored to participate in the efforts of adding additional birds to the group of reintroduced wild whooping cranes to Louisiana," says Jerome Ford, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds Program. "Our pilot biologists were thrilled to contribute by using their Kodiak planes to ensure the whooping cranes' safe arrival."

The whooping cranes Louisiana receives are designated as a non-essential, experimental population (NEP) under the provisions of the Endangered Species

Act. This designation and its implementing regulation were developed to be more compatible with routine human activities in the reintroduction area.

Of the 10 cranes released in March from White Lake, three have survived and continue to be tracked by transmitter devices attached to each bird. Two cranes were killed by predators, one was euthanized due to illness, two are missing and unaccounted for and two were shot and killed on Oct. 9 in Jefferson Davis Parish. LDWF Enforcement Division agents have charged two juveniles, who were alleged to have been involved with the two crane deaths on Oct. 9, with taking non-game birds/no season.

Hunters, fishermen and anyone who spends time in the marshes and rice fields of southwest Louisiana should welcome the opportunity to see these magnificent birds. Although whooping cranes in Louisiana are considered an "experimental, non-essential population" under the Endangered Species Act, they are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and cannot be pursued, harassed, captured or killed.

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## Ready, set, trap

Trapping continues to be a hot topic in some regions, and a target for anti-trapping organizations everywhere. The robust fur markets in some regions of the country today are proof that trapping is here to stay for a long, long time. Trapping is definitely an important hobby, outdoors pursuit, and vital tool for wildlife managers.

If you need more reason to get outdoors, or want to improve the odds of survival for some popular and huntable animal species like rabbits, waterfowl, or wild turkeys, then take up trapping.

Traps can also help take and control problem species, like beavers, that inflict millions of dollars of damage to property or crops each year. These damages range from ruined timber, to flooded crops, to holes dug in dikes and dams. Then there's the growing problem of missing pets—with coyotes being the

culprits.

For example, one damage control specialist in Illinois recently reported that he had requests to trap and check the stomach contents of coyotes that were thought to have eaten pet dogs and prized cats in one region. In one case a coyote apparently ate a cat that was wearing a custom diamond encrusted collar.

There's also the "smelly" issue of skunks. Anyone who has ever had a dog sprayed by a skunk wants trapping of the black and white creatures to begin immediately! It is also a fact that trapping helps prevent rabies and other threats to public health and safety brought on by a sharp rise in furbearer populations.

These include diseases spread by—or contracted by—foxes and raccoons. There are far more of these nuisance critters out in the fields and forests than

the average citizen realizes. All you need to do to get a fractional estimate of the local population is look on and along the highways for road kill animals. You'll probably see lots of raccoons, some foxes and a few coyotes, and in some places beavers, and the occasional bobcat. Raccoons have become very common in some areas and have caused homeowner problems by raiding bird feeders, trash cans, and pet food dishes.

The good news is that trapping supplies today are generally inexpensive and so are resident trapping licenses. Fur prices, however, remain generally low partly because of the weak economy. With high gas prices on top of those, there may be critters and opportunities for you and for your traps.

For more information on trapping, visit the Fur Takers of America at [www.furtakersofamerica.com](http://www.furtakersofamerica.com).

# Sportsmen offer insights on purchasing decisions

When it comes to choosing particular hunting, shooting or fishing brand products, nothing influences sportsmen more than their own personal experiences. Research conducted by HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com found that a whopping 78 percent of hunters and shooters and 77 percent of anglers cited “personal experience” as the number one deciding factor that affected their selection of a particular brand.

As such, it is no surprise that the second most deciding factor is brand loyalty itself, which was the second most selected factor on HunterSurvey.com (56 percent) and AnglerSurvey.com (57 percent).

“This is a clear message to companies that if they provide a product that

delivers on its promises every time a sportsman uses it, they may well have made that hunter, shooter or angler a customer for life,” says Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com.

Ranking almost as high as brand loyalty was the suggestion from an experienced sportsman they know, meaning respected friends also hold sway over how a person views a particular product.

Where advertising and media are concerned, despite suspicion in the news that print publications, such as magazines, are on the decline in popularity and influence, participants in the surveys put them ahead of television,

radio and the internet as sources of information that most influenced their buying decisions. In fact, 23 percent of hunters, shooters and anglers said magazine ads or feature articles influenced their buying decisions, just slightly ahead of 20 percent for internet articles, 12 percent for TV commercials and programs and 3 percent for internet ads.

“The value of a written article that discusses the merits of a product certainly still holds a lot of influence with today’s sportsmen,” Southwick says.

Interestingly, professional endorsements by sporting and other celebrities was only chosen by 9 percent of sportsmen as having an impact in their purchase of a particular brand.

## The tradition continues ...

### Clint Bowyer Youth and Antlerless Deer Management Hunt

**By Phil Taunton**

For the third year in a row, David and Kim Hollond with Dry Creek Sporting Clays just south of Emporia and Larry and Charlotte Coble of the Olpe Chicken House in Olpe have teamed with Clint Bowyer Racing to provide area youth a quality and educational deer hunting experience. This youth hunt is held to kick off the Kansas antlerless deer hunting season and serves as a way to get kids, who would otherwise

not have the opportunity to harvest a deer, off the couch, away from the video games out into the field. It also serves as an advanced hunter education class, so to speak.

On December 23rd Clint Bowyer flew in from North Carolina to personally meet with the young hunters and their families at the nationally acclaimed Olpe Chicken House. Over eighty people were treated by the Cobles to a delicious chicken fried steak dinner smothered with the creamiest of

gravy. That’s just about as country as you can get around here and no one left hungry! Clint, being the person he is, met with everyone for photographs and signed autographs well into the night.

Clint, originally from Emporia, had never experience the joys of hunting when he was young. He never had the opportunity to hunt and only developed his passion and appreciation of the Great Outdoors after he became a successful

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## CRANE

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Waterfowl hunters should be accustomed to seeing large-bodied, white birds with black wing-tips, such as white ibis, white pelicans, and wood storks, which must be distinguished from the legally-hunted snow geese. Mature whooping cranes are equally identifiable as they stand five feet tall and have a wingspan of 7-8 feet. Easily identifiable characteristics of whooping cranes in flight include black wing tips and fully extended neck and legs, which extend well beyond

the tail. Standing whooping cranes also exhibit the bustle of rump feathers more pronounced than other large white birds.

Anyone witnessing suspicious activity involving whooping cranes is advised to report that information to LDWF’s Enforcement Division by calling 1-800-442-251 or using the tip411 program, which may offer a cash reward for information leading to arrests or convictions. To use the tip411 program, citizens can text LADWF and their tip to 847411 or download the “LADWF Tips” iPhone app from the Apple iTunes store free of charge. CitizenObserver, the tip411 provider, uses technology

that removes all identifying information before LDWF receives the text so that LDWF cannot identify the sender.

For more information on the re-introduction of whooping cranes to Louisiana, please visit [www.wlf.la.gov](http://www.wlf.la.gov); or contact Sara Zimorski at [szimorski@wlf.la.gov](mailto:szimorski@wlf.la.gov) or 337-536-7292. News media outlets interested in visiting the White Lake WCA facility can contact Bo Boehringer at [bboehringer@wlf.la.gov](mailto:bboehringer@wlf.la.gov) or 225-765-5115. For photos, video footage and research documentation please visit: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/whooping-cranes>.



# The intangible gift of outdoor time

By Larry Schweiger  
CEO, NWF

One of the greatest gifts I received from my parents was not a tangible gift at all. It was a gift of an unquenchable curiosity about nature.

Mom and Dad loved the outdoors, and they spent their free time in nature with their four sons, fostering in us a fascination for nature that lives on today. Mom always encouraged us to “find something to do” outside, and I often followed Dad as he trained his beagles and in later years hunted with him in the fields and forests of western Pennsylvania.

Admittedly, it was a lot easier to get kids outside back in those days. There were far fewer of the distractions that keep youngsters indoors. My hometown of Pittsburgh launched KDKA, the world’s first commercial radio station and later the first round-the-clock commercial television channel. At first, that was the only channel we could watch on our 16-inch Crosley television, which seemed to take forever to warm up.

These days, children are bombarded by hundreds of television channels displayed on high-definition, flat screens complete with theater-quality surround sound. They create an endless stream of text messages on their cell phones and have access to the Internet, games, gadgets and seemingly endless other high-tech distractions.

By today’s standards, my family did not have a lot of money to buy toys. Mom and Dad paid \$7,000 for our home, and Dad worked 12 hours or more a day to earn his \$60 weekly salary. Computers or other electronic gadgets didn’t exist. The only “cell phone” in our world was on Dick Tracy’s wrist.

Yet we never thought of ourselves as poor because we were rich in imagination and exploration. Several hundred acres of field and forest awaited us just outside our front door, and we explored every inch, finding simple joys at every turn. Examples:

I remember watching in wonder as we observed a doe nursing her twin

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**Before many parents turned to prescriptions to calm their hyperactive kids, recess periods in our elementary school’s playground provided important outlets for students like me to expend pent-up energy. As much as I enjoyed three daily recesses, the best part of my day was running into the woods after school.**

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fawns at a stream bank.

We were inspired by the size of a great horned owl, which startled us as it silently glided overhead before landing in a nearby white pine.

Collecting rusty nails and scraps of wood from nearby home construction sites, we built tree shacks in the aspen stands.

We built earth-filled log dams in Girty’s Run and stocked the impoundments with bluegills that we transplanted from a nearby lake.

We emulated Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett by building a network of “wilderness” trails with some neighborhood friends and our pet beagle.

Before many parents turned to prescriptions to calm their hyperactive kids, recess periods in our elementary school’s playground provided important outlets for students like me to expend pent-up energy. As much as I enjoyed three daily recesses, the best part of my day was running into the woods after school.

Today, I worry about how much time kids spend indoors in front of televisions, computer screens and game devices. I worry, too, about how little connection children have with nature and how little physical exercise they are getting. Based on my own experiences, I believe unstructured outdoor time allows children the freedom to explore, create and imagine. Kids who spend at least an hour each day outdoors generally are healthier—physically and mentally—and, according to recent studies, they sleep

better.

Citing a rise in childhood obesity rates and a litany of health problems related to sedentary lifestyles, Senator Mark Udall (D-CO), chairman of the Senate’s Subcommittee on National Parks and co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Outdoor Recreation Caucus, insists that getting kids out into nature should be a bipartisan concern. Having worked at the Colorado Outward Bound School for 20 years, including a decade as its executive director, he knows what he is talking about.

At a recent congressional briefing on the benefits of reconnecting youngsters with nature, Senator Udall and Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) announced their intention to introduce Senate and House versions of the Healthy Kids Outdoors Act (<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There/Policy/Healthy-Kids-Outdoors-Act.aspx>). If enacted, the legislation would support state, local and federal strategies to connect our nation’s youth with the outdoors through natural play, recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting and fishing, public health plans, service learning and other initiatives. For the sake of our children, I hope the bill receives bipartisan support and is passed quickly.

In the meantime, each of us must do our part to get children into the outdoors to discover the wonders of nature, as I did many years ago. It’s a gift that continues to renew my spirit and one that I hope to pass on to my grandchildren.

# Waconda Lake Youth/Women Pheasant Hunt a big success

Boys and girls hunt with celebrities and soldiers

“There were 18 happy and tired kids — both girls and boys — leaving the Waconda Lake [Glen Elder Reservoir] area and heading home on the night of Saturday, Dec. 10,” said Chris Lecuyer, Glen Elder Wildlife Area manager.

These new hunters had just wrapped up a full day of activities after participating in the 14th Annual 2011 Waconda Lake Youth, Women, and Celebrity Pheasant Hunt. The event is co-sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) and Pass It On – Outdoor Mentors, Inc., of Wichita.

“We began before sunrise with a biscuits and gravy breakfast served by the Waconda Struttin’ Dusters Chapter of the National Wild Tur-

key Federation,” Lecuyer said. “The youngsters listened to a quick talk concerning regulations and safety, and then we introduced them to celebrities and heroes who would join them for the hunt.

Celebrities included John Gillotte, the 2010 National Youth Crappie-masters Champion; Wayne Hubbard, creator and host of Urban American Outdoors TV show; and Guy Caster, former professional drag race car driver. The youth were also joined by four true heroes, soldiers who had been wounded in action, including Colonel Phil McCune and Colonel Tom Kurlick from the Fort Riley Warrior Transition Battalion, and Captain Aaron Isaacson and Second Lieutenant Chad Blow from the Kan-

sas National Guard of Topeka.

Near-perfect morning weather greeted the hunters after breakfast. They were divided into three groups to hunt for the rest of the morning. Several non-hunting adults, parents, and family members went with each group to serve as mentors for the inexperienced hunters. The groups hunted in portions of Glen Elder State Park and the refuges of Glen Elder Wildlife Area.

A hamburger, hot dog, and chili lunch was served at noon by volunteers from the Waconda Lake Association. The association also sponsored a prize contest for the youth with the longest tail feather from their

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## HUNT

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NASCAR driver.

I remember seeing Clint on national television during one of his first interviews as a hunter and not a race car driver. He was on ESPN and you could feel his excitement, emotion and passion for the sport as he spoke about planning for a hunt, being up before sunrise and into the woods to see the world awaken around him. “Why would I want to get up before nine or ten in the morning?” he would go on to say later in the show.

Like Clint, I and the many hunters before me have been smitten by what I coined as a Hunter’s Crescendo, the sights and sounds of sunrise: the pinkish sky in the east, the birds, the anticipation of all Nature and the day has to offer. The heritage and traditions of the hunt is the legacy the organizers want to instill upon those who participated in this hunt.

Activities started at noon on January 1 when the young hunters met at Dry Creek Sporting Clays, the base camp for this event. Everyone was instructed to bring overnight gear including a sleeping bag and plenty of warm clothes. After the guns were checked by the

guides when they entered camp, the kids were shown their quarters for the night. Some of the kids chose to bunk in a horse trailer Dave and Kim’s daughters used during their high school rodeo days. A lunch of ham sandwiches and mouthwatering potato soup provided by the Cobles was enjoyed by all.

Several of the kids just got their hunter education certification in 2011 and were asked to sight in and shoot their high-powered rifle in days preceding the hunt. The young hunters, their families and guides were then given deer hunting, ethics and firearm safety presentation by Tonya Carson, a Kansas hunter education instructor from Lebo and officers from the Lyon County Sheriff’s Department from Emporia. After the safety and ethics briefing the young sharpshooters went to the shooting range and were given expert instruction in shooting: Stay calm, hold steady and squeeze the trigger! Practice makes perfect. Some sights also had to be tweaked.

The Hunt.....the young hunters harvested four deer and a coyote the first afternoon. Kids that harvested a deer during last year’s youth hunt couldn’t hunt this year. But they came back, mentored the new hunters and

assisted them in field dressing their harvest. Their dedication on a day they couldn’t hunt is another thing so special about this event.

Later that evening, Jase Hubert, who did double duty as a guide, and Devin Arndt gave a furharvesting demonstration, showing the different types of traps and how they are used.

The Hollonds, Clint and the Cobles are humbled by all the assistance they get from area guides, outdoor mentors, parents, cooks and landowners who have made this hunt such a rewarding and memorable event. The guides will be taking the young hunters out after school this week and throughout the closing weekend. Their commitment and dedication in providing these young people a quality outdoor and deer hunting experience needs to be commended.

A lot of kids these days would love to get involved in our outdoor heritage and traditions, including deer hunting, if only they were given the opportunity. For some reason or another, we seem to be losing these young people. A tip of the hat goes to all who got involved with the Clint Bowyer Youth Hunt. Effort such as this will ensure the heritage and tradition of hunting will continue. Pass it On.

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# ANNIVERSARY

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*Continued from Page 1*

the states based on the number of hunting licenses they sell pay for wildlife-related programs on a 75-25-percent match. State license and permit fees make up the states' 25 percent. Since P-R was signed into law, more than \$2 billion in excise taxes has been sent to the states, which matched \$500 million for wildlife restoration.

How is the money spent? Nationwide, more than 62 percent is used to buy, develop, maintain, and operate wildlife management areas. Four million acres have been purchased, and nearly 40 million acres have been managed for wildlife under agreements with private landowners. Twenty-six percent of the funding is used for surveys and research, two efforts extremely important to the evolution of modern wildlife management programs. But it's accurately called the Wildlife Restoration Act. Since it was signed, historical wildlife population comebacks have been witnessed again and again.

Great comeback stories abound. In 1900, numbers of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and pronghorn, once abundant, had dwindled dramatically in North America, and all three species were extirpated from Kansas. Today, whitetails and wild turkeys provide great hunting statewide, and a strong, huntable population of pronghorns — a species unique

to the continent — thrives in western Kansas. Whooping cranes, while still endangered, have grown from fewer than 40 to more than 400. And the once endangered national symbol — the bald eagle — has recovered so dramatically that it has been removed from the endangered species list.

Following in the footsteps of Pittman and Robertson, Sen. Edwin Johnson of Colorado and Rep. John Dingell Sr. of Michigan sponsored the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950. Commonly called the Dingell-Johnson, or D-J, Act, this legislation was modeled after the P-R Act, bringing revenue to sport fish conservation efforts from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment and import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft, plus a portion of the gasoline fuel tax attributable to small engines and motorboats. That money is distributed to the states based on fishing license sales and also requires a state 25-percent match. The funds are used for fisheries management programs and boat access.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program (now considered two parts of a common program). Since they began, nearly \$14 billion has been generated and apportioned back to the states. Recipient fish and wildlife agencies have matched these program funds with more than \$3.4 billion. Grants to the states from the Sport Fish Restoration program can be used for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education. Money from the Wildlife Restoration

Program is used for projects to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat, as well as projects that provide public use and access to wildlife resources, hunter education, and development and management of shooting ranges.

Through the WSFR, Kansas receives approximately \$15 million annually. Last year, WSFR funds helped the department purchase land at the Parsons Ammunitions Plant that will be managed for public hunting, and Fancy Creek Shooting Range at Tuttle Creek State Park was enhanced. Popular programs such as Walk-In Hunting Access, Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitat, and Community Fisheries Assistance Program would not have been possible without WSFR.

WSFR leverages license and permit revenues and allows the department to provide direct benefits to wildlife, as well as anglers, hunters, and boaters. And while the programs funds are usually specific to game animals and sport fish, they benefit all wildlife and fish. Because so few of our wildlife species are hunted or fished, habitat enhancement efforts benefit many more nongame species.

If you enjoy wildlife in Kansas, you can thank hunters, anglers, and the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. All of our wildlife resources and most of our outdoor recreation have benefited from this far-reaching program that was started 75 years ago by some visionary people.

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# PHEASANT

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*Continued from Page 18*

bird. Devin Basnatt's 22 1/2 inch tail feather won by more than 1 inch.

After lunch, a trap shoot was held near the Glen Elder Area Office. Three shooting stations were available for the participants to hone their shooting skills. A few of the young hunters and their mentors decided to continue hunting during the afternoon at other locations on the wildlife area.

The day's events concluded in the evening with a barbeque brisket supper at Memorial Hall in Downs. After the meal, each young hunter received a prize package and heard a few words and got autographs from the celebrities. Attendees also listened to information about youth and mentor hunting opportunities, the importance of recruiting new hunters, and the work of conservation organizations.

"We couldn't have done this without donations from a host of local businesses," Lecuyer said. "And a special thanks goes out to all the vol-

unteers and mentors who gave their time to the kids. Almost 50 adults gave up a substantial portion of their day or weekend to help these young hunters."

KDWPT and Pass It On – Outdoor Mentors believe that offering youth opportunities such as the Waconda Lake Youth, Women, and Celebrity Pheasant Hunt is vitally important to ensure both the development of future hunting generations and well-rounded young people. For information about future special hunts at Glen Elder, phone (785) 545-3345.

**Kansas Wildlife Federation**  
**P.O. Box 771282**  
**Wichita, KS 67277-1282**

## **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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- \* **Kansan:** For an annual fee of \$125, you receive all the benefits listed above plus a copy of the book *Kansas Wildlife*.

## **Here's How to Join:**

**Complete the form on Page 14 and mail with your membership fee to:  
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