

The Voice of Outdoor Kansas

**November-
December 2014**

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

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Go to our Web site,
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Mountain lion confirmed in Labette County

**Mountain lion photographed on trail cam
in southeast Kansas**

A deer hunter from Labette County got a surprise recently when he checked his trail camera he had set up for deer. He found a single image of a mountain lion walking away, down the trail, the characteristic long tail prominently displayed. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) staff visited the site last week and verified the photo's authenticity. This is the tenth mountain lion verified by KDWPT since 2007, but the first in almost two years.

The first confirmed mountain lion in 2007 was killed by an individual in Barber County. Since then, most of the sightings have been confirmed with photographs taken by remote, motion-triggered cameras commonly used by deer hunters to keep track of deer movement near their stands.

In each instance, KDWPT staff traveled to the sites where photos were taken to validate the photographs. Staff investigates sightings whenever evidence, such as tracks, a cached kill or a photograph exists. Biologists assume most sightings are of transient young males, coming from established populations in nearby states.

"It's not uncommon for young males to travel great distances looking for home ranges," said Matt Peek, KDWPT furbearer biologist. "So far, these animals appear to be passing through, rather than staying and establishing home ranges in Kansas."

Protecting the Land... Passing on Our Traditions

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



KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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President's Message

By Troy Schroeder

This year has passed quickly for me. It is already that time of year when we are asking you to send in your membership dues for 2015. Memberships are very important to us. Not only do they provide funding for projects and activities but give us more clout for influencing legislative or administrative action related to wildlife. Thus we would like to increase membership in 2015.

When you send in your membership, we suggest you ask a few friends to join our ranks as well. We are continuing the option for you to give gift memberships to new members for half price when you pay for one Basic (\$30) membership.

New for this year, with a donation of \$75 or more you get a free ticket to our annual meeting. That includes registration, lunch, and afternoon informational sessions as well as the evening auction and banquet where we give Conservation Achievement Awards to Kansans that have made a significant contribution to wildlife conservation in 2014. If you have items you would like to donate for our auction, please let us know and we will arrange pick up.

In addition to memberships we are interested in donations or planned giving. If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation for tax purposes or selecting charities to support through your estate or will, please keep KWF in mind. For more information contact us (see article in this issue of the newsletter). Our contact information is listed in



this newsletter.

As I am writing this note, we are gearing up for the upland bird season. Early word is that we have more birds than last year and hunters should find success in some areas. Of course habitat it still the key and areas with good habitat, providing adequate cover for nesting and brood rearing will have birds. However, it will take more than one year to rebound from last year's all time low resulting from three years of drought. I am hearing that quail seem to have done better this year than pheasants. The more normal rainfall this year resulted in lots of lush growth so we will have good cover to hunt and to help birds overwinter. We won't know for sure what we have until the rest of the fall crops are harvested and hunters take to the field on opening day.

Please keep up with us by checking our website at www.kswildlife.org.

Field care critical for tasty venison

Venison is healthy culinary treat if cared for properly

"Gamey," "tough," and "dry" are three adjectives that should never describe your deer meat, and if proper practices take place while in the field, the reward can be quite a culinary treat. Whether you are processing a deer for the first time, or are looking to try a different process, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has a brief, easy-to-follow video on field dressing your harvest that will walk you through the process from start to finish. Just visit ksoutdoors.com and click "Hunting/Big Game Information" to view

the video.

After a shot has been placed and the deer recovered, a hunter should immediately tag the carcass and begin cooling the meat. This can be done by immediately field dressing, or gutting, the carcass. The first step in dressing the deer should be to remove the deer's entrails. Next, prop open the ribcage and let cool air circulate throughout the body cavity. After a few

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239 Kansas schools are now enrolled in National Archery in the Schools Program

It provides a lifetime of fun, enjoyment and friendly competition for all ages.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism and NASP training instructors will host a National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Basic Archery Instructor's Workshop at Olpe High School, October 27th. The purpose of the workshop is to train and certify educators from Olpe, Hartford, Reading and other local schools as NASP Archery Instructors.

Kansas entered the NASP program in 2006 and the program has grown steadily since. State and National tournaments are held every year, rewarding all participants with a medal, and top scoring archers with prizes ranging from brand new bows to academic scholarships. The National Archery in the Schools Program allows students who might not otherwise engage in traditional sports to participate. Students with special challenges, who cannot participate in the traditional team sports, have excelled in archery and love to participate.

The NASP program is second only to table tennis in safety in high school sports in the U.S. Local schools already involved in the NASP pro-

gram are Northern Heights, Emporia and Osage City. Schools with interest in the program may contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism at (620) 672-5911. Olpe High School's NASP program will be completely funded by KDWP and the Flint Hills Chapter of the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation.

Schools and interested instructors may contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism at 620.672.5911 for more information concerning the NASP Program and the October 27th workshop. Donations to help fund the National Archery in the School programs in other schools would be greatly appreciated.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Natural Resource Officers Jesse Gehrt and Dave Adams helped kids participate in a modified National Archery in the Schools Program at Council Grove Reservoir on Saturday, October 11 (see photo). More than 40 youth participated in the archery, shotgun, and pellet gun "instruction and safe handling" stations. All youth received door prizes and one lucky 'Ambassador to the Outdoors and future hunter' walked away with a brand new .243 rifle.

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Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation

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KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Officers and Board of Directors

The Kansas Wildlife Federation promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters, anglers and conservationists.

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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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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2014 Conservation Achievement Program Awards

You know someone who has volunteered countless hours towards a particular wildlife project or someone who has devoted themselves beyond normal expectations for conservation. It is important for conservationist to give credit to those who deserve it. It demonstrates that we hold these activities in high regard and gives some appreciated recognition to folks who work very hard for something they love. Do your part and consider those you work with or know who have performed beyond the call of duty, someone who deserves to be recognized for their contributions to Kansas' wildlife. Let's not let them go unrecognized for their dedication and sacrifices.

Please make an effort to identify folks who have made special efforts for wildlife in 2014. Those who have received Conservation Achievement Program (CAP) awards in the past can attest to the pride

they felt in being bestowed such a noteworthy recognition. Do your part and make certain we recognize those most deserving at the CAP banquet in February, 2015.

To nominate someone simply e-mail a nomination of 400-500 words (more or less) to drkidd@gmail.com. Make sure you put full contact information for yourself and the nominee, including mailing and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Do it now! E-mail me if you'd like a cyber copy of the form. Thanks for your help with this very noteworthy program for wildlife conservation in Kansas. **Get your nominations to us by December 1.**

Randy Kidd

CAP Chair

16879 46th St.

McLouth, KS 66054-4125

drkidd@gmail.com

Ph. 785-863-3425

Four men caught with 209 doves on 2nd day of season

By Beccy Tanner

The Wichita Eagle

Four men who were stopped in rural Ellis County last week with 209 doves in their possession have outraged hunters and outdoor enthusiasts across the state.

The men were stopped Tuesday, the second day of dove season. The daily limit is 15 doves per hunter.

"I hope they throw the book at them and take them to federal court and give them jail time," said Spencer Tomb, a retired Kansas State University botany professor in Riley County and an avid hunter.

"We have game laws so everybody gets a fair chance at hunting. And they did that in one day?"

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism officials are in the process of deciding what type of charges the four will face, whether it will be on a federal or state level, said Dan Melson, law enforcement supervisor for the western region of Wildlife and Parks. The four have yet to be charged, he said.

Melson would not give the ages of



A game warden for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism came across four hunters in Ellis County on Tuesday night. Between them, the four had shot 209 doves. The daily limit is 15 birds per hunter. Photo courtesy of Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

the men, or say whether they were Kansas residents.

If wildlife officials decide to pursue a federal case, the process could take a year or more, Melson said.

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Official entry form

2014 Kansas Wildlife Federation

Conservation Achievement Program Awards

The Kansas Wildlife Federation CAP awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in Kansas's conservation. Nominations should be made for efforts worthy of state recognition. The accomplishment should reflect a long-time commitment to natural resources in Kansas with a significant effort during the past year. Awards are presented in 13 categories to capture the wide range of efforts that benefit wildlife and the cause of conservation. Past year's winners are not eligible for nomination in the same category for 3 years. Current KWF officers are not eligible.

• **Wildlife Conservationist.** For outstanding achievement in fish or wildlife resource management. Nominees should have demonstrated leadership in management, restoration, or research of habitats or wildlife species.

• **Water Conservationist.** For outstanding achievement in water pollution control, conservation, and protection of rivers and wetlands, prevention of degradation of water quality through effective planning and management or other activity aimed at maintaining or improving water standards.

• **Land and Soil Conservation.** For outstanding achievement in watershed protection, wetlands development, ero-

sion control, habitat improvement or other management practices that improve land so as to benefit wildlife.

• **Conservation Education.** For outstanding achievement in educating others in conservation. The process may be formal or informal. The nominations may be for leadership, which by example of demonstration, aids in the environmental/wildlife education of others.

• **Forest Conservation.** For outstanding achievement in forest and woodlands management, including reforestation, preservation of wilderness areas and wildlife habitat development.

• **Conservation Communicator.** For outstanding conservation achievement in effectively conveying the conservation message and creating public awareness of conservation issues in the news and other media.

• **Youth Conservationist.** For outstanding conservation efforts for someone under 21 during the contest year. Winners should have demonstrated ability and accomplishment in some phase of conservation. Youth groups are eligible as well.

• **Conservation Organization.** For outstanding achievement by an organization for work in some phase of conservation during the contest period. May include

civic clubs, conservation groups, garden clubs, sportsman's clubs, businesses, professional organizations and others.

• **Stream Team or Stream Monitor.** For outstanding efforts by a group of citizen volunteers or individual in monitoring and contributing to the protection of our state's waterways. Nominees should have demonstrated leadership in stream monitoring, protection and educational efforts.

• **Conservation Legislator.** For outstanding achievement by a legislator in conservation legislation that took place in or culminated in the contest year. Competition is open to state or federal legislators and their staff members.

• **Farmer/Rancher Wildlife Conservationist.** This award is to recognize special efforts of a farmer and/or rancher who has made extra efforts towards conserving wildlife.

• **Outdoor Skills Instructor.** This award recognizes wildlife, nature, shooting, and outdoor instructors for their superior involvement in educating others.

• **Conservationist of the Year.** The Conservationist of the Year will be selected from all the nominations submitted in all categories. This award will be based on exemplary service to Kansas's fish, wildlife and environmental conservation efforts.

CAP Nomination Form

To make a nomination, send this form with attached write up to Randy Kidd, CAP Chairman, drrkidd@gmail.com. Nominating write-ups should be approximately 400-500 words, and should list the accomplishments of the nominee, especially those accomplishments during the contest period (2014). The Deadline for nominations is December 1, 2014. Any questions, contact: Randy Kidd drrkidd@gmail.com or 785-863-3425.

Name of nominee _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____ eMail(s) _____

Award Category _____ (please specify one of the categories, above)

Nominator's name _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____ eMail(s) _____



2015 KWF Annual Meeting set for Hays

The Kansas Wildlife Federation's 2015 Annual Meeting is set for Friday and Saturday, February 20 and 21 at the Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill at 3203 Vine Street in Hays. The 2014 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.

Motel rooms have been reserved at the Days Inn at 3205 Vine Street in Hays. A block of rooms has been reserved at the

special rates of \$64 per night and will be held until **December 30, 2014**. Call the Days Inn at 785-628-8261 or 800-225-3297 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 Hays.

Calendar of events

- | | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| Nov 4 | Kansas Wildlife Advisory Council meeting, Topeka | | |
| Nov 7-8 | Kansas Rural Center 2014 Farm & Food Conference, Manhattan | Mar 16-22 | Spring Break for Kansas Regents Schools |
| Nov 7-9 | Kansas Herpetological Society annual meeting, KSU, Manhattan | Apr 10-11 | Kansas Assn. of Teachers of Science [KATS] Kamp, Rock Springs |
| Nov 12-13 | Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan | Apr 24-25 | Wings n/Wetlands Festival, Great Bend |
| Nov 16 | Prairie seed collecting at Burnett's Mound, Topeka contact Vivien Smith 785.231.4030 | May TBA | Kansas Ornithological Society spring meeting, Western KS |
| 2015 | | May 2-3 | Kansas Sampler Festival, Wamego |
| Jan 19 | KS Assn. of Biology Teachers Winter Board Meeting, Camp Williamson, Venango | May 29-31 | Kansas Assn. of Biology Teachers spring field trip, Chautauqua Hills |
| Jan 29-30 | Kansas Natural Resources Conference combined meeting – Airport Hilton, Wichita | June TBA | Symphony in the Flint Hills, TBA |
| | 1. Great Plains Society of American Forestry, | June 6 | 11th Annual Glen Elder Youth Fishing Tournament, Scott Waters, 785-545-3345 |
| | 2. Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams | June 7-12 | KWF Outdoor Adventure Camp, Rock Springs Camp Theresa bergkwf@wtciweb.com |
| | 3. Kansas Chapter: American Fisheries Society | June 13 | 6th Justin Corbet Foundation "Youth in the Outdoors Day" 785-256-6444 |
| | 4. Kansas Chapter: Soil and Water Conservation Society | July 30-Aug. 2 | Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, national meeting, KU, Lawrence |
| | 5. Kansas Chapter: The Wildlife Society | Sept 12 | Kansas Assn. of Biology Teachers annual mtg, Konza Biological Station, Manhattan |
| | 6. Kansas Section: Society for Range Management | Sept TBA | Kansas Native Plant Society annual meeting, Konza Biological Station, Manhattan |
| | 7. Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition | | |
| Feb 20-21 | Kansas Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting, Hays | | |
| Feb 21 | Flint Hills Chapter QUWF Banquet, Morris County Fair Building | | |
| Mar 7-8 | 6th Kansas Hunting & Fishing Expo, Emporia 620-342- | | |

For a more up-to-date calendar go to <http://kswildlife.org/calendar.php>.

Affiliate news

A successful guide and hunter for 2014 Tuttle Creek Assisted Hunt

By Ben Jedlicka

Kansas Wildlife Officers Association

What a difference a year makes. I looked back to the weather conditions for the Tuttle Creek 2013 assisted hunt. Each of the two days of last year's hunt, highs for the day were officially recorded at 103 degrees with Sunday's temperature a record high for the date. This year hunters and guides were greeted with much improved conditions, a high temperature of 75 degrees for Saturday opener of youth disabled season, and Sunday morning a chill of 44 degrees at o-dark-thirty as guides and hunters departed for the their blinds.

On Saturday, September 6, 2014, the 27 assisted hunt participants harvested five does and three bucks for a total of eight deer after the morning and evening hunts. The 100 degree heat of 2013, a bad memory, produced the best success of the hunt's twelve year history with eight deer taken that warm morning.

One young guide is a product of his participation as a hunter several years ago. Donovan Gillespie was guided as a hunter by guide Greg Bloomdahl. Donnie's father, Kelly, an avid archery hunter, was deployed to Iraq at that time. Both, father Kelly and son Donovan, now share their experience as guides for the assisted hunt program. Donnie's hunter, Frank McMaster, was successful Saturday morning and is pictured here with his first deer. The young hunter made a text book well-placed shot as the hunter and guide watched and



Pictured above (l-r): Donovan Gillespie, Frank McMaster and his deer, Game Warden Ben Jedlicka and Kelly Gillespie

waited for this buck to get within range.

We can only hope that in years to come, this youngster will join us as a guide and provide an opportunity to a hunter that today may be in first or second grade at his or her grade school.

The 27 hunters with the help of their guides bagged 15 deer during the two days of the 2014 hunt. The guides and each hunter met at Fancy Creek Range August 17th, 2014. Every hunter was required to show their marksmanship with

a rifle they brought or a loaner provided. This aspect of the program may explain how each of the 15 deer taken was with one shot. No problems finding or retrieving any of this year's deer were experienced.

Planning for next year's hunt has already begun. As in every year, places to hunt, new guides to replace those not available next year, and of course new participants are all needed for the 13th year of this program.

DOVE

Continued from Page 4

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently processing a similar case from last year from Ellis and Graham County.

Doves are a migratory bird. If the men are found guilty of violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the four could face stiff fines and possible jail time. In addition, poachers can face revocation of any hunting, fishing or trapping licenses.

For now, the 209 doves are being preserved as evidence, Melson said.

Most hunters despise poachers, said Mike Hayden, former governor of Kansas

and former director of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. He is now director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.

"Certainly hunting ethics is something very important," Hayden said. "When things like this happen, it casts a shadow. It is unethical and jeopardizes the future of hunting."

One of the problems in rural areas is that game wardens often have to cover four and five counties each, an equivalent of 4,000 to 5,000 square miles, Hayden said.

"It does sometimes cause people to have a lax attitude toward game laws and to let them think they can get away with anything," Hayden said. "This shows they

can't always."

But residents can help. If they are aware of poaching or see it happening, they are encouraged to call the KDWP's Operation Game Thief at 877-426-3843.

As game birds go, doves are relatively small. Fifteen doves per day per hunter is typically enough meat to feed two people, Tomb said.

"What a waste this is," Hayden said. "The season limits are very generous and why you need to break the law goes against everything I was ever taught."

"My thought is that if somebody has shot this many birds, they have probably violated other laws. There may be a series of violations other than just being over the bag limit."

The country loses a courageous wildlife conservationist

By Ron Klataske
Executive Director
Audubon of Kansas

With the passing of rancher Larry Haverfield on September 21, the country and especially Kansas lost a courageous conservationist dedicated to doing all he could on the 10,000 acres of Logan County, Kansas rangeland to provide a refuge for short-grass prairie wildlife. He and two other private landowners hosted one of the most promising reintroduction sites in the Great Plains for endangered Black-footed Ferrets.

Ferrets are one of the rarest mammals in North America. Many species of wildlife benefit from the presence of prairie dog colonies, but Black-footed Ferrets rely on them for prey and for burrow habitat used as dens to raise young and for shelter. Captive-raised ferrets were released on the ranch complex in 2007. Burrowing Owls also depend on prairie dog burrows and associated habitat, whereas Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Swift Foxes depend substantially on prairie dogs as prey. Black-tailed Prairie Dogs are a keystone species but their numbers have been decreased by over 95% in the past 150 years.

It takes courage and commitment for ranch landowners to maintain prairie dog colonies in some Kansas counties where an antiquated century-old state statute calling for eradication of prairie dogs, gophers and moles is imposed on landowners. Larry Haverfield and his conservation partners stood up against and fought, in court, the Logan County commissioners who attempted to impose poisoning programs on their land. With the presence of the endangered species the courts in Kansas held at bay the Logan County Commission and the Kansas Farm Bureau, which advocated poisoning to achieve eradication.

One is reminded of the near extinction of American Bison and other wildlife in the prairies with a statute of Buffalo Bill in the county seat of Oakley. Larry's dedication to



Larry and Bette Haverfield (left) stand with Gordon and Martha Barnhardt at the Black-footed Ferret reintroduction site in 2008. Note the ferret, released a few minutes earlier, peering out from the burrow behind Larry.



One of the first ferrets reintroduced to the Haverfield property in December 2007.

conserve prairie dogs and all of the associated wildlife in the 21st century is a reminder of the drumbeat to kill all of the Bison on the

plains in the 19th century.

Articles about the struggles that Haverfield overcame appeared nationwide in newspapers and magazines. A recent article that details Larry's efforts was published in our Summer 2014 PRAIRIE WINGS magazine. An earlier article was also featured in the Fall 2011 issue of PRAIRIE WINGS. See <http://audubonofkansas.org/prairiewings/> for both issues.

Larry's wife Bette, their five children and many grandchildren are dedicated to continuing his legacy of wildlife conservation on the ranch. His family is proud of the ranch's part in reintroducing the Black-footed ferret to Kansas and devoted to its continued success.

Continued on Page 15

VENISON

Continued from Page 2

minutes have passed the carcass can then be moved to the final location of processing, taking care to keep the meat clean.

If you plan to use a commercial butcher/processor, it's a good idea to call ahead and

make sure they are open and can get your deer into the cooler. If you plan to process the meat yourself, you'll need a cool, clean place to hang the carcass, which should be skinned as quickly as possible unless temperatures are very cool. Prompt skinning is another important step in cooling the meat when temperatures are mild. Once meat has been processed, it's time to hit the grill.

Since venison is very lean, adding a strip

of bacon to steaks or mixing beef tallow or sausage to the burger can add great flavor to the meat. The only "trick" to cooking tasty venison, is not overcooking it as there is a fine line between just right and an overcooked. Venison, as with all wild game, should be carefully cooked to medium or medium rare. Let the meat rest a few minutes after cooking while you prepare your sides, dish up a plate, and enjoy!

Rancher did what needed doin'

By Evan Barnum
On the Other Hand
Colby Free Press

We lost a unique individual last week, the kind that we can ill afford to lose.

I came to know Larry Haverfield, who ranched south of Russell Springs, late in his life, but even in that short time, he made an impact on me. It is the values that one generation passes on to the next that help determine the course that each of us takes in this world.

At his funeral last Friday, I thought about how you would describe Larry in one word. (Limiting, I know, but that was the exercise I set.) I thought of independent and simple, but settled for real. For what you saw in him was real. No hidden motives, no agendas – the man you saw was the real Larry.

There was nothing pretentious about

Larry. His coffin was not polished mahogany or brass, but smoothed rough-hewn wood. At the viewing, he held not a rose or a lily, but a sunflower. Oh, he did have a new truck that he fed the cattle with. Well, new in the '70s anyway. Never got a newer one because the cattle wouldn't know it.

Larry knew the rancher's way of life. Every day, you did what needed doin'. It didn't matter if it was cold and snowing, you were sick, or you just didn't feel like it, you did what needed doin'. To him it was simple – the cattle didn't care, and they depended on you, so you did it. Even a week before he died, with cancer clouding his mind, he had one thought as he tried to struggle out of bed. He needed to get back to the ranch, back to the cattle, to do what needed doin'.

Larry had a love for the land and all the creatures that lived on it, whether

his or what nature provided. It was that subject that got some folks riled up, at least when it came to prairie dogs and ferrets. He liked them, others didn't. And when controversy swirled around him, he met it head on – not for the glory or the fame, but because he felt it needed doin'. He wasn't angry or resentful of those who opposed him; he just said that some folks saw things differently than he did.

The world needs more folks like Larry Haverfield. People who aren't out to change the world, not after power or to make a name for themselves, but who are just there to do what needs doin'. And in the process set an example for the rest of us.

In the end that's all that any of us can do: Get up each morning and ask God simply for the strength to do what needs doin'. And then do it.

Kind of like Larry did.

19 sportsmen's groups call on Congress to fully fund LWCF

The Outdoor Wire

The nation's leading hunting and fishing conservation organizations are calling on the United States Congress to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a critical tool for conserving valuable fish and wildlife habitat and improving public access for hunting and fishing.

The request comes in a report released today, the eve of the LWCF's 50th anniversary. "The Land and Water Conservation Fund and America's sportsmen and women: A 50-year legacy of increased access and improved habitat" features a series of state-based case studies that profile places and people across that country that have benefited as a result of LWCF funding.

"From Louisiana to Alaska and Maine to California, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the most important federal programs for conserving habitat and providing public access to lands and waters," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Yet despite the fund's many conservation success stories, it has gone underfunded for too long, and many opportunities to improve game and fish resources have been missed due to a perpetual lack of funding. Now is the time for Congress to live up to its commitment and fully fund the LWCF."

Groups collaborating on the report are the American Fly Fishing Trade Association, American Sportfishing Association, Archery Trade Association, B.A.S.S., Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Pope and Young Club, Professional Bowhunters Society, Quail Forever, Quality Deer Management Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited and Wild Sheep Foundation.

"Hunters and anglers are an economic engine within the United States, spending a combined total of approximately \$90 billion in 2011 alone," said Mule Deer Foundation President Miles Moretti. "These expenditures help create hundreds of thousands of jobs at the local, state and national levels. An increased commitment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund by Congress would help to sustain and grow America's hunting and fishing based economy."

Established in 1964 through a bipartisan act of Congress, the federal LWCF is supported through royalties paid by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. The fund's promise, however, is eclipsed by the fact that, since 1978, the LWCF has been fully funded only once.

"Over and over again there have been worthwhile projects that would benefit fish and wildlife and access for sportsmen - projects that have broad public support," said Becky Humphries, executive vice president of conservation for the National Wild Turkey Federation. "But what is missing is financial support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund due to inadequate funding for the program. American sportsmen are calling on our federal decision makers to ensure full funding for the LWCF."

State-by-state case studies in the new report show how the LWCF benefits sportsmen, with Montana, Utah, Louisiana, Kentucky, Alaska, Wisconsin, Ohio, North Carolina, Idaho and the Dakotas among those featured. The report also highlights projects that would benefit fish and game resources and improve access to hunters and anglers but have stalled due to a lack of available LWCF dollars.

"For 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has done, from a sportsman's perspective, exactly what it was intended to do: protect crucial fish and wildlife habitat to help sustain our nation's rich outdoor traditions," said Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited vice president for government affairs.

Sportsmen will deliver the report to members of Congress and brief members in key committee positions.

Lance Hedges, TNC director of conservation, passes away

The Nature Conservancy's Director of Conservation, Lance Hedges, age 46, of Garnett, Kansas died suddenly of an apparent heart attack Thursday night, October 9, 2014.

Lance was a remarkable individual, devoted family man and deeply committed conservationist. He was a dedicated employee who shared and taught his passion to conserving wild Kansas. He enjoyed every day of his professional life and was often heard telling friends and family that

he had the best job in the world. Our world is diminished by his passing.

Lance loved the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and trapping. He spent many hours with his family teaching them to hunt, fish, garden, and whatever mischief they could get into.

Lance was considered a "best" friend and never met a stranger. He always had a smile on his face and a joke to tell. Laughter was in abundance whenever Lance was in the room. His zest for life and love of

people made him who he was and he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Lance Hedges Memorial Fund for a children's education fund and future conservation development in Kansas and sent in care of the funeral home.

His obituary can be seen at: http://www.feuerbornfuneral.com/tribute/details/842/Lance_Hedges/obituary.html#tribute-start

KWF end of year giving

Making a difference is important to many people, and charitable giving is a way people can make a difference. You can help the Kansas Wildlife Federation make a difference by giving a cash donation, a gift of real estate, stocks or other assets, or consider making a planned gift.

Donors have options when giving to support the programs of the Kansas Wildlife Federation. Option #1 is *giving for today* directly to the Kansas Wildlife Federation, offering ongoing financial support for conserving and protecting wildlife and habitat. Option #2, is *giving for the future* to the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation.

The Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation was established to accept planned gifts, to ensure the future of the Kansas Wildlife Federation and its programs. Income from the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation will be used to further mission of the organization: conserving and protecting wildlife and habitat; advocating for wildlife, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts; and informing and educating Kansans of all ages about nature and the outdoors.

Planned giving is the transfer of assets to a non-profit organization during your lifetime or as part of an estate plan. Planned giving is easy, and you don't have to be wealthy to do it! A life insurance

policy, real estate, stocks, business holdings, or a checking or savings account are all assets that can be leveraged in planned gifts. In addition to the satisfaction of making a meaningful gift, most planned gifts have immediate and/or long-term tax benefits. Be sure to consult your tax advisor to determine the consequences of making a gift.

So whether you wish to make a difference today or tomorrow, the Kansas Wildlife Federation can help you make an impact through its charitable giving opportunities. Contact Troy Schroeder, KWF President at info@kswildlife.org for more information.

YES! I want to give a gift to benefit the Kansas Wildlife Federation for today!

- Enclosed is a cash gift of \$ _____.

Checks made payable to the Kansas Wildlife Federation, PO Box 771282, Wichita, KS 67277.

- I would like someone to contact me so I can give a gift of grain, art, real estate, or other gift.

YES! I want to give a gift to benefit the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation for tomorrow!

- Enclosed is a cash gift of \$ _____.

Checks made payable to the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation, PO Box 771282, Wichita, KS 67277.

- I would like someone to contact me so I can give a planned gift for the future of KWF!

NAME _____ TEL _____

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

15-page 'Boaters Guide To Winterizing' offered by BoatUS

Boats that are properly winterized are most likely to enter next year's boating season without damage and ready to hit the water

Water expands in volume by about nine percent when it freezes, creating a staggering force that can crack a boat engine block, damage fiberglass, split hoses, or destroy a boat's refrigeration system overnight. As fall approaches, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) recently dug deep into its insurance claims files unearthing a trove of winterizing-related boat insurance claims and found that more than three-quarters involved cracks in the engine block or the exhaust manifolds. Now, the national boating services, safety and advocacy group is making available at no-cost the 15-page "Boater's Guide to Winterizing" that can make the task easier

for any type of boat.

"These claims come from all over the country, not just from the states that get snow every year, and give us a very real picture of what goes wrong and what we can do to prevent this damage," said BoatUS Director of Technical Services Beth Leonard. "Boaters up North know they need to winterize, so their freeze claims almost always involve poor winterizing. In the temperate South, the issue can be a case of no winterizing, or relying on a heater when the electricity goes off, usually when you need it most."

The downloadable brochure addresses the reasons for more than 95 percent of the

freeze claims handled by the BoatUS Marine Insurance Program in the past decade. Included are chapters on: Storing your boat - The options and the tradeoffs; a Winterizing Checklist to use as the starting point for creating your own boat's winterizing list; Engines and Drives - The dos and don'ts; and Plumbing - Getting the water out, which is great for larger boats.

Additional information includes tips on choosing antifreeze, lessons learned from BoatUS Consumer Affairs about protecting yourself with a winterization contract, and green winterizing information.

The checklist is available at www.BoatUS.com/winterizingguide.



Angler education certification in southeast Kansas

Angler education prepares folks to teach fishing techniques in Kansas

The Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) is having an upcoming class designed to certify future angler educators. The class will be held December 6 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Greenbush Camp and Retreat Center, 947 W 47 Hwy, Girard, KS 66743. There is no cost to attend but the class will be limited to the first 40 registrants. Lunch will be provided.

Apart from becoming certified, participants will also be given valuable information regarding working with children, sample curriculums, and tips for preparing a class or clinic. Other subjects covered in the four-hour class include current fishing regulations, species identification, fishing ethics, equipment, knot-tying, casting, fish habitat, aquatic nuisance species, and conservation practices.

The Program, in its first year and a half, has certified 230 Angler Educa-



Photo by Angela Anderson at the Twin Lakes Water Festival at Council Grove Reservoir

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Nearly half of hunters took a kid along

The Archery Wire

Hunting is a rich American tradition often passed down from generation to generation. A recent survey by HunterSurvey.com reveals that passing that heritage along to younger people is still alive and well with nearly 46 percent of surveyed sportsmen having taken at least one child hunting in the past year. The common perception that those children are almost always a son or daughter, however, may not be completely accurate.

When asked how many children they had taken hunting within the past 12 months, 21 percent reported they had taken one. Fifteen percent had taken two children in the past year, 5 percent had taken three, two percent had taken four, while just over two percent had taken five or more. Meanwhile, 54 percent

reported they hadn't taken any children hunting in the past 12 months.

So what was the relation of these children to the hunter? Traditionally, it is thought boys and girls most often learn to hunt from a parent and in 59 percent of the reported cases that is absolutely true. But sportsmen aren't just teaching their kids how to track a buck, shoot a duck or call in a turkey; they're introducing the outdoors to other relatives and friends as well. After a son or daughter, the next highest response was taking an unrelated young person with 27 percent of respondents reporting they had taken a girl or boy hunting with them that was not related to them, 20 percent took a nephew or niece and 17 percent took a grandchild. Nearly four percent took a child as part of an organized activity such as through scouting or as part of a church group event.

"Sportsmen have long sought to share their love for the outdoors with the people in their lives, particularly young people, and when it comes to hunting, introducing kids to the outdoors isn't limited to just immediate family members," says Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at www.HunterSurvey.com, www.ShooterSurvey.com and www.AnglerSurvey.com.

To help continually improve, protect and advance hunting, shooting and other outdoor recreation, all sportsmen and sportswomen are encouraged to participate in the bi-monthly surveys at HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and/or AnglerSurvey.com. Every other month, participants who complete the surveys are entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift certificates to the sporting goods retailer of their choice.

FISHING

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tion Instructors including nearly 100 Kansas school teachers. In 2014 Angler Ed Instructors and KDWPT employees held 135 events that ranged from fishing derbies and casting events to community outreach and aquatic education in the schools. The events reached 60,000 participants. Certified instructors have

donated 1,100 hours of their time to this successful program. These volunteer hours translate not only to a public awareness and appreciation of natural resources but to money reimbursed back to Kansas for aquatic education supplies (fishing poles, lures, fish trading cards, etc.) and towards enhancing the state's fisheries' resources.

Kansas offers some of the best public fishing opportunities in the nation, and we think this is a great way for anglers to

pass on their passion for fishing to those who may have yet to experience Kansas fishing.

Anglers interested in registering for the December 6 class must sign up by visiting www.fishingsfuture.org and clicking "upcoming events," then "Kansas Angler Education Training Program."

For more information, contact Fishing's Future coordinator Kevin Reich at kansasangler@gmail.com or by phone at (785)577-6921.

JOIN THE KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

Current member

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Options:

☐ Basic \$30

☐ Expanded \$75

☐ Kansan \$150

Current member
can give a new gift
Basic membership
for half price (\$15)

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

2014 NWTF Kansas State JAKES Camp

By Brian Lewellen & Gib Rhodes
NWTF Kansas State JAKES
Coordinators

Saturday's activities included Geocaching, fishing, turkey calling, JAKES Take Aim BB gun range, trap & still shooting, 3-D archery, Quail in Kansas, archery, arts & crafts, and canoeing. Geocaching, a new activity for the JAKES Camp, was instructed by Doug & Tami Cushenbery. Doug best described geocaching as using electronics to play "hide & seek." Doug & Tami hide items and it was up to the JAKES to use GPS to locate the items.

Fishing was instructed by Mark Osmundson, George Dille, and Phil Taunton. Chris Grant from Council Grove had chummed the fishing area for some time ahead of the event so several very nice catfish were caught! The instructors even showed the kids how to clean their catch.

Teaching turkey calling was 3 time "World Turkey Calling Champion" Chris Parrish. Chris taught sessions all day long, passing out tips to help bring in a gobbler.

The JAKES Take Aim BB Gun Range was supervised by John Adams, Gary Cargill, T.J. Orender, and Fred Masters. The kids enjoyed some friendly competition to see who could get the most BB's in the center of the target.

Trap & Still Shooting was instructed by Kirk Hammond, Dennis Vincent, Scott Newton, Andy Blaylock, and Shannon Eickhoff. JAKES members had a chance to shoot at still turkey targets as well as fast moving clay targets.

Another new activity this year was 3-D Archery. The Lyon County 4-H Archery Team brought their collection of 3-D targets along with instructors Mark Witherspoon, Heath Botkin, Kim Botkin, Taylor Botkin, and Casey Wells. Also at the 3-D Archery station was Daryl Blaylock who operated the "Flu Flu" machine and targets. At 3-D Archery, kids had a chance to let a lot of arrows fly at everything from small to large targets and from still to fast moving targets.

Quail in Kansas was ran by the Council Grove Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation. Instructors Daryl Finch, Shirley Henton, John Watts, and Jason Heath discussed the biology needed for healthy quail populations and answered questions.

Archery was instructed by Tim Sparks,



On September 13th & 14th, 136 people including 69 JAKES members attended the 2014 NWTF Kansas State JAKES Camp at White Memorial Camp located 6 miles north of Council Grove on Council Grove Lake.

Ben Schneider, and Mike Adams. Lots of "Bulls eyes" were hit!

Arts & Crafts was instructed by Teresa Adams and Theresa McFarland. This year's project involved using recycled materials to make planters for some really nice looking plants.

Canoeing was instructed by Justin Sharples.

Saturday evening the 5th Annual Kansas State JAKES Turkey Calling contest was held for two divisions which were the JAKES Division for kids age 12 and younger and the Xtreme JAKES Division for youth age 13 to 17. Thirty JAKES and Xtreme JAKES members entered the contest. Judges for the contest were Chris Parrish, John Adams, Vance Ralstin, and Brian Lewellen.

In the JAKES Division, the winners were:

- ♦ 1st place Kansas State JAKES Turkey Calling Champion: Isaac Cushenbery,

- ♦ 2nd place: Lane Jeanneret, and

- ♦ 3rd place: Mary Paige Bramlett.

In the Xtreme JAKES Division, the winners were:

- ♦ 1st place Kansas State Xtreme JAKES Calling Champion: Dakota Orender,

- ♦ 2nd place: Kohl Prose, and

- ♦ 3rd place: Jaxon Heath.

After the Kansas State Turkey Calling contest 3 time "World Champion" turkey caller Chris Parrish entertained

the packed house with turkey calling and turkey hunting stories. The evening concluded with S'mores being made around the camp fire.

Sunday's activities began with a well attended Sunrise Service with Pastor Gary Cargill. JAKES member Audri Turner provided a trumpet solo of "Amazing Grace." After a breakfast of the famous White Memorial Camp pancakes, the activities included "Turkey Biology & Management" presented by Jim Pitman. Local Game Warden Randy Benteman also talked to the group about game laws of Kansas and answered a variety of questions. Rose Rozmirek, Chief of Investigation Division for the Kansas Fire Marshall's Office, gave an arson dog demonstration. Next, a drawing was held where all JAKES members attending won a prize.

White Memorial Camp provided a beautiful location with wonderful facilities. Camp Director Jancy Pettit goes out of her way to make sure that all needs are taken care of! Everyone attending had nothing but good things to say about the event, facilities, and food. Kansas State JAKES Coordinators Brian Lewellen and Gib Rhodes are already looking forward to the 2015 NWTF Kansas State JAKES Camp at White Memorial Camp on September 12th and 13th. There's bound to be some surprises and some new and exciting activities.

SE District Director Phil Taunton receives Kansas House of Representatives tribute

The winners of the first-annual Catch, Photo and Release Contest were announced during the Friday, August 29 episode of "What's In Outdoors."

For ten weeks, from mid-June to the end of August, fishing photos and stories were submitted from all across the state, with winners each week.

The top winners are:

*Catfish: Kohl Prose, Emporia

*Crappie: Trey Benjamin, Emporia

*Largemouth Bass: Reese Houck,

North Lyon County

*Sunfish: Max Byer, Louisburg

These winners will receive a \$50 Cabela's gift card. An overall winner was also chosen, with the prize being an educational float trip down the Kansas River courtesy of Friends of the Kaw. The overall winner was Max Byer of Louisburg.

"What's In Outdoors" host Phil Taunton says these stories bring back all kinds of memories for him.

The Catch, Photo and Release Contest was sponsored by Fishing's Future, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's FishKS, and Cabela's.

During the show, Taunton also received a tribute from the Kansas House of Representatives for his service as a National Wildlife Federation volunteer. Emporia Rep. Peggy Mast nominated Taunton for the award, and bestowed it to him. Mast was a judge of the stories in the contest,



"What's In Outdoors" host Phil Taunton and Rep. Peggy Mast pose with the award given to Taunton for his outdoor volunteer work. Photo by AJ Dome/KVOE News.

along with KVOE's Roger Hartsook and AJ Dome.

Read the winning stories at: <http://>

www.kvoe.com/news/4999-what-s-in-outdoors-catch-photo-release-contest-winners-announced#sthash.IxBSqTHZ.dpuf

KRC announces move: New address, telephone and fax

By Julie Mettenburg
KRC Executive Director

As the old saying goes, times change — and organizations change with them. The Kansas Rural Center has reached one of those times!

In response to new staff locations and technologies that allow for more office flexibility, KRC is closing its longtime office at Whiting. Effective October 1, KRC will use a centralized Topeka postal address and a centralized, toll-free "866-" phone and fax number that features direct extensions for each staff member.

"As with any business or organization, we must be prudent and look for the most efficient means of operations at the best costs," said KRC president of the board Joy

Lominska. "With staff located across the state, and new technologies linking them, we had to admit that keeping the overhead of a centralized office that wasn't so central was hard to justify. Therefore, the board of directors has decided to close our longtime 'bricks and mortar' location in Whiting.

Added Executive Director Julie Mettenburg: "New technology has allowed us to invest and update with networked phone systems across distances, video meetings and chats, and utilization of vendors statewide, which KRC had already begun to implement. Empowering employees to work from any community in Kansas, in support of the mission of the Kansas Rural Center, makes a lot of sense."

Current staff members work in locations from Great Bend to Lawrence, and utilize

home offices as well as community office spaces and services. KRC also anticipates savings in fuel, paper and other resource use. Lominska pointed out, "This is also an opportunity to model the mission of sustainability, which we are always looking to do."

"For 35 years, Whiting has been home base for KRC," stated Mary Fund, Programs and Policy Director and founding staff member and long time KRC employee. "Closing the office marks the end of an era, but new technology allows us to work from anywhere in Kansas and still be in touch with each other and the information central to the organization's operation and to our efforts as a team. Maintaining a central office no longer makes sense."

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What makes autumn's leaves so colorful?

By eNature

Sometime between now and the middle of November, the trees in North America's eastern broadleaf forests will reach their full fall glory.

From Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and New Hampshire's White Mountains to the Shenandoah Valley and beyond, leaf peepers will bring traffic to a standstill on beautiful fall weekends. By the carful and busload, they'll come to gawk at the beautiful countryside.

But what will they be seeing? How do leaves end up in such spectacular colors?

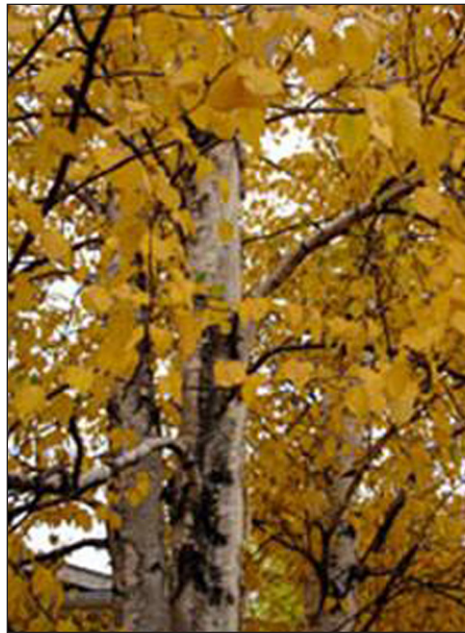
Hidden Colors

Leaf color arises from various chemicals within trees. It's the strength as well as the presence or absence of compounds like tannins, xanthophylls, and carotenes that determines fall hues in the scores of tree species found in the East.

Back in the spring and summer, when the millions of trees in these same woodlands were busily growing and producing food, their leaves were chock full of chlorophyll, and it was the chlorophyll that colored the forests varying shades of green. But chlorophyll is a mask, and once trees sense the change in the weather and start to stop chlorophyll production, the mask drops and the other colors of the leaves come to the forefront.

A Color For Every Tree

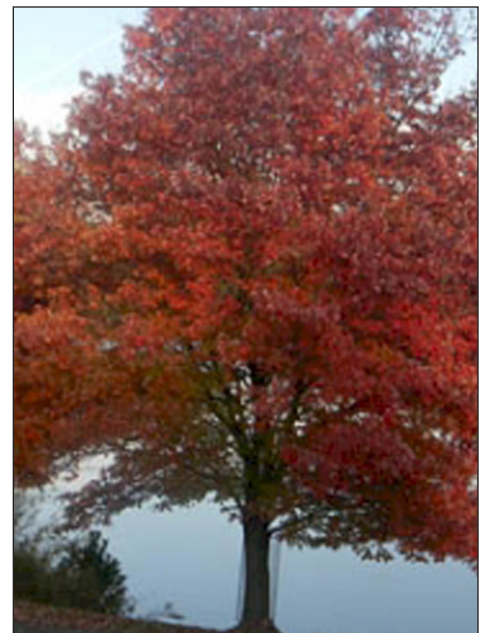
The fall colors can be so distinctive in some tree species that it's possible to identify these trees from a distance mere-



Paper Birch

ly by noting their hues. The brilliant red leaves belong to the Red Maple, American Mountain Ash, and Black Tupelo, plus sumacs, blueberries, and Virginia Creeper in the understory. Richer red foliage is typical of Red Oak, Scarlet Oak, and White Oak. Birches and beeches sparkle with bright yellow foliage, while Witch Hazel and Striped Maple are a less intense yellow, and walnuts, hickories and aspens attain a truly golden glow.

Of course, not all trees settle on a single color. Sugar Maples, for example, blaze in green, yellow, orange, and star-



Red Maple

ting red, and Sassafras comes in various shades of red, orange, yellow, and purple.

If you want to enjoy the fall colors yourself, plan ahead and, if possible, venture out during the week as opposed to on a crowded weekend.

No matter when you go, though, spend a little time outside your car. The trees are even prettier close-up, along a quiet trail or down a less traveled side road.

Have you had time to enjoy Fall's colors this year?

We always enjoy hearing about your experiences.

KRC

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"Our number one concern is making sure that we remain as accessible to all of you as we have always been," Fund explained. "The new phone number should actually put callers in touch with the staff more quickly and directly than the current one!"

Beginning October 1, the KRC address, phone number, and general e-mail inquiry address are:

KANSAS RURAL CENTER
4021 SW 10th Street #337
Topeka, Kansas 66604
866-579-5469
info@kansasruralcenter.org

Their website remains the same at: www.kansasruralcenter.org

HAVERFIELD

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They strongly believe that wildlife conservation is, as Larry would say, "the right thing to do".

Funeral Services were held on September 26, the 33rd anniversary of the rediscovery of the ferrets, thought extinct until that date in 1981.

The family requested that memorials be given to Audubon of Kansas, the Defenders of Wildlife or the donor's choice.

Advertisements accepted in KWF newsletter

Beginning with the January 2015 newsletter the Kansas Wildlife Federation is accepting advertisements. If you or your company caters to hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts, this is the vehicle to reach them.

For more information and rates, contact the editor at info@kswildlife.org.

Mike Rader named Avian Conservationist of the Year

Rader is recognized for his significant contributions to bird conservation, education

If you've ever cracked open an issue of Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine and read the "Bird Brain" column, you've learned about birds from Mike Rader. If you've ever attended an Eco-Meet or Kansas Archery in the Schools event, Rader played a pivotal role in that. If you've ever teamed up on a bird count conducted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), chances are Rader showed you the way. It's these contributions and so many more that make it no surprise that Rader, Wildlife Education Coordinator for KDWPT, was named Avian Conservationist of the Year by the Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS). Rader received the

award at the fall meeting, Oct. 3-5, and if you ask his nominator, Chuck Otte, there couldn't have been a more deserving person to recognize.

The KOS's Avian Conservationist of the Year Award is given each year to an individual who has made significant contributions to bird conservation and/or education; Rader has done this and more.

"Conserving our avian resources has become Mike's life long, all-consuming work," said Otte, Geary County KSU extension agent and past KOS president. "Certainly, Mike's birding is his passion, but making sure that we still have birds to watch has become his driving force."

"Mike spends considerable time

working on projects that will benefit birds and all wildlife, and helping other people learn more about the wildlife around them," said Otte. "He has turned us into better conservationists."

Apart from KOS, Rader also serves as a member of the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education.

For more information on KOS and the Avian Conservationist Award, visit www.ksbirds.org.

For more information on KDWPT's wildlife education programs, visit www.ksoutdoors.com and click "Services," then "Education."

State benefits from hunting/fishing revenue

Bird population numbers increase and media campaign introduced

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), along with other regional tourism partners, released data on the economic benefits of hunting and fishing in the state and updated species population numbers at a press conference on Friday, October 24 at Horse Thief Reservoir west of Jetmore in Hodgeman County. About 100 people attended the event and also heard the agency announce the launch of its first-ever targeted media campaign geared to bring hunters and anglers to Kansas. KDWPT Secretary Robin Jennison and Assistant Secretary for Parks and Tourism Linda Craghead hosted the press conference.

Craghead relayed the message, there's no place like Kansas for an excellent hunting and fishing experience. Both activities have a substantial impact on the Kansas economy:

- ◆ Hunting - \$401+ million trip related & equipment expenses annually
- ◆ Fishing - \$211+ million trip related & equipment expenses annually
- ◆ Non-resident license sales (hunting & fishing) \$10.7 million

◆ Less than 16 percent of Kansas' total license sales generate 60 percent of license revenue

◆ Resident license sales (hunting & fishing) \$7.8 million

◆ Kansas has more than 1.5 million acres open to public hunting

◆ Kansas has a variety of species to hunt (waterfowl, pheasant, turkey, deer, etc....mixed bag in one trip)

◆ Kansas has higher bag limits than some states for certain species

◆ Kansas has the range of experience – from do-it-yourself hunting to guide hunts in premier hunting lodges

Jennison reported that as a result of partnerships between KDWPT, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and landowners, along with good weather, the pheasant, quail, waterfowl and turkey outlook for the 2014 hunting season equals good news for Kansas.

Pheasant - Kansas has one of the best pheasant populations in the nation. Fall harvest will again be among the best in the country. Conditions throughout the spring and summer have reflected a statewide increase in summer brood

counts by 70 percent.

Quail – Roadside surveys reflect a statewide increase of 50 percent compared to 2013

Turkey – Population trend is stable or slightly increasing in the west and slightly declining in the east.

Waterfowl – American fall flight estimate of breeding ducks is 49.2 million birds – an 8 percent increase since standard surveys began in 1955. In the Central Flyway, there were almost 12.9 million breeding ducks surveyed this spring – 68 percent above the long-term average.

Hunters and anglers on average spend 32 percent more during their stay than the traditional leisure traveler. To further encourage out-of-state hunters and anglers to travel to Kansas for their outdoor activities, KDWPT will launch a targeted marketing campaign including television, digital, email blasts and print advertising to educate outdoor enthusiasts on the vast and excellent hunting and fishing experiences they will enjoy if they travel to Kansas.

The Franz Buck — the largest free range whitetail ever taken on film

By Mark Kenyon
Wired to Hunt

Over the past week or so, word has been spreading across the internet of an absolute monster whitetail being killed on film in Iowa – possibly the biggest *ever* killed on film and that rumor eventually proved to be true. Our friends at TrophyPursuit.com were fortunate enough to have had a camera rolling for this hunt, and finally, the video is live for us all to see.

Quite simply, you need to check out this video. This deer is unbelievable. Enjoy. Go to: <http://wiredtohunt.com/2014/10/23/the-franz-buck-the-largest-free-range-white-tail-ever-killed-on-film/>



Sportsmen's groups oppose House bill to undermine Clean Water Act

Sporting groups representing a full spectrum of anglers and hunters from all across America announced on September 10 their opposition the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014, which is being considered by the House. If signed into law, this bill would jeopardize Clean Water Act protections for important fish and game habitat, including millions of acres of wetlands and thousands of miles of headwater streams.

"Plain and simple, a vote for this bill today is a vote against America's sportsmen and women who depend on wetlands and headwater streams to provide the highest quality fishing and hunting opportunities," said Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited's vice president of government affairs.

Prompted by a series of Supreme Court decisions and stakeholder requests, the Environmental Protection Agency and Corps of Engineers are currently undergoing a public rulemaking process to clarify which bodies of water are protected by the Clean Water Act. These waters include seasonally flowing intermittent and ephemeral streams and certain "isolated" wetlands, all of which contribute to water quality and provide fish and game habitat. The rule has no impact on farm ponds, farm ditches or "mud puddles," as some in the House have claimed in recent weeks. Claims like that fuel the partisan divide and amount to little more than political theater.

"From toxic drinking water in Toledo to the 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico,

we've seen a number of serious water quality problems this summer that demand solutions. The proposed Clean Water Rule is a common-sense way to better protect the drinking water supplies of 117 million Americans and improve the habitat for thousands of species of fish and birds. Rather than undoing 40 years of progress under the Clean Water Act, we urge Congress to work with anglers, hunters, wildlife watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts to improve water quality in ways that will create billions of dollars of economic benefits nationwide and expand outdoor recreational opportunities for tens of millions of Americans," said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

The rule is presently subject to public comments, and members of the House can comment on the bill just like any other American.

"In the years since the Supreme Court decisions, we've seen the first increase in the rate of wetlands loss in the history of the Clean Water Act," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Passing this bill and halting the proposed rule risks continued loss of wetlands such as the prairie potholes, America's most important waterfowl breeding habitat."

The recreation economy is a growing player in this discussion. As Moyer said, the bill is bad for sportsmen's interests and for the industry surrounding outdoor

recreation.

"Our goal is to promote the sustained growth of the fly fishing industry," said Ben Bulis, president and executive director of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. "That can't be accomplished without clean water in our rivers and streams across the country. As a nation, if we fail to protect our streams and wetlands, we could destroy the \$200 billion hunting and fishing industry that supports over 1.5 million jobs. These jobs depend on clean water for quality fishing."

Joining Trout Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and the American Fly Fishing Trade Association were B.A.S.S., Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, The Berkley Conservation Institute, The International Federation of Fly Fishers, The Snook and Gamefish Foundation, The North American Grouse Partnership, the American Fisheries Society and the Izaak Walton League of America in sending a letter to the House of Representatives. The letter opposed this legislation and recommended that the House work through the public process to address potential concerns with the rulemaking without derailing this much needed clarification.

If you would like a copy of the letter these groups sent to the House, please contact Chris Hunt at chunt@tu.org.

Zebra mussels discovered in Pomona Reservoir

Invasive, sharp-shelled mollusk discovered in Management Park cove

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) has confirmed the presence of invasive zebra mussels in Pomona Reservoir in Osage County. A small adult group was discovered on a single rock by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff on September 23 in Management Park cove near the south end of the dam. KDWP staff found more zebra mussels the next day. KDWP is sampling other parts of the lake to determine if the population has spread. Twenty-three Kansas lakes now have confirmed zebra mussel populations. Other reservoirs in northeast Kansas with zebra mussel infestations include Milford, Perry, John Redmond, Clinton and Melvern.

Pomona Reservoir covers approximately 4,000 acres and is located 24 miles south of Topeka. It is managed by the USACE, and KDWP manages the fishery. The lake, completed in 1963, is home to Pomona State Park and several USACE parks. It is a popular destination for fishing, camping, swimming, hiking, and a variety of boating and other water-related activities.

USACE and KDWP officials stress that there is no known method to completely rid a lake of zebra mussels. If the population appears to be limited to



Management Cove, officials may attempt to treat the cove within the next week to kill as many of the mussels as possible to slow their spread. The cove and boat ramp will be closed for at least 72 hours if the chemical is used. Generally, fish will move out of an area where treatments are applied. As a result, officials don't expect a large fish kill, though

there may be some mortality among fish remaining in the cove.

Officials emphasize that everyone using the lake plays a key role in stemming the spread of mussels to uninfested lakes. "This situation shows how important it is for boaters, anglers,

Continued on Page 19

Create a brush pile and watch your local wildlife thrive!

By eNature Blog

Fall is in the air across the country—and now is the time to be thinking about what we can do to help our local wildlife get through the cold of winter.

Autumn is the best time of the year to create some brush piles for the birds in your backyard. Fall trimmings can be piled up in a corner or along the edge of the yard, where it will give ground-inhabiting birds additional cover against winter weather and predators.

About half the birds that we feed in our backyards spend much of their lives on the ground nesting, roosting and in search of food. Piles of brush are ideal protective cover for resident and migrating white-throated, white-crowned, and fox sparrows. Song sparrows, tree sparrows, and field sparrows all visit backyards, and

should benefit from brush pile cover. Dark-eyed juncos, towhees, winter wrens, quail, pheasants, and ground doves, also spend a great deal of their lives on the ground, and seek the kind of cover in backyards that brush piles offer.

An evergreen tree that has been cut down will also make excellent cover for ground-inhabiting birds when the tree is laid on its side along a fence row or in a corner of the yard. Discarded Christmas trees give the same kind of cover. Even piles of rocks and logs will furnish some cover for birds during cold weather or when there is a threat from predators.

So, next weekend, take a look around your yard for pruning and clipping opportunities. Not only will a little trimming improve the appearance of the yard, but it will also help a few birds and other wildlife survive the winter.



Brush Pile © George Harrison

Are you doing anything to make your yard wildlife friendly for the upcoming winter?

We always enjoy hearing from our readers!

Yellowstone National Park plans to remove 900 bison

Daniel Xu
OutdoorHub

Officials from Yellowstone National Park announced last month that they recommend the removal of 900 bison from the area, primarily through hunting. According to the park's summer bison population estimate, the cull will account for nearly 19 percent of the area's 4,900 bison. Other methods of removal include agreements with local Native American tribes to ship the animals off to slaughter, or transport them for research purposes to the Stephens Creek facility.

According to the Associated Press, the proposed cull would be the largest since the winter of 2007-2008, when 1,600 bison were removed from the park. Although large-scale management actions are not preferred by wildlife experts, they are necessary to keep the bison population in check. Living in the sanctuary of Yellowstone provides bison with high survival rates. With little predation by wolves, bison can grow to fill available habitat at an alarming rate. This puts pressure on other species like elk for food competition, and can also foster the spread of disease to livestock outside of the park.

"We're trying to avoid these massive, big harvests, but we haven't been able to meet our objective yet," bison program manager Rick Wallen said. "If we had a relatively mild winter, we probably wouldn't see a significant migration to the boundary until later on, and that would make it a challenge to hunt the animals."

The bison population in Yellowstone



Officials want to remove bison as worries over disease increase.

is split between the Northern herd, which contains 3,500 animals, and the Central herd, which is comprised of 1,400 individuals. The species historically occupied more than 7,000 square miles near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River, but that range is now reduced to the park boundaries and some areas in Montana. The species almost disappeared entirely from the park before 1900 with only a mere handful holding out in Yellowstone's Pelican Valley. In 1902, a small herd of 21 bison were transported from Montana and Texas and settled in northern Yellowstone, which soon became known as the Northern

herd.

Hunters on average harvest 250 bison per year from outside the park's boundaries, although park and tribal officials want to increase that number. However, park authorities are under pressure from outside groups to limit bison hunting. According to the National Park Service, allowing hunting within the park itself would be vastly unpopular and create conflicts with non-hunting park visitors. As it is, hunters are limited to what animals stray out of the park every winter during their infrequent migrations.

MUSSELS

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swimmers and skiers to be aware of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) and to take precautions to prevent their spread," said Jessica Howell, KDWPT Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator.

Prevention is the best way to avoid spreading ANS. They often travel by "hitchhiking" with unsuspecting lake-goers. "Always clean, drain, and dry boats and other equipment and don't transfer lake water or live fish to another body of water. This can help stop the spread of not only zebra mussels, but most aquatic

nuisance species that may be present," Howell said.

The lake will be added to the list of ANS-designated waters in Kansas, and notices will be posted at various locations around the reservoir. The sharp-shelled zebra mussels attach to solid objects, so lake-goers should be careful when handling mussel-encrusted objects and when grabbing an underwater object when they can't see what their hands may be grasping. Visitors should protect their feet when walking on underwater or shoreline rocks.

Zebra mussels are just one of the non-native aquatic species that threaten our waters and native wildlife. After using any body of water, people must remem-

ber to follow regulations and precautions that will prevent their spread:

Clean, drain and dry boats and equipment between uses

Use wild-caught bait only in the lake or pool where it was caught

Do not move live fish from waters infested with zebra mussels or other aquatic nuisance species

Drain livewells and bilges and remove drain plugs from all vessels prior to transport from any Kansas water on a public highway.

For more information about aquatic nuisance species in Kansas, report a possible ANS, or see a list of ANS-designated waters, visit ProtectKSWaters.org.

It's Whooping Crane time



Adult Whooping Cranes were spotted on Oct. 28 at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area in Barton County but were gone by the next day. Five Whooping Cranes (4Adults, 1Juvenile) were in the northwest corner of Big Salt Marsh at Quivira on Oct. 29.

Rare Whooping Cranes make appearance in Kansas

They are part of the only sustaining wild population estimated at 250 birds. Whooping Cranes from this population will fly through the state in upcoming weeks, making their way to wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Records indicate that most whooping cranes will pass through Kansas between Oct. 17 and Nov. 10, usually travelling in small family groups. It's not uncommon

for the 5-foot-tall birds to stop for rest and food at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge on their way through.

As part of a cooperative monitoring program supervised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) encourages anyone who spots a whooper to contact their local KDWPT office. Sighting information can be used

to alert managers of key areas along the flyway — such as Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area in central Kansas — and to provide sighting records for the Whooping Crane Recovery Plan and for Whooping Crane research in the U.S. and Canada.

For more information, visit the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane.

USDA announces approval of new 2,4-D resistant crops

From The Organic & Non-GMO Reporter

USDA recently announced plans to allow Dow Chemical Company to begin marketing its new GM corn and soybeans, Enlist Duo, that is resistant to 2,4-D. They also indicated they are leaning toward approving Monsanto's new GM crops resistant to another herbicide, dicamba.

This is despite opposition from farmers, scientists and health professionals who

have voiced concerns about the risks that accompany such a release. Agriculture had moved away from 2,4-D, which is a highly toxic and drift prone herbicide in favor of what were believed to be more benign products. Now that critical problems are arising with weed resistance to the most commonly used herbicides like glyphosate (Round Up), the companies are returning to their arsenal of older stronger herbicides. Specialty crop farmers and organic farmers fear damages and crop losses if

2,4-D comes back into heavy use.

USDA has acknowledged that if Dow's GM seeds are approved, applications of 2,4-D could increase by 200 to 300 percent by 2020.

According to the Center for Food Safety, "the biotech industry is about to repeat the same mistakes that got us into this predicament". Agriculture experts warn that the weeds that became resistant to glyphosate will quickly become resistant to 2,4D and dicamba.

Autumn's bounty can turn some carnivores into carb-loving vegans!

By eNature

What would you expect a Grizzly Bear to eat when fattening up for winter? Caribou? Salmon?

How about a nice fruit salad?

Yes, some of our most celebrated carnivores become vegetarians in the fall.

Even the largest terrestrial predator, the Grizzly Bear, turns into a berry specialist at this time of year. It feeds on Salmonberries, crowberries, elderberries, and numerous other species of berries.

In fact, one type of manzanita is called Bearberry because of its importance in the fall diet of bears.

Black Bears, which tend to be more herbivorous than Grizzlies, also load up on berries before the winter, and in areas where oak trees grow, these bears consume vast quantities of acorns, too. Not to mention apples, grapes and other



Female Grizzly Bear, Yellowstone National Park

fruit they may encounter in farms and gardens.

Even the Polar Bear, the most predator of all the bears, feeds on berries when they're available.

And It's More Than Bears Who Go

Vegan

Coyotes and foxes follow a similar pattern, dining on a broad range of fruits during the fall. The superb climbing ability of the Common Gray Fox offers it access to berries and other fruits growing in places inaccessible to Coyotes and bears. Wolves, too, will eat berries in the fall, though these seldom constitute a significant portion of their diet.

At first glance, it seems odd that these large "meat eaters" would consume fruits at a time when their need for stored fats and proteins is paramount. Research, however, reveals that the carbohydrates found in fruits are easily converted into fats when eaten in large quantities.

What are your local animals doing to prepared for winter? Have you seen any seemingly unusual behavior or obvious preparation taking place?

We always enjoy your stories!

Upset? Yeah you might say

By Steven Williams, Ph.D.

President

Wildlife Management Institute

As I write this column, the bitter taste of partisan, election-year politics is still in my mouth. Prior to the summer recess, the Senate rejected the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act (Act) despite its 46 bipartisan, co-sponsors. The original Act had 14 provisions to enhance hunting and fishing across the nation. These provisions included: easing state fish and wildlife agencies' ability to finance shooting ranges; improving opportunities for hunting and fishing on federal lands; exempting lead ammunition and fishing tackle from control under the Toxic Substances Control Act; providing a portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for increased access to landlocked public lands; creating an electronic Federal Duck Stamp; and reauthorizing both the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The House had previously passed a similar bill (the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act) that would have allowed the two houses to hold a conference to work out differences and then pass the bill to the president's desk for

signing.

Not surprisingly, this potentially historic bill that would improve hunting and fishing opportunities and access, enjoyed strong support from dozens of national hunter-conservation organizations. The Congressional Sportsmen Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Safari Club International, and other organizations, over the course of years, spent countless hours in both House and Senate offices explaining the importance of the Act to members and their staff. Individual phone calls expressing support for the legislation poured into Washington. Co-sponsors from both political parties recognized the constituent support they might garner by sponsoring the legislature in a mid-term election year. I believe it was safe to say that many of us expected to celebrate a major political victory for sportsmen and sportswomen. Once and for all, we would demonstrate the political influence and momentum of some 40 million hunters and anglers. Then, our hopes all dissolved on July 10 when the Senate failed to pass a cloture vote to end debate on the bill—the death knell for the bill.

The lack of passage in the Senate would have been frustrating enough if there had been simple and honest dis-

agreements on the 14 provisions by one party or another. However, there was bipartisan support for the original bill, and co-sponsors expressed strong optimism. In the end, according to the website congress.gov, there were 34 Senate actions on the bill and 97 proposed amendments. Amendments are a legitimate and routine legislative procedure, used since our founding fathers set up this republic. However, in this case, many of the amendments were obviously political schemes from both parties to force votes on issues thought to embarrass one another in an election year. Consider a sampling of the proposed amendments: to prevent EPA from finishing Clean Water Act guidance; to plan for motorized vehicles on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; to address management of the Gulf of Mexico's red snapper fishery; to further control gun ownership and use; to ensure gun access on Army Corps of Engineers' lands; to delete the bill's provisions on ammunition and fishing tackle... and so on. Finding the wording of all 97 amendments is next to impossible on government websites. Consequently, constituents would have a hard time finding out what their senator did

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A new Silent Spring?

Neonic pesticides threaten pheasant, other wildlife

By Greg Hoch

From Pheasants Forever magazine

“It is ironic to think that man might determine his own future by something so seemingly trivial as the choice of an insect spray.” — Rachel Carson, author *Silent Spring*. (*Silent Spring* was met with fierce opposition by chemical companies, but it led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides and inspired creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Carson, a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientist, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.)

Across much of the Midwest, the heart of pheasant country, 95 percent or more of the grasslands have been lost. What remains is often 80 acres here, a quarter section there. We owe it to the pheasants and other upland wildlife struggling to hang on in this region to make those remaining acres as safe, healthy and productive as possible. Yet, today, that may not be the case.

There is one class of pesticides on the market since the mid-1990s that has been generating a lot of press recently, little of it good. Neonicotinoids, neonics for short, are derived from the nicotine in the tobacco plant.

Many older pesticides were synthetic and had unintended negative consequences in the environment. Think DDT. Neonics, and other pesticides such as the pyrethroids (derived from chrysanthemums), are plant-based chemicals, and were hopefully less destructive to non-target species. It's hard to find corn or soybean seed, for crops or foodplots, that's not coated with neonics.

In nature, everyone is attacking everyone else, or fending off attacks. It's survival of the fittest out there. Animals can fight or flee, but plants can do neither. So, plants have evolved poisons to defend themselves. Hydrogen cyanide, strychnine and curare, to name but a few, are all plant-derived chemicals. It would be hard to argue that any are benign. Likewise,

neither are neonics.

In the last couple years, commercial beekeepers sounded the first warning about neonics as they watched colony after colony collapse or disappear. When researchers began collecting and analyzing their data, they found it wasn't just bees. These chemicals, and their effects, were rippling through the landscape.

Neonics are neurotoxins. They kill insects by disrupting their nerve cells, causing paralysis, leading to suffocation, causing death. The problem is that all of us, bees, birds, people, have nerve cells and all those nerve cells function pretty much the same. As researchers continued to investigate these chemicals, they found that many neonics can suppress the immune system and cause developmental abnormalities.

There's a 2012 research paper titled “Immune suppression by neonicotinoid insecticides at the roots of global wildlife declines.” Another paper published the following year is titled “Pesticide acute toxicity is a better correlate of US grassland bird declines than agricultural intensification.” The titles alone speak for themselves.

Bees, bugs, songbirds, pheasants, people, all live in the same environment, drink the same water and breathe the same air. A 2007 study stated that “Increasing use of this insecticide [imidacloprid] and potential toxicity among humans warrants a heightened awareness...” A 2013 press release by the European Food Safety Authority stated some neonicotinoids “damage the developing human nervous system- in particular the brain.”

Use of these chemicals has increased dramatically since their introduction. Neonics came into the market in the mid 1990s. By 2003, Americans were using just under 500,000 pounds. That increased to nearly 1.5 million the following year and climbed to almost 3.5 million pounds in 2009. Presumably, numbers have continued to climb in the

past four years.

The USFWS estimates that each year, 67 million birds die from direct exposure to pesticides on farmlands in the US. Most tragic are hens who die from poisoning, killing her and the all the eggs in her nest. Ten times that number are exposed to pesticides, but presumably survive.

These, and other, chemicals impact pheasants and other wildlife in a number of ways. Pesticides are applied to fields and some frequently drifts into adjacent wildlife habitat areas, including grasslands and wetlands. Also, insects exposed in the cropland fly into the grassland habitat and are eaten by pheasants and other wildlife. Pheasants also go into the crop fields to forage. Researchers in Canada found neonic levels as high as 100 times the acceptable level in many wetlands.

These chemicals may be killing millions of insects in pheasant habitat, insects egg-laying hens and fast-growing chicks must have to survive. With fewer insects, hens will lay fewer eggs and chicks may not find enough food to survive. If hens are eating insects with sublethal levels of neonics, she passes those chemicals to her eggs. That may lead to developmental problems and fewer eggs hatched. Some chicks may not find enough food to survive, starving or becoming weak and more vulnerable to predators. As chicks eat insects, the chemicals may be compromising their immune systems, making them more susceptible to diseases and parasites. Each insect is small, but birds eat hundreds of thousands of insects over the year. Added up, that's a lot of toxic chemical.

Put together, toxicity and habitat loss means fewer rooster tails to chase through fall bluestem. Whether beekeeper, bird hunter, parent or expectant parent, we should all be concerned.

Hoch is a professional grassland ecologist in Minnesota.

Hunting participation in the United States: 2012 to 2014 and participation forecasts for 2014 to 2016

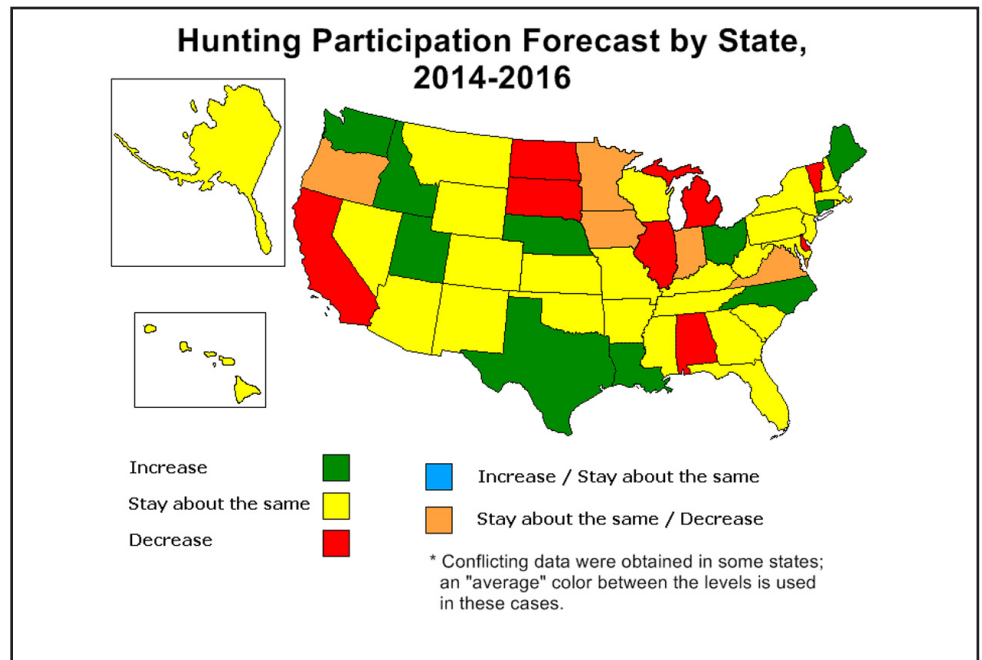
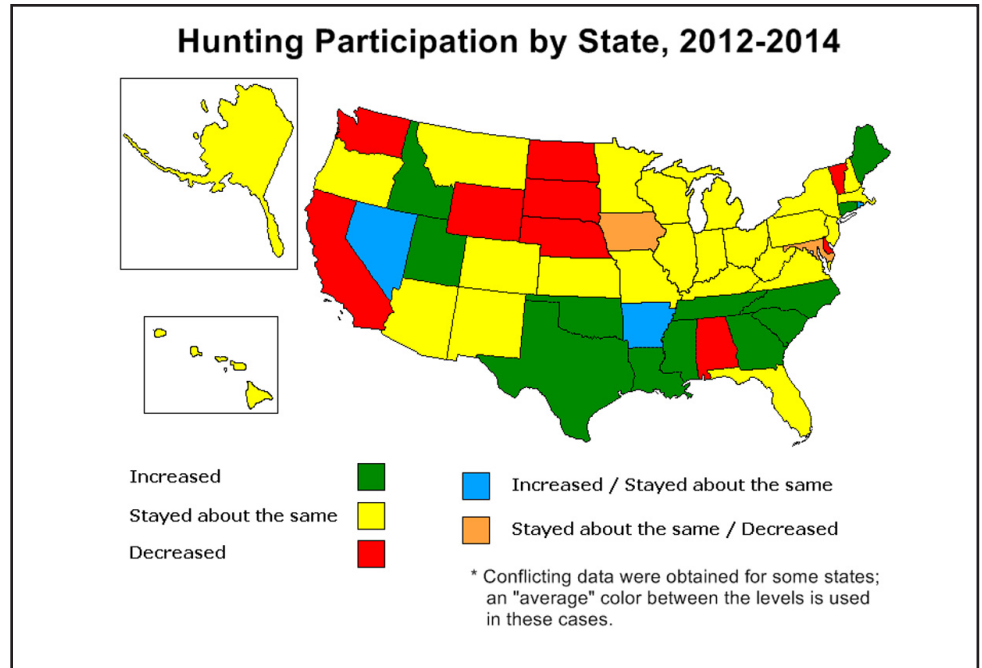
Responsive Management recently coordinated with all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies to continue monitoring hunting participation throughout the United States. Following up on the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Responsive Management worked with key personnel in each agency to estimate the trend in their state's hunting participation for the past two years as well as the next two years.

Findings from the 2011 National Survey (which examined the trend in hunting participation between 2006 and 2011) and the Responsive Management study (which looked at hunting participation between 2012 and 2014 and expected participation between 2014 and 2016) together offer a more complete picture of the state of hunting participation in the United States. One of the immediate takeaways is that the participation gains documented by the last National Survey have begun to level off across much of the country.

The 2011 National Survey determined that 28 states experienced increased hunting participation between 2006 and 2011. Responsive Management, meanwhile, identified just 12 states that saw increased participation in hunting between 2012 and 2014 (see map above). These states are Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. Each of the states that reported increased hunting participation between 2012 and 2014 were continuing a trend of rising hunter numbers as documented in the National Survey, with four exceptions: Georgia, Maine, North Carolina, and Oklahoma each saw decreased hunting participation between 2006 and 2011, before reversing this trend for the period between 2012 and 2014.

On the whole, agencies most commonly reported that their state's hunting participation had stayed the same between 2012 and 2014. States that reported increases in hunting in recent years, meanwhile, tended to be in the southern region of the country (exceptions are Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, and Utah). Otherwise, a fifth of the agencies indicated that hunting participation in their state had decreased between 2012 and 2014.

Looking ahead to the next two years, one in five agencies anticipates an increase in their state's hunting participation between 2014 and 2016 (see map below). And while



the southern region predominated among states that saw increased participation between 2012 and 2014, those agencies expecting increased hunter numbers over the next two years make up a more geographically diverse selection of regions: states anticipating a rise in hunting participation between 2014 and 2016 are Connecticut, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Utah, and Washington. As with the

earlier timeframe, agencies most commonly expect that their state's hunting participation will stay the same over the next two years, while eight states anticipate a decline.

The maps reflect agency responses regarding current and anticipated hunting participation. Because, in some cases, conflicting data were obtained, the maps occasionally use an "average" color to represent the overall state response.

Got birds? Tell FeederWatch!

Don't let what happens at the feeder stay at the feeder

Chickadees, Bushtits, Northern Cardinals, and other feeder birds carry an important message about the health of bird populations and our environment. In order to decode that message, people just need to count their birds and report what they see to Project FeederWatch. The 28th season of this Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen-science project is about to begin. The door is open for new participants and more observations.

FeederWatch begins November 8, 2014, and continues through April 3, 2015. New and returning participants are urged to sign up now at www.FeederWatch.org to enjoy the full season. The project is easy to do and makes a great family activity.

"We learn so much from the information people report to us, and the data become more and more valuable as time goes by," says project leader Emma Greig. "This is how we learned that Bushtits are increasing in the western part of the country and that more Yellow-rumped Warblers are appearing in the East."

A new tool on the FeederWatch website makes it easy for everyone to see the trends, such as the Bushtit and warbler increases, along with many others that decades of data reveal.

"With this new tool, anyone can make discoveries about bird populations using the millions of FeederWatch data points, with just a few clicks of their mouse," says Greig.

Look at reports for one species, compare two species, or compare trends in



More Bushtits are showing up in FeederWatch reports from western states. Photo by Thomas Meinzen

different parts of the country. The new trend graphs are in the Explore section of the FeederWatch website.

"One trend we'd like to see is more bird reports coming in from cities," Greig explains. "During the past 27 years of FeederWatch, we've only had reports of Monk Parakeets from 136 participants out of more than 50,000. We're very interested in this invasive species which has established breeding populations in cities from a few escaped caged birds. And overall, we need to hear from people with feeders in cities to make sure we're getting a good sample of urban species."

Join the 20,000 FeederWatchers from around the U.S. and Canada who already make this an important part of their year and contribute vital information to science while enjoying their feeder visitors.



FeederWatchers report more Yellow-rumped Warblers in the East. Photo by Connie Pinson

To learn more about joining Project FeederWatch in the U.S. and to sign up, visit www.FeederWatch.org or call the Cornell Lab toll-free at (866) 989-2473. In return for the \$18 fee (\$15 for Cornell Lab members), participants receive the Feeder-Watcher Handbook and Instructions with tips on how to successfully attract birds to your feeders, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds, and a calendar. Participants also receive Winter Bird Highlights, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings, as well as the Cornell Lab's printed newsletter, All About Birds News. The fee is \$35 in Canada. To sign up visit Bird Studies Canada at www.bsc-eoc.org.

Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

POLITICS

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or did not do to kill the bill. I am making the assumption that constituents had the time and desire to find out what their representatives actually say about hunting and fishing and how they actually vote on those issues.

I respect the legitimacy to offer amendments to any bill providing those amendments are germane to the bill's original purpose. Each provision deserves a fair and open debate. What is breathtakingly obvious was the fact that some senators used the amendment

process to kill this bipartisan supported bill that would enhance our hunting and fishing opportunities and access. What could have become an historic legislative victory for hunters and anglers became an ideological vehicle for senators to improve their reelection opportunities and try to embarrass the other political party— all at the expense of the American hunter and angler.

"Welcome to hardball Washington politics," you might say. And you would be right. As a hunter and angler, I say that trading the enhanced hunting and fishing opportunities of 40 million Americans for the political opportunities of 100 senators is 100 percent pure,

unadulterated bull manure. That would explain the taste in my mouth. We owe a debt of gratitude to the organizations and individuals that fought so diligently for the rights of sportsmen and sports-women. They will continue their efforts to improve hunting, fishing, and conservation in spite of the kick in the teeth they received on July 10. We owe them our respect. Congress owes us an honest explanation for their blatant disregard of our values.

Published with permission of Boone and Crockett Club. Reprint from Fall 2014 Fair Chase



Youth pheasant hunt with Flying W Game Birds

On October 4th, the Pass It On Outdoor Mentors held a Youth Pheasant hunt for some of our recent Hunter Ed graduates. The great folks at Flying W Game Birds hosted the hunt and provided the birds for the event. We had 10 youths and 2 adults who had recently completed their hunter ed class, but had not had an opportunity to participate in

an upland bird hunt.

The morning was spent reviewing their hunter safety class and working on their shotgun shooting skills. That afternoon, 2 birds per hunter were placed in bird launchers and concealed in the field. The youths hunted with guides and mentors and got to experience the thrill of seeing hunting dogs

work a field and lock up on point when they found birds.

We're looking forward to taking these kids out for a real hunt on the youth upland weekend, coming up November 1.

Check out photos from the days activities at <http://outdoormentors.org/content/youth-pheasant-hunt-wflying-w-game-birds>

KDWPT and conservation organizations team up for wildlife and hunters

Land acquisition made possible through collaborative effort

The Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area has grown by almost 500 acres as the result of a collaborative effort by The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Pheasants Forever (PF), Quail Forever (QF), and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). The conservation organizations and KDWPT partnered to acquire a 484-acre tract of land adjacent to the Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area in Riley County. The tract, which is open to public hunting, permanently protects habitat vital to many species of wildlife, including turkey, pheasants, quail and prairie chickens. The acquisition also improves access to 550 acres of the existing Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area.

"It's great to see conservation organizations work together with state wildlife agencies to increase public access op-

portunities for outdoor recreation," said Robin Jennison, KDWPT secretary. "In Kansas, where less than three percent of the land is in public ownership, projects like these and our continued relationships for conservation are extremely important."

In addition to providing partial funding for the land acquisition, the conservation organizations worked with KDWPT to help the acquisition pass through the Legislature.

NWTf, PF/QF and Ducks Unlimited (DU) signed a memorandum of understanding earlier this year, creating a historic partnership to ensure wild bird habitat conservation and North America's hunting heritage remains strong for generations to come.

"This particular acquisition is a shin-

ing example of what the conservation community can accomplish when we all work together for a unified cause," said Jared McJunkin, NWTf Great Plains District conservation field supervisor. "While this is the first successful land acquisition for the NWTf in Kansas, we believe additional projects will follow."

The NWTf and PF/QF are national nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations working to conserve wildlife habitat and our outdoor traditions. The NWTf (www.nwtf.org) has 36 chapters across Kansas, and the organization's "Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt." initiative was launched with goals of raising \$1.2 billion to conserve more than 4 million

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What makes crows gather in large roosts during fall and winter?

By eNature

Steve Bailey is a bit of an exception. Whereas most people in Danville, Illinois, wish the crows now in their midst would find themselves another winter home, he welcomes the visitors with open arms. He's a bird lover, of course, and proud to live in the unofficial Winter Crow Capital of North America—despite the noise, the mess, and the smell that comes with that distinction.

Danville is home to roughly 35,000 people. Its crows, however, number some 162,000 according to the recent Audubon Christmas Bird Count. There are so many crows in the 6- to 8-block area where they nightly roost that their weight sometimes snaps branches off trees.

And then there's the endless supply of droppings and the incessant racket. No wonder some desperate residents have cut down healthy shade trees in order to force the birds to relocate. Others have tried scaring the birds away with plastic owls and sirens, even recordings of Barred Owl calls played throughout the night.

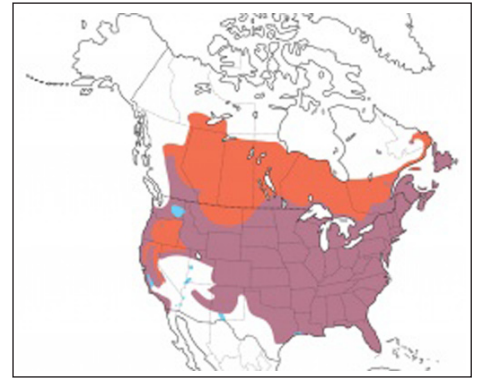
Still, the birds remain. The most obvious reason for their stubbornness is that Danville offers a perfect location for



American Crow vocalizing

crows. It's in a river valley surrounded by agricultural land in all directions. As for the crows' communal tendencies, the birds know that there is strength in numbers. That is, roosting together helps them watch for predators and increases their chances of finding food.

Given these tendencies, it should come as no surprise that Danville's is not the only large crow roost that takes shape in the United States from fall to spring. In Jasper County, Iowa, for example, thousands of crows settle down a little to the east of Newton. In Massachusetts, up to 20,000 descend on the center of Framingham every afternoon. Wichita, Kansas, has 100,000 crows spread among a



Range of American Crow

few roosts. And in the 1940s and '50s, Stafford County, Kansas, hosted upwards of a million crows in winter, though that roost eventually disintegrated.

And perhaps the same fate will someday befall Danville's crows. No doubt most of the town's residents would welcome such a development. For bird lovers like Steve Bailey, though, Danville just wouldn't be the same without its winter crows.

Good or bad, they're certainly a spectacle!

Have you encountered a large roost of crows? It's always a fun visit.

Let us know what you're seeing out there!

What terrestrial animal has the longest lifespan?

By eNature

If you're a TV watcher, you may have noticed that the long-running TV show *Survivor* keeps showing up every season.

But there's a much more interesting version playing out in the wild.

It's one thing to survive a few weeks on a television show, but it's quite another to live 180 years and never be voted off the island!

The tale of the ultimate survivor begins in a world of 18th century explorers, kidnappings, and tropical islands, when long-distance travel was by ship and many lands were still uncharted. The secret to this creature's longevity may be in its philosophy: Slow and steady wins the race.

The Real Survivor

By all accounts the longest-lived creatures on earth are turtles. It may have something to do with the slowed-down lifestyle and perhaps the protective armor. At any rate, tales abound of giant tortoises of the Galapagos,



Eastern Box Turtle

Seychelles, Madagascar, and other islands that lived well over 100 years.

Sailors were said to carve their names and dates into the shells of these behemoths, providing something of a record of their lifespan. But it is quite difficult to track the lifespan of a wild animal, especially when the animal outlives the person keeping track!



Aldabra giant tortoise © Muhammad Mahdi Karim

What Creature Has Lived Longest?

The longest life of any tortoise of which there is an authenticated record is that of Marion's Tortoise, a *Testudo gigantea*. This giant tortoise, along with four of its compan-

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Jayhawk Chapter of the QUWF sponsored youth pheasant hunt

By David Zumbaugh

On October 12, 2014, the Jayhawk Chapter of the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation sponsored a youth pheasant hunt managed by the Eckman Hunting Preserve. The morning hatched a windy, drizzly dawn, but the spirits of the young guns were not dampened. About 48 kids showed up to participate and an ample number of bird dogs were excited to show their handlers they had not forgotten proven instincts. Jon Francis took on the important safety briefing mission and live-fire sessions to get everyone familiar with the day's activities. Mentors were assigned to just about every shooter to ensure the focus was on wise use of scatter guns, having fun and not just harvesting feathered flying targets.

The wily ringnecks proved to be worthy sport as they attempted to dodge the best attempts by the young nimrods. However, with the noble hounds and experienced guides, most of the shooters at least got to test their shotgun skills. Many gaudily clad roosters were brought to the cleaning station by freshmen hunters for a demonstration on how to dress



and bag the birds.

Many youth commented that witnessing the dogs do their chores was the most exciting part of the day. A variety of canines were on hand including pointers, setters and retriever breeds as well. Few birds escaped the practiced noses of the assembled core of qualified bird dogs.

It was an exhibition that all enjoyed, got some fresh air, muddied their boots and left with some stories to brag on!

For more information contact: John H. Hill II, D.C., 3320 Clinton Parkway Court #200, Lawrence, KS 66047, Phone: (785) 841-9555, Email: jayhawkquwf@gmail.com

LIFESPAN

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ions, was taken as an adult from its native island in the Seychelles to Mauritius, where no tortoises occur, by the French explorer Marion de Fresne in 1766. It lived there for 152 years, until it died in 1918. Since it was a full-grown adult at the time of its capture in 1766, its actual age may be estimated at not less than 180 years and perhaps as much as 200 years.

Even the smaller members of the turtle order are known to be long-lived. One Box Turtle, passed down as a family pet, is said to have died at the ripe old age of 123. It was just one year older than the person many consider the oldest human on record, a French woman named Jeanne Louise Calment (1875 to 1997).

Winners All Around

Interestingly, turtles aren't only the longest-lived individuals known, they are the oldest type of living reptiles, vastly more ancient in lineage than the fossil dinosaurs and most of the other extinct forms.

That makes them older than all mammals and birds, as well.

Surely they are doing something right. There may be more to the tale of the tortoise and the hare (lifespan probably up to 8 or 10 years, if lucky!) than race strategy!

Although their numbers are threatened by development, the Eastern Box Turtle is common sight in the woods. Have you encountered any turtles—in your yard or in your travels?

We always enjoy your stories!

PF/QF

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acres of essential upland wildlife habitat, create at least 1.5 million hunters and open access to 500,000 acres for hunting,

shooting and outdoor enjoyment nationwide.

Since 1982, PF and QF (www.pheasantsforever.org) have impacted more than 10 million acres of wildlife habitat in the U.S., of which more than 175,000 acres have been permanently protected and opened to public hunting. There are 36

PF and 13 QF chapters in Kansas, where the organization has spent more than \$4.7 million enhancing wildlife habitat on more than 437,000 acres. Events conducted through various partnerships and the organization's grassroots network of chapters, have provided nearly 13,000 youth with positive outdoors experiences.

Climate change science aided by huge but 'invisible' efforts of amateurs

Many studies rely on citizen-science data, but few acknowledge it

By Caren Cooper

Hundreds of thousands of volunteer data collectors are due for some thanks from scientists, according to a new paper that reveals the role of citizen science in studies of birds and climate change. Data collected by amateurs underpins up to 77 percent of the studies in this field, but that fact is largely invisible by the time the research appears in journals, according to a study published September 3 in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE*.

“Our paper is a chance to say thank you to the many people who are citizen scientists,” said lead author Caren Cooper, a research associate at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “These people are part of the process of creating new knowledge—and whether it’s counting birds or butterflies, gazelles or galaxies, they should know that their observations really make a difference in professional science.”

Birds make excellent subjects for citizen-science projects—the term for studies that depend on members of the public for data gathering. That’s in part



Tree Swallows have been an important subject of citizen-science projects, helping to demonstrate changes in migration timing and breeding as climate has warmed. Photo © Brian Kushner

because the great popularity of bird watching offers a ready pool of skilled observers. Some well-known North American projects are the Christmas Bird Count, eBird, and the Great Backyard Bird Count, as well as activities such as bird-banding stations and breeding bird atlases. But citizen science is not limited to birds—hundreds



Through projects like NestWatch, citizen scientists have provided the data to document regional differences in the breeding cycle of the Eastern Bluebird. Photo © Gary Mueller/Cornell Lab

of other projects cover bugs, trees, flowers, mammals, and microbes, as well as topics like water quality, air pollution, and astronomy.

Citizen science provides scientists with continent- or globe-spanning observations, often over periods so long

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PF/QF habitat specialist expansion in Kansas

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism provides vital support for expansion

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are pleased to announce the expansion of habitat specialist positions in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT). The expansion marks the fourth habitat specialist position in Kansas and is designed to provide habitat management and restoration for many public KDWPT properties throughout the state.

“The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is a key agency partner for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever throughout the state. Their support is critical to making these positions and the habitat acres that follow a reality,” commented Zachary Eddy, Pheasants Forever’s senior Farm Bill wildlife biologist in central Kansas. “Clearly, the public

benefits in the form of increased wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on our state wildlife areas as a result of this partnership.”

Habitat specialists are experts in planning, developing and implementing wildlife habitat management projects for each of the assigned public wildlife areas in Kansas. These specialists plant native grasses, perform prescribed burns, and carry out a host of other specific practices to maximize each area’s wildlife and natural resource values.

“The partnership we’ve created with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever allows us to keep staffing capacities consistent on high-use public wildlife areas during times of budgetary challenges,” said Brad Simpson, KDWPT public lands section chief. “All of our

habitat specialists come highly trained in the field of wildlife habitat management and this helps us to maintain quality cover and services at some of our most popular recreation destinations in Kansas.”

Kansas Habitat Specialist Program
Luke Winge - The most recent staff member employed by Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Luke Winge is the current habitat specialist working to improve wildlife resources for the Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area near Hays, Kansas. With an available 10,300 acres open for public access, this wildlife area is a popular destination for local residents. Among the hunting opportunities available for big game, turkey, upland birds and waterfowl, Cedar

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Captive deer regulations remain with MDC

By Brandon Butler

Executive Director

Conservation Federation of Missouri

September 10, 2014 was a special day for the Conservation Federation of Missouri. It marked the 79th anniversary of the formation of their organization, and now also marks the day CFM helped end legislation that would have reclassified captive white-tailed deer from wildlife to livestock.

Senate Bill 506 was an agriculture omnibus bill that contained legislation to transfer control of captive deer from the Missouri Department of Conservation to the Missouri Department of Agriculture. The bill died on September 10 when the House of Representatives fell one vote shy of the 109 they needed to override Governor Nixon's veto. The Senate vote to override passed by two votes.

CFM members put their heart and soul into ending this legislation and protecting wildlife. The power of motivated citizens working for a cause they

believe in never ceases to amaze. We know white-tailed deer are wildlife. We know it doesn't matter what side of a fence they are on. We are grateful to the legislators who voted to end this senseless legislation.

The founding fathers of CFM must be mighty proud of us today. CFM members who came before us fought to protect and promote the natural resources of Missouri. Yesterday we left our mark with a win for this generation of conservationists.

Our friend, Collin O'Mara, the CEO of the National Wildlife Federation said, "This is a victory for wildlife and Missourians. Governor Nixon's veto of legislation that would have transferred regulation of deer farms to the state agriculture department sends a message that the people's wildlife is a benefit to everyone, not for privatization and profit. We hope that this victory provides other states facing the same challenges with a clear path forward based upon sound science and protecting wildlife."

On behalf of the Conservation Fed-

eration of Missouri and millions of Missouri wildlife enthusiasts, we thank the 52 state representatives for their commitment to sportsmen and the millions of Missourians who simply appreciate wildlife.

CFM understands the importance and believes in the strength of the state's agricultural industry. We believe agriculture and conservation must work together, and CFM is committed to helping further efforts to do so for the greater good of our state. Yet, the captive cervid language in SB 506 was damaging to those efforts. It should have never been added to the agriculture omnibus bill. A political maneuver to backdoor bad legislation backfired. Hopefully, the good legislation that suffered because of politics can be passed as stand alone bills during the next legislative session.

To the Representatives who made the difficult but correct choice to vote against SB 506, the conservation community of Missouri thanks you. We will not forget who our friends are.

CLIMATE

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that they outlast the careers of individual researchers. (The Christmas Bird Count has been running continuously since 1900) For many types of data, there's simply no other way to collect it at such a scale than with volunteers.

So how well does that dependence on volunteers come through in scientific papers? As a springboard for their study, Cooper and her colleagues analyzed the bibliography of a recent review on the effects of climate change on migratory birds. For each of the 173 primary studies cited in the review, Cooper and her colleagues tracked down the sources of data used.

Neither the review itself nor any of the cited papers used the term "citizen science"—a term coined in 1995—and only 37 papers used the word "volunteer." Yet between 24 percent and 77 percent of the papers supporting each claim drew primarily on volunteer data. Citizen science proved especially important for documenting the patterns

and consequences of climate change, such as population declines and changes in migration timing.

Cooper says that it's not as if scientists are downplaying the role of citizen science—in some cases, scientists use large data repositories and may be unaware that citizen science was involved. In the majority of cases, scientists simply don't use a standardized term to refer to citizen science. The result is that the product of all that volunteer effort is invisible in the literature, despite having played an integral part in analyses.

"I'd like to see this information coming full circle. In the world today we tend to have notions about expertise, and that only professionals have it," Cooper said, noting that this idea can keep people from feeling they have anything to contribute to the scientific process. "But people who have been doing a hobby for years have tons of expertise, and they can make a very real contribution."

"It would be so cool for people to start to identify with the term citizen science, instead of thinking 'I'm a bird

watcher,' or 'I measure water quality,'" Cooper said. "People might realize they have a lot of kindred spirits out there."

Some North American Citizen Science Projects for Bird Watchers:

eBird accepts sightings all year round and from anywhere on the globe

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count runs during the holidays and welcomes bird watchers of all levels

Project FeederWatch is a winter project that gives people with backyard feeders a chance to contribute their sightings to science

NestWatch is a summer project in which participants monitor the progress of nests

Great Backyard Bird Count happens over Presidents Day weekend, accepts sightings worldwide, and is a great project for people just getting started with citizen science

Not a bird watcher? Scistarter can help you find a citizen-science project in whatever subject interests you.

Caren Cooper blogs about citizen science and is also on Twitter @Coop-SciScoop.

Massive CWD outbreak on Iowa deer farm

79.8 percent of the deer tested positive for the disease

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship announces that the test results from the depopulation of a quarantined captive deer herd in north-central Iowa showed that 284 of the 356 deer, or 79.8% of the herd, tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The owners of the quarantined herd have entered into a fence maintenance agreement with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, which requires the owners to maintain the 8' foot perimeter fence around the herd premises for five years after the depopulation was complete and the premises had been cleaned and disinfected.

CWD is a progressive, fatal, degenerative neurological disease of farmed and free-ranging deer, elk, and moose. There is no known treatment or vaccine for CWD. CWD is not a disease that affects humans.

On July 18, 2012, USDA Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, IA confirmed that a male white tail deer harvested from a hunting preserve in southeast IA was positive for CWD. An investigation revealed that this animal had just been introduced into the hunting preserve from the above-referenced captive deer herd in north-central Iowa.

The captive deer herd was immediately quarantined to prevent the spread of CWD. The herd has remained in quarantine until its depopulation on August 25 to 27, 2014.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship participated in a joint operation to depopulate the infected herd with USDA Veterinary Services, which was the lead agency, and USDA Wildlife Services.

Federal indemnity funding became available in 2014. USDA APHIS appraised the captive deer herd of 376 animals at that

time, which was before depopulation and testing, at \$1,354,250. At that time a herd plan was developed with the owners and officials from USDA and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Once the depopulation was complete and the premises had been cleaned and disinfected, indemnity of \$917,100.00 from the USDA has been or will be paid to the owners as compensation for the 356 captive deer depopulated.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship operates a voluntary CWD program for farms that sell live animals. Currently 145 Iowa farms participate in the voluntary program. The above-referenced captive deer facility left the voluntary CWD program prior to the discovery of the disease as they had stopped selling live animals. All deer harvested in a hunting preserve must be tested for CWD.

Ding Darling and the Blue Goose

By David Govatski

There are three important 80th anniversaries to celebrate this year, events all related to the National Wildlife Refuge System and the "Duck Stamp."

The first was in March, with the passage of the Act creating the stamp in 1934.

The second was in August, with the very first "First Day of Sale" for the stamp.

The third may surprise you, so let's begin with the key individual behind all three of these events in that historic year.

Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling was the conservationist and cartoonist/artist who, among many other things, helped advocate for the creation of the stamp through his role in the Presidential "Committee on Wild-Life Restoration," a role he shared with two other perceptive conservationists, Thomas H. Beck and Aldo Leopold. Working over a few short weeks, the committee submitted its report in early February, 1934. It included support for the stamp idea, a concept that had been circulating, unsuccessfully, for over a decade.

Ding Darling was soon appointed head of the Biological Survey, an agency then in the US Department of Agriculture, by FDR on March 10, 1934. Just six days later, Congress passed and the President signed the Duck Stamp Act on March 16, 1934.



USFWS National Conservation Training Center Archive and Museum

One of Darling's associated tasks on the job in 1934 was to prepare a design for the new stamp, a short project which he did on cardboard shirt-stiffeners lying in his office. He thought these were to be samples or prototypes, and he was chagrined when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing selected one of the drawings to grace the stamp, a pair of Mallards landing in a pond.

What you may not know is that Darling is also credited for designing the famous "Blue Goose" logo used on the signs on refuges starting that same year, although we do not know the exact date. The

logo was an outline of a stylized Canada Goose, not the "Blue Goose" morph of the Snow Goose, as some people assert. The sign had the wording: "US Department of Agriculture Biological Survey." That's because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had yet to be created inside the Department of the Interior. Below the image of the goose were either the words "Migratory Bird Refuge" or "National Wildlife Refuge."

The first sign templates were black on a white background. (See the image here.) An existing label from the back of the first "Blue Goose" sign sample from the Erie Enameling Company of Erie, Pennsylvania, indicates that the signs could also be made in blue, instead of black. And, indeed, they have been ever since! (The original heavy signs, by the way, each weighed over four pounds.)

The flying-goose model sign replaced a standardized circular sign that dated back to 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt created the Pelican Island Bird Reservation.

The three interrelated events 80 years ago are highly significant for wildlife protection in America. In fact, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp has now raised over \$900 million

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Five tips for helping birds this winter

By Rob Ripma
Garden Club Newsletter

With the sinking temperatures near my home in Indiana, it is evident that winter is quickly approaching, and the weather changes this time of year always get me thinking about how I am going to help our feathered friends survive the winter. Here are five tips for helping the birds survive the coming cold months.

1. Provide suet.

Suet is a great source of protein for the birds. This will help them stay warm and survive those extremely cold nights. Remember that the larger woodpeckers much prefer a suet feeder with a tail prop!

2. Put out a heated birdbath.

Once lakes and streams start to freeze, birds have a difficult time finding water. By offering a heated birdbath for your birds to drink from, you will not only help them survive but will also attract many more birds than you would with feeders alone.

3. Offer peanuts in your feeders.

Peanuts, like suet, are another good source of protein for your birds. Wood-



This Downy Woodpecker is feasting on some suet that will help her stay warm on this cold winter day.

peckers, nuthatches, and chickadees are just a few of the many species that will frequent a peanut feeder.

4. Use a ground feeder.

There are quite a few species that are not comfortable coming to traditional bird feeders. Most of our native sparrows such as Song, White-throated, and White-crowned, prefer to feed on the ground. By offering seed using a ground feeder, you will ensure that these species



American Tree Sparrow is one of the many sparrows that prefer to use ground feeders.

have easy access to food even when the ground is covered with snow.

5. Leave your bird houses up.

There are several species that will use bird houses as roosting sites during the winter. Bluebirds do this most commonly. Be sure to clean out the old nesting material and block any of the ventilation holes so they can retain their warmth. If you can, flip the orientation of the front of the house so that the hole is on the bottom.

HABITAT

Continued from Page 28

Bluff Wildlife Area is also an excellent fishery. Winge focuses his efforts on creating diverse habitat with a mixture of crops, grasses and weeds to provide excellent recreation opportunities for many visitors throughout the year. For

DARLING

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since 1934, helping to secure over 5.5 million acres of habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife on the National Wildlife Refuge System across the lower-48 states.

It's remarkable to recall how much was started in that one year, how much was accomplished in 1934.

David Govatski is a Duck Stamp advocate and President of the Friends of Pondicherry, a unit of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

more information about Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area, Luke Winge can be reached at lwinge@pheasantsforever.org.

Alex Thornburg - The habitat specialist at Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area, Alex Thornburg is responsible for the management of 12,200 acres of wildlife habitat. This area consists of Tuttle Creek Lake, the second largest body of water in the state which acts as a flood control unit for the Kansas River Basis. Thornburg is one of two main employees for Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area and actively manages for multiple wildlife species through mowing, food plots, controlled burns and various other habitat improvements. For more information Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area, Alex Thornburg can be reached at athornburg@pheasantsforever.org.

Andrew Page - Working to support multiple wildlife species, habitat specialist Andrew Page is an active leader in habitat improvements for the Perry Wildlife Area located north of Topeka, Kansas. The Perry Wildlife Area consists of 10,500 acres of wetland/upland complexes surrounding the Dela-

ware River. Management of upland habitat over the years has consisted of cropland conversion, native grass establishment, planting of shrubby cover, cutting of shrubby vegetation, and prescribed burning to stimulate warm season grasses and forbs. For more information about Perry Wildlife Area, Andrew Page can be reached at atapage@pheasantsforever.org.

Brock Wilson - Located east of Wichita, habitat specialist Brock Wilson is responsible for the management of 9,352 acres in the Fall River Wildlife Area. Known for its flood plain valley surrounded by rolling prairie country, this wildlife area consists of 2,300 acres of riparian timber, 2,500 acres of native grassland, 2,988 acres of cropland and 960 acres of the Fall River Reservoir. Wilson's management techniques are focused on increasing the quality of wildlife habitat to provide ample recreational opportunities for hunters to harvest game species such as deer, turkey, waterfowl, doves and quail. For more information about Fall River Wildlife Area, Brock Wilson can be reached at bwilson@pheasantsforever.org.

Spotted skunk is one talented, but smelly acrobat



Spotted skunk demonstrating its warning handstand © PBS

By eNature

The skunk that most of us in the U.S. know best, the Striped Skunk, is just an entry-level stinker.

Its cousin, the Spotted Skunk, possesses an even more potent musk. And the Spotted Skunk is also the better entertainer. This small (16-23 inches) skunk is more weasel-like in body shape than the more familiar striped skunk. The Spotted Skunk's strips are broken in pattern, giving it a "spotted" appearance.

A Seldom Seen Skunk

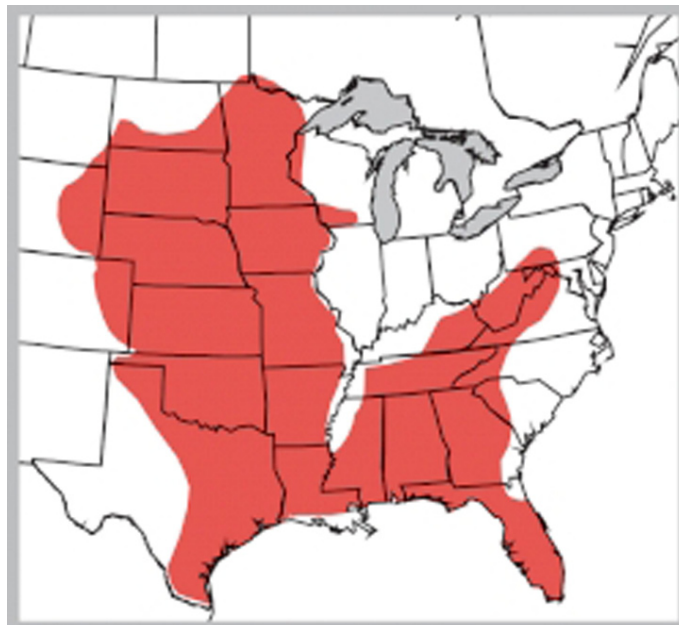
The smallest skunks found in North America, Spotted skunks are sleek, fast and skilled climbers. They're highly nocturnal, too, which means that few of us ever see them.

One of the two sub-species, Western Spotted or Eastern Spotted Skunk, can be found in most of the continental U.S. (See range maps) There's very little difference between the two sub-species, although the Eastern tends to be slightly larger than the Western.

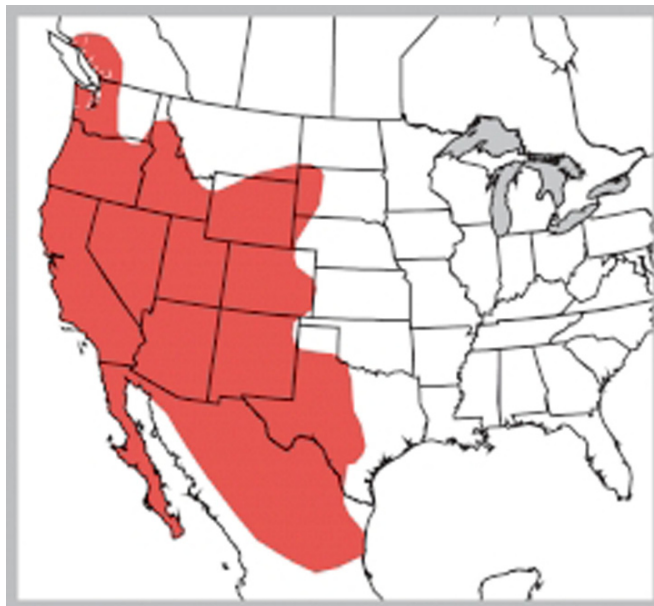
These skunks' nocturnal nature means that while we're spared their malodorous weapon, we're deprived their acrobatic performances. These start when the Spotted Skunk feels itself threatened.

Fancy Dancers

First, the animal rapidly stomps the ground with its forefeet. Next, quite remarkably, it rises up on its front legs and performs one or more handstands. And if the threat persists, the skunk will drop back onto all fours, curve its body so that both front and back ends face the interloper, and deliver a blast of skunk musk up to 16 feet away.



Range of Eastern Spotted skunk



Range of Western Spotted skunk

What to Do if the Unfortunate Happens?

The malodorous oil that skunks spray is produced by glands around the anus. The secretion of Spotted Skunks differs from that of Striped Skunks — and can actually smell stronger if water is used to remove it. One of the most effective ways to remove the oil's unpleasant smell is to oxidize the active elements in it with baking soda or hydrogen peroxide when bathing humans or pets.

Eastern Spotted Skunks are clas-

sified as Threatened species in Kansas, meaning it appears likely, within the foreseeable future, to become an endangered species. An Endangered species is any species of wildlife whose continued existence as a viable component of the state's wild fauna is determined to be in jeopardy.

Spotted Skunks seem to prefer forest edges and upland prairie grasslands, especially where rock outcrops and shrub clumps are present. In west-

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Lesser Prairie-chicken conservation efforts

The Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) is continuously accepting landowner applications for 5- and 10-year conservation contracts that will benefit lesser prairie-chickens. Conservation contract applications would occur on native rangeland and planted grass stands such as expired CRP. To be eligible for the WAFWA program the parcel of land must be at least 160 acres or larger, located within the lesser prairie-chicken range, and not currently enrolled in a federal conservation program. Landowners who are accepted into the WAFWA program will receive a one-time sign-up incentive payment of up to \$5/acre, a one-time payment for any needed restoration practices, and annual payments for implementing management activities for the length of their contract. The payments for restoration and management can be up to 125% of the estimated cost of implementing the prescribed practices. Exact payment rates are based on quality of vegetation and the location of the property relative to high priority lesser prairie-chicken conservation areas. Landowners enrolled

in the program will also receive exemptions from the take prohibitions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the practices prescribed in their management plan. Additional options are available for landowners who wish to forego payments and receive only the ESA take exemptions.

The WAFWA program is fully funded by private industry and landowner participation is needed for companies to operate in compliance with the ESA. More than 45 landowners across the lesser prairie-chicken range submitted applications last spring and WAFWA approved 9 of those offers for funding. The total annual payments for these 9 contracts are over \$500,000. The remaining applications are being held on file and will be considered for funding each time additional resources become available.

Funding of conservation contracts are based upon industry development within the range of the lesser prairie chicken. WAFWA does not anticipate funding additional contracts until fall of 2015. At which time, all completed applications on-hand will be ranked according to their

value to lesser prairie-chickens. Once all the applications have been ranked by WAFWA, all available funding will be committed to the highest ranking offers. There may be a need to contract additional acres prior to next fall if industry development exceeds projections. If that happens, the WAFWA will rank all applications on-hand at that time and fund enough applications to meet the additional industry demand. Thus, a landowner's chances to get into the program increase by applying early rather than waiting until fall 2015.

Landowners should contact the nearest regional office of their state wildlife agency to submit an application or find out more information about the program. The state contacts are as follows:

Brian Dreher, Colorado Springs, CO (719-227-5220)

Grant Beauprez, Portales, NM (575-478-2460)

Calvin Richardson, Canyon, TX (806-651-3014)

Allan Janus, Stillwater, OK (405-744-9527)

Brad Odle, Hays, KS (785-623-2945)

NBCI's state of the bobwhite 2014 released

There was a major increase in bobwhite habitat management by the states in 2013 over the previous drought year and the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) was approved for funding from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. These are but two of the subjects detailed in the new NBCI's Bobwhite Almanac, State of the Bobwhite 2014, the digital version of which is available on NBCI's website at www.bringbackbobwhites.org.

Additional topics include the positive impact on bobwhites of two national pine (longleaf and shortleaf) forest restoration initiatives, the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's ability to create four bobwhite focal areas in one the nation's smallest, most densely populated states, the U.S. Forest Service's approval of a bobwhite emphasis area in the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana and the designation of South

Texas as the nation's first "legacy landscape for bobwhite conservation."

"There are so many things moving in the right direction now," said NBCI Director Don McKenzie. "States have shown their commitment by increasing their habitat management efforts and now by stepping up to actually fully fund NBCI through Pittman-Robertson or other sources. The states' support will allow us to fill some critically-needed positions, including a grasslands coordinator and national bobwhite database manager that we've needed in order to push progress in key ways."

McKenzie says it's important to note that NBCI doesn't duplicate the states' efforts, but works at regional and national levels to identify opportunities and remove obstacles for bobwhite restoration at those levels, something individual states working alone cannot do.

"If fact, I believe we will be able to report success on one of those major 'opportunities' very soon," McKenzie said.

Headquartered at the University of Tennessee's Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, NBCI is an initiative of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) to elevate bobwhite quail recovery from an individual state-by-state proposition to a range-wide leadership endeavor. The committee is comprised of representatives of state wildlife agencies, academic research institutions and private conservation organizations. Support for NBCI is provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, state wildlife agencies, the University of Tennessee and Park Cities Quail.

For more information, please visit www.bringbackbobwhites.org.

Why hunting ethics matter

By Mark Kenyon
WiredtoHunt.com

It is said that in a single day, Daniel Boone once killed 11 black bears before breakfast.

During the height of the buffalo hunting boom, there were reports of hunters who had killed 100 to 200 buffalo in a single hour.

At one time, this kind of hunting at a mass scale was acceptable. Today, of course, it is not. Why is that?

Simply, because things change. And when circumstances change, the code of ethics that governs how hunters participate with nature changes along with it. It must.

The Taboo

Ethics and hunting. They are two things that must go together hand in hand, but inevitably a discussion of the topic gets a rise out of people. Bring up ethics in a room full of hunters and you're likely to be accused of at least one of two things; 1) trying to divide hunters, or 2) helping anti-hunters.

But why does a conversation on hunting ethics need to be so taboo?

In my opinion, it does not. In fact I believe the much more dangerous practice would be to sweep these conversations under the rug and ignore ethics and how they pertain to hunting. This is something that truly *will* help anti-hunters.

When circumstances change, whether it be the environment, wildlife populations, culture or technology, it is our duty to examine how we interact with nature as hunters. To forget that, in my opinion, would spell the doom of our hunting way of life. Still though, debates or stances on hunting ethics are derided.

Of course, we'll never all agree on all hunting ethics related issues – and that's ok. We'll all draw different lines in the sand. But what's most important, I believe, is that these conversations are being had. It's important that we are taking the time to look within ourselves as hunters and asking, are we doing right by nature? Are we doing right by these animals? Are we doing right by our ancestors?

It's a conversation we need to have as a community and as individuals.

Why Do Ethics Matter?

Recently, the Boone & Crockett Club has found itself the target of criticism due to this exact issue. Specifically, it's been derided because of a recently announced



stance on hunting ethics related to long distance shooting.

In response to these criticisms the B&C club released what I believe is a truly terrific explanation of why a serious discussion of hunting ethics is necessary in today's world. I think it perfectly explains many of the points I would like to emphasize to all of you about the importance of at least examining our ethics as hunters, rather than hiding behind the way things always have been.

I've copied a portion of their explanation below, but to read the whole statement as well as some clarifying points on their long-distance shooting stance http://www.boone-crockett.org/news/featured_story.asp?area=news&ID=224.

"All significant human activities, sooner or later, are conducted under a code, or set of guidelines, that direct appropriate behavior. Without this order there would simply be chaos and the activity would become unacceptable. Consequently, ethics apply in everything we do, from our personal relationships and how we treat our fellow man to business and recreational activities. Hunting too is conducted under a code, or set of ethics, that direct appropriate behavior. As such, a conversation about ethics in hunting is a conversation about values and continuance.

Values in hunting are more important today than at any time in history. Why? A hunter's values - what motivates us and how we conduct ourselves – shapes society's opinion of hunting. In any democracy, society decides what stays

and what goes. Today, hunters make up a minority of society, and therefore hunting traditions are potentially at risk if the majority of citizens develop a negative perception of hunting, whether justified or not.

Ninety percent of our population does not hunt, but eighty percent still support hunting as long as it is seen as:

1) Not wasteful – the game taken is used for food.
2) Ethical – guided by rules and values that honor the tradition and the animals hunted.

3) The activity is in service to conservation – not overwhelming, but using wildlife resources in a sustainable way.

Today, more people are voicing their opinions about how wildlife is to be used, managed, and cared for than ever before. How hunting is being conducted is therefore of utmost relevance.

Clearly we need never apologize for something that provides as much as hunting does for society and for the natural environment. Having rules, laws and personal ethics to govern and guide our hunting practices is about respect, for the wildlife we pursue, for the landscapes in which those creatures thrive – and for ourselves as hunters.

Certainly we should also acknowledge that our society rightly expects, and deserves, an ethical approach to the use of any public resource and especially toward any living creature. The truth is, we are hunting today because

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Poacher an 'anti-mentor'

By J.R. Absher
The Archery Wire

In the course of my outdoor writing career spanning the past 35 years or so, I've reported dozens of stories about game law violators and wildlife poaching incidents. They've run the gamut: from the bizarre and absurd to the flagrant and obnoxious.

But there are game-law violators, and then there are despicable, scum-sucking, bottom-feeding poachers. And I'm betting readers will agree Jacob Powers of Lowell, Mich. easily qualifies for the latter category.

Powers, 25, pleaded guilty during his Oct. 3 arraignment before a magistrate of the 64B District Court at Stanton in Montcalm County on the charge of taking two deer during a closed season. Authorities investigating a phone complaint to the state Report All Poaching (RAP) Line on Sept. 21 said Powers killed two trophy whitetails in Montcalm County during the 2014 Youth Hunt while acting as a mentor to an 8-year-old.

You read that right: The poaching took place while Powers was accompanying a youngster on his first deer hunt!

In 2012, following the lead of other state agencies and legislatures, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission approved the Mentored Youth Hunting program, aimed at introducing children under the age of 10 to hunting and fishing. The action eliminated the minimum hunting age in the state, permitting parents to determine if and when their child

is ready to go hunting.

In a search of Powers' property, authorities seized two large antlered heads, meat and a shotgun used to illegally take the animals. It was determined Powers killed both deer himself that morning in Bushnell Township of Montcalm County, while accompanying an 8-year-old youth. Officers testified that Powers illegally tagged one deer with the Mentored Youth Tag issued to the young hunter he accompanied and procured a second Youth tag from a 6-year-old female family member prior to transporting the animals.

Officers further established Powers had recorded trail camera images of the trophy-class deer prior to the hunt and knew the animals were present in the hunt area, indicating the poaching was premeditated.

That's the bad news. Now, some good stuff.

In his sentencing, Powers received fines and punishment established under Michigan's newly passed law that provides a progressive penalty and restitution system based on the trophy quality of deer taken illegally. It marked the first time the new law has come into play since becoming effective Feb. 1, 2014. And it couldn't have been used more appropriately.

Under the new law:

- For any deer with or without antlers, the base restitution will be \$1,000;
- For any antlered deer, there will be an additional restitution of \$1,000 plus;
- For antlered deer with 8 to 10 points

(one inch or more), an additional \$500 will be assessed for each point;

-For antlered deer with 11 or more points, an additional \$750 will be assessed for each point.

Powers was assessed \$335 in fines and costs, \$12,000 in restitution for payment to the state's Fish and Game Protection Fund, and five days mandatory minimum jail time to be served as community service. In addition, the scumbag, er, I mean convicted poacher, faces up to five years of hunting license revocations in Michigan and 41 member states that participate in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Also, subsequent to the initial search of Powers' residence and the filing of charges, authorities located two deer hides from the poached animals dumped in a parking lot at the Lowell State Game Area in Ionia County. Having not recovered these items on the night of the original investigation, officers returned to meet with Powers and obtained a confession to the additional charge of littering on state lands.

Even with the enhanced fines and loss of hunting privileges, the punishment for the wildlife crime committed by Powers may hardly seem adequate to many of us. We can only trust he will be paying for the despicable act for many years through his daily interaction with honest sportsmen and ethical hunters. He will forever be an "anti-mentor" to young, budding hunters - an example parents can point to as poaching's worst.

ETHICS

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the majority of sportsmen over the past century have held themselves to a high ethical standard. The concern of many sportsmen today is what they were taught was unacceptable is now being shown as acceptable to our next generation of hunters. Unfortunately, times and circumstances are changing moving the line between what was once unthinkable to something now less troubling.

History has proven that our society will eliminate or at least greatly diminish those activities seen as unethical. Therefore society at large must be assured that hunting is something more

than killing and that hunting does not risk – but rather ensures – the survival of the hunted. Through the concept of fair chase and the hunting ethic, hunting transcends mere killing and becomes something more – much more. That “something more” is a combination of the expectations of society, coupled with a binding contract on the part of the hunter to behave in a manner that honors both hunting and the animals pursued. The result will be a continuing social relevance for hunting in a modern world and the continued survival of the hunted in the wild state.

The values hunters carry should be the envy of everyone who cares about the land and wildlife.

I urge you to keep these words in

mind. Examine your hunting ethics. And be open to conversation, debate and the occasional disagreement.

We might never all draw the same lines in the sand when it comes to hunting ethics, but if we hope to continue this cherished way of life, we do need to walk a line.

That line runs a sometimes wavy course, weaving in and out of culture, society, history and technology, balancing many people's goals, hopes, fears and desires. It's a winding road, but in the end it leads to a dark timber, a thick oak, a stand perched high in the branches, and a perfect evening filled with the steady crunch of an approaching animal.

Some things change, but others will always stay the same.

This cave may hold the secret to ending the scourge that's killing bats

According to a new study, bats living in Vermont's Aeolus Cave appear to be fighting off the deadly white-nose syndrome

By Richard Conniff

The first time white-nose syndrome really hit Aeolus Cave, on the side of a mountain in Dorset, Vt., the carcasses littered the entrance like a carpet. "You couldn't step on the ground without stepping on dead bats," says Scott Darling, a biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "Nowhere else have people seen that level of mortality in a cave."

Bats afflicted with the fungus during their hibernation usually "fly out and die on the landscape," unnoticed. But "in Aeolus Cave, for whatever reason, many, many died right there in Guano Hall," the steeply sloped tunnel-like cave entrance. Statewide, Vermont lost 90 percent of its bats between 2008 and 2010, the first years of the epidemic. The other 19 states and five Canadian provinces where white-nose occurs have experienced similar losses. It may be the most precipitous decline in any animal group ever, with an astonishing 5.7 million bats now thought to have died. But Aeolus, the site of decades of pioneering research on bats, became the poster child of the epidemic.

Now, Darling sees the first tentative signs of a possible recovery.

In an experiment at Aeolus in April 2012, researchers placed identifying bands on bats emerging from hibernation. When they went back to count them last April, 50 percent had survived. According to Darling, some banded bats have been known to survive as long as six years in other white-nose areas.

"We don't know if it's something genetic or something behavioral," says Darling. But these survivors of the great die-off seem to have a kind of resistance or resilience. "Immunity" may be too strong a word. Somehow, though, they live normal lives despite hibernating in a cave heavily infected with white-nose syndrome. "There's hope here in the Northeast that we've seen the worst of it," says Darling. But he adds that there is "a lot of uncertainty. Are we still losing 20, 30, 40 percent?"

White-nose fungus originated in Europe, where it does not appear to harm the bats. But in North America, where it first appeared in 2006, it has caused devastating



Photo: Charlie L. Harper III/ Reuters

losses to seven species. The disease causes hibernating bats to wake up in the middle of winter, and it is a disturbing sight. I visited Aeolus in the 1990s, long before white-nose appeared. Biologists conducting bat counts in winter were careful to whisper, to avoid waking the hibernating bats that covered the ceilings and walls.

A bat in deep hibernation drops its heart rate from as many as 1,300 beats a minute to as few as eight. Once disturbed, the bats seem to sway visibly, as they shiver toward wakefulness. They warm themselves up at a rate of about one degree a minute. Some shift their forelimbs, making the slow, dreamy, ineffectual movements of a person trying to fend off a nightmare.

Because there are no insects to feed on in winter, bats must get through hibernation with stored body fat. It makes up 30 percent of their body weight at the start and drops down to as little as 5 percent by spring. The trouble with white-nose fungus isn't just that it wakes bats in midwinter; the effect is to send them out looking for food that's not there. A single day of waking can burn 10 to 30 days' worth of stored fat, meaning death.

Even if a recovery occurs at Aeolus and spreads to other states, Darling warns that the bats are "not rebounding yet." Any recovery will inevitably be slow. Despite their small, somewhat mousy appearance,

bats do not breed like mice. They are remarkably long-lived. Researchers have recovered bats at Aeolus 30 years after they were originally banded. Each female also produces only a single offspring a year.

So the devastating consequences of the white-nose epidemic are likely to be evident for decades to come, in the form of mosquitoes and agricultural pests not eaten. (In one study at Aeolus, a single bat caught and ate 175 mosquitoes in a 15-minute period.) A 2011 study in *Science* magazine estimated that the loss of bats from white-nose syndrome and other factors is now costing North American farmers more than \$3.7 billion a year.

Whether this will begin to change anytime soon depends on another experiment in progress at Aeolus. At the beginning of winter, researchers glued tiny radio tags to the backs of 450 bats there. A big, hoop-shaped receiver antenna, positioned in a passageway leading to the cave entrance, will register every time those bats go in or out.

Roughly a month from now, in April 2014, Darling and other researchers will make the climb back up to Aeolus. They hope to confirm last year's promising results. If it's good news, church bells will ring out across New England and perhaps beyond, even if the bell towers themselves remain, for now, empty of bats.

Kansas NWTF budgets \$81,410 for state conservation projects

The Kansas State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) recently allocated \$81,410 for state Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. programs in 2015.

“The state level support of the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is tremendous,” said Becky Humphries, NWTF executive vice president of conservation. “The projects outlined in the state’s proposals exemplify what we look for when allocating Super Fund dollars.”

More than \$765,000 in matching funds also will come from conservation partners; nearly a 12-to-1 match on NWTF funds.

The NWTF Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative is a charge that mobilizes science, fundraising and devoted volunteers to give the NWTF more energy and purpose than ever. Through this national initiative, NWTF has committed to raising \$1.2 billion to conserve and enhance more than 4 million acres of essential upland wildlife habitat, create at least 1.5 million hunters and open access to 500,000 acres

for hunting, shooting and outdoor enjoyment. Without hunters, there will be no wildlife or habitat. The NWTF is determined to Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.

Education and outreach funding totals \$36,030 and will support JAKES, Women in the Outdoors, Wheelin’ Sportsmen, scholarships, education boxes for schools and hunter access programs.

The board of directors allocated the remaining \$45,380 for habitat projects to address immediate focal landscape needs identified by NWTF wildlife biologists.

Projects include:

- ◆ \$5,000 for continued support of NWTF Regional Biologist Program. Partners: Kansas and Nebraska NWTF State Chapters, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT)

- ◆ \$1,000 to support NWTF’s October Forestry Workshop for Resource Professionals. Partners: KDWPT and Kansas Forest Service (KFS)

- ◆ \$6,950 to purchase habitat manage-

ment equipment for KDWPT Region 1 and pumping units for Fort Riley’s Prescribed Burning Program. Partners: KDWPT and Fort Riley Conservation Department

- ◆ \$10,430 to support KDWPT grassland restoration efforts at Clinton, Glen Elder, Norton and Cedar Bluff Wildlife Areas. Partners: KDWPT, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever

- ◆ \$12,000 to support forest stand improvement at KDWPT’s Hollister Wildlife Area and an oak regeneration/research project at Kansas State University’s (KSU) Howe property. Partners: KDWPT, KFS and KSU Horticulture, Forestry and Recreational Resources Department

- ◆ \$10,000 to support restoration of water corridors on KDWPT’s Cedar Bluff and Melvern Wildlife Areas and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on Cimarron National Grasslands. Partners: KDWPT and USFS.

To learn more about the NWTF Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative, visit www.nwtf.org.

Record pronghorn certified by Boone and Crockett

By Outdoor News Daily

The largest pronghorn ever recorded has been certified by Boone and Crockett Club as a new World’s Record.

The huge buck, hunted in Socorro County, N.M., in 2013, scores 96-4/8 B&C points.

The new record breaks a tie between two specimens from Arizona. One was taken in Coconino County in 2000, the other in Mohave County in 2002. Both scored 95 B&C points. Club officials say the difference between these old records and the new – a full inch-and-a-half – is an extraordinary jump. In fact, the margin between the now No. 1- and No. 2-ranked trophies is the largest in Boone and Crockett pronghorn records, which contain more than 3,400 entries.

The outstanding trophy also marks a notable achievement for conservation professionals.

Boone and Crockett records are a gauge of exceptional habitat, strong re-

cruitment of game animals into older age classes, sustainable harvest objectives and other elements of sound wildlife management and fair-chase hunting.

“Records reflect success in big-game conservation,” said Richard Hale, chairman of the Club’s Records of North American Big Game Committee. “Remember, the pronghorn was once nearly lost, much like the bison, until sportsmen led an era of wildlife recovery. Now the species is flourishing. And the fact that such incredible specimens exist today says a lot about how far we have come, and how bright the future might be.”

Forever attached to the new World’s Record pronghorn is the name of the lucky hunter: Mike Gallo.

Hale added, “Congratulations to Mr. Gallo on a tremendous animal and a tip of the cap to the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game and to the sportsmen and sportswomen of that state for their stewardship of this iconic North American species.”

Outstanding features of Gallo’s trophy:

Lengths of horns: 18-3/8 right, 18-4/8 left.

Total mass: 23-3/8 right, 23-2/8 left.

Lengths of prongs: 7 right, 6-5/8 left.

Overall, New Mexico is second in pronghorn entries in Boone and Crockett records, with 627. Wyoming is first with 1,154. Rounding out the Top 5 are Arizona (339), Nevada (288) and Montana (183).

When North America’s early explorers first described pronghorns, their journal entries referred to the animal as a goat. A second misnomer – antelope – appeared later when an observer noticed the similarities between pronghorns and African antelopes. By the time biologists discovered this species actually is neither goat nor antelope, both misnomers were in common use. Today, the pronghorn is known as a unique species whose entire evolutionary path and distribution are exclusive to North America.

Remember the Jordan Buck

Boone and Crockett Club pays tribute to a legendary hunt

By the Boone and Crockett Club

Ninety-nine deer seasons have passed since James Jordan pulled the trigger on a gargantuan whitetail that would become one of the best-known trophies of all time – and still stands as the biggest typical buck ever taken in the U.S. With the 100th Anniversary coming up in November, the Boone and Crockett Club is pausing to remember a tale that remains the stuff of legends.

“You know a deer hunt has reached legendary status when the local community plans a centennial celebration,” said Keith Balfourd, marketing director for the Club.

Burnett County, Wis., is hosting the **Jordan Buck Centennial Extravaganza**. Festivities include a walking tour of the hunt area, art project and raffles for a Jordan Buck replica mount and a .25-20 lever-action rifle like the one carried on the historic hunt.

Balfourd said, “The popularity of hunting in North America, and the institutions of sustainable use conservation that hunting supports, rest on the shoulders of the whitetail deer. The Boone and Crockett Club is proud to help celebrate the history, legacy and significance of this deer as well as the man who brought it to the attention of hunters and conservationists around the world.”

The Jordan Buck tale at a glance:

1914 – Nov. 20, Jordan, 22, hunts with a friend along the Yellow River near Danbury, Wis. Jordan kills a doe. His friend agrees to drag the doe home while Jordan continues the hunt. Jordan tracks a deer into a patch of high grass near a railroad. An approaching train flushes a big



James Jordan with his eventual record buck

buck. Jordan fires, follows the wounded animal and finally drops it as it crosses to the opposite side of the river. Amazed locals estimate the buck’s weight at close to 400 pounds. A local taxidermist offers to mount the head for \$5. Jordan agrees. Later he discovers the taxidermist has moved away leaving no trace of his trophy.

1964 – In a strange twist a half-century later, a distant relative of Jordan’s buys a massive but crude deer mount at a rummage sale in Sandstone, Minn., for \$3. Jordan is certain it’s his long-lost buck. The new owner requests an official scoring by Boone and Crockett. The Club scores the antlers at 206-5/8 and confirms it as the new World’s Record typical whitetail but, unable to verify Jordan’s story, lists the hunter as unknown and the hunt area as Sandstone, Minn.

1968 – The rack is sold to an antler collector in New Hampshire for \$1,500. The trophy is remounted with a new cape.

1977 – Following outdoor writer Ron Schara’s story about the buck in the Min-

neapolis Star Tribune, the Boone and Crockett Club re-opens investigation into Jordan’s claim.

1978 – Boone and Crockett officials confirm the story and officially recognize Jordan as the hunter and Burnett County, Wis., as the location taken. Sadly, Jordan had passed away two months earlier.

1993 – After 29 years at the top of Boone and Crockett records, the Jordan Buck is overtaken by Milo Hanson’s 213-5/8 buck from western Saskatchewan, Canada.

2001 – Bass Pro Shops acquires the Jordan Buck mount for an undisclosed sum. The buck is now part of a touring collection of trophies and seen annually by thousands of sportsmen.

2013 – Through the 99 deer seasons from 1914 through 2013, Wisconsin produced 1,057 typical whitetails in Boone and Crockett records – 324 more than second-place Illinois.

2014 – 100th Anniversary of Jordan’s landmark buck.

“When we deer hunters dream white-tail, we dream big, typical five-by-fives. That’s the most common and sought after antler configuration for the species. The Jordan Buck certainly exceeds that which dreams are made of,” Balfourd concluded.

Go to http://www.boone-crockett.org/bgRecords/jordan_buck.asp to read the entire story of the Jordan Buck.

Jordan Buck Key Measurements:

53-7/8 inches of mass/circumference

30-inch mainbeams on both sides

G1-G4 measurements: 7, 13, 10 and 7 inches

Only 3-2/8 inches in symmetry deductions

Umbrella rigs banned from Bassmaster opens, other competitions

Restrictions on the use of umbrella rigs, also known as Alabama rigs, just got stronger. The Bassmaster Elite Series has never permitted their use. Last week B.A.S.S. announced a further limitation on umbrella rigs: They will no longer be permitted in the Bassmaster Opens or any other B.A.S.S. event that leads directly to a Bassmaster Classic qualification. Some anglers are happy about this change, others not so much.

“I think that’s fantastic,” said Chris Lane, the 2012 Classic champion. “If you make

the Classic or qualify for the Elite Series, it shouldn’t be on something that everybody can’t use.”

Four-time Classic champion Kevin VanDam agreed, saying, “It’s a good call. If it’s not allowed on the Elite Series, the rules should be the same across all platforms.”

But that decision wasn’t met with unanimous approval from Elite Series pros. Even though the FLW tour banned the use of umbrella rigs after allowing them for one year, both Shaw Grigsby and Paul Elias, the

1982 Classic champ, believe A-rigs should be allowed at all B.A.S.S. events, even the Elite Series.

“I think it’s sad,” said Grigsby. “I think it’s a sad day when we start taking innovation out of the sport. It’s not the greatest thing to ever hit. It’s a very situational lure. It has also taken away some other neat tools, like the two-fluke rig and the (Norman) Front Runner.

Read more at Bassmaster.com, www.bassmaster.com.

The binocular tip: Don't sell kids short

By Paul J. Baicich
The Birding Wire

Why is it that when you share binoculars with an adult, perhaps a beginning bird watcher, you make sure that you share a solid, quality, even impressive, pair of binoculars, but when you go afield with a child, say, between 8 and 12 years of age, almost any piece of optics will do?

Worse yet, why is it that inexpensive and light "compact binoculars" are almost always ascribed to kid use?

It's a big mistake.

Too often, the very people whom many bird educators value the most, youngsters, are left with the worst in introductory binoculars. Nothing will discourage continued bird-watching activity and learning in the field more than an initial experience with binoculars that are, essentially, junk. It's just no fun.

Of course, there are important optics features that do need attention when dealing with youngsters. These may include

the ability for the young folks to get their hands around the binoculars, access the focusing knob, and adjust the interpupillary distance (to match the closeness of the eyes among the youngest kids in the group). What's more, finding the bird in the tree or bush is difficult enough for beginning birders - of any age - without having to deal with a narrow field of view or a high magnification that may have the image almost bouncing around.

Try a lower power - between 6X and 8X - and definitely stick to a wide field of view.

Of course, some training and help - from a parent or other adult - is essential. Learning to bring the binoculars to your face, while constantly watching the bird, needs practice. (Focusing on a far-off sign - and reading simple text - is a fine way to learn locating the object and focusing properly.) While practice makes perfect, that practice can be squandered if the binoculars are unserviceable.

We have probably all seen a box of binoculars distributed among kids in a

group, binoculars that are small, light, flimsy, very low power, narrow field of view, and really unacceptable.

The options for binoculars appropriate for youngsters are many today. It's not like the limitations of a decade or two ago. In fact, we live in an era when relatively good quality binoculars can be secured for around \$100 or even less. Some of these are porro-prism binoculars that can be outstanding. There are so many options that recommending a particular brand would be inappropriate or misleading here. Still, you might look around the website for Eagle Optics to review the many, many brands and sorts of models that are available.

A final point to be aware of is warranty. Some manufacturers will offer an unconditional warranty, a relief when binoculars get dropped, slammed against a tree or run over with a lawn mower.

Don't sell the kids short. They usually arrive in the field eager to learn something new. Don't make it more difficult for them at the very outset. Make it fun.

Report shows hunting more affordable than many outdoor activities, including golf

We're sure you know that a day spent hunting beats a day in the office. What you might not know, though, is that a day spent hunting in many cases is more affordable than a day spent on the golf course or at a major league ballgame.

Statistics in NSSF's latest report, "Hunting in the 50 States: Regulations, License Fees, Species and Methods of Take," clearly show that you get more bang for your buck hunting than in other competing hobbies and activities.

"There's a misperception about hunting being a very expensive pastime. It can be in some circumstances, but for the most part hunting compares very favorably with the costs of other popular activities like playing golf, attending professional sports games and even going to the movies," said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF Director of Industry Research and Analysis.

The report estimates the average cost of a day of turkey hunting at \$37.54 for license, tags and ammunition, placing it

far lower than a round of golf, estimated at \$72.54 for greens fees and a sleeve of balls, or a day at a major league ballpark, which will set you back \$57.45 for a ticket, parking and a drink and a hotdog. While 10 days of hunting costs essentially the same as one day afield, taking in 10 movies at your neighborhood multiplex will add about \$185 onto your credit card.

Of course, "Hunting in the 50 States" includes much more information than these comparisons-information that is valuable to manufacturers, retailers and shooting ranges.

To gain a better understanding of the expenses associated with hunting, NSSF combed through the regulation guides of all 50 states to produce "Hunting in the 50 States," which consolidates data regarding big and small game, and provides both state-specific and national information.

The new report includes resident and non-resident license and tag costs,

number of species available to hunt (more than 40 in some states), available hunting days and legal firearm use by state. The report's pages contain interesting factoids on hunting-nine states, for example, allow the hunting of white-tailed deer with an air rifle-and there is an entire page on feral hog facts (population estimated at 5 million).

The report reveals how states provide many economic incentives to encourage hunting. Sportsmen and women in South Carolina, for example, enjoy two free days on which they can hunt without purchasing a state hunting license. In many states, licenses for apprentice hunters, juniors, seniors, military and the disabled are modestly priced, including for non-residents.

"Hunting in the 50 States" is available to NSSF members at www.nssf.org/research_under the Industry Intelligence Reports tab, and non-members can contact jcurcuruto@nssf.org for additional information.

KWPTC holds last commission meeting of 2014

Commissioners vote to do away with protection of threatened species

Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism commissioners engaged in lively discussion and voted on several regulations relating to fishing and more at the Oct. 16 public hearing in Salina. For those that were unable to attend, a video of the meeting can be seen at www.ksoutdoors.com by clicking "KDWP Info/Commission/Past Meetings."

During the public hearing, commissioners voted unanimously to eliminate the need for a permit to floatline fish and to increase the mesh size allowed in seines and cast nets used for taking baitfish to one-half-inch; Herington - Father Padilla Pond was added to the list of Type 2 trout lakes; a 35-inch minimum length limit for blue catfish was added to reservoirs Glen Elder and Lovewell; and a five-day creel limit was added to Coffey County Lake. Commission-

ers also unanimously voted to categorize Clinton, Glen Elder, Lake Shawnee and Lake Wabaunsee as Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) waters due to zebra mussels, as well as categorize a stream located from the Lincoln Street Dam in Wichita to the Oklahoma line as ANS-designated water due to white perch.

The last item presented to commissioners was the potential delisting of three species previously listed as Endangered, reclassifying six species from Threatened Species to Species In Need of Conservation (SINC), including the Redbelly Snake, and adding one previously unlisted species to the SINC list. Throughout the public comment period, Commissioners expressed disbelief in the science behind the population surveys, the lack of need to protect the Redbelly Snake

since it is abundant in Missouri and concern over the potential impact on construction activities in northeast Kansas. Commissioners eventually voted 6-1 to accept the department's recommendation regarding the changes in the T&E Species list, including moving the Redbelly Snake to the SINC list. Only Commissioner Aaron Rider of Columbus voted against the measure. Apparently the Commission has forgotten their mission statement, which says "To conserve and enhance Kansas' natural heritage, its wildlife and its habitats to ensure future generations the benefits of the state's diverse, living resources." That's unfortunate.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2015 at Bonner Springs Parks and Recreation, Sunflower Room, 200 E. 3rd St., Bonner Springs.

Owls and slob photographers

By Paul J. Baicich
Birding Community E-bulletin

In the January 2012 E-bulletin, we described a SLOB as a Selfish, Lazy, Obnoxious, Birder: <http://refugeassociation.org/?p=4687#tip>

A SLOB rarely gives help to others in a birding group, is convinced that "Keep Out" signs are not to be taken seriously, and through other clueless or irresponsible activities is an embarrassment to other birders.

Unfortunately, we have this sort of activity among some rogue bird photographers, too.

Last winter's invasion of Snowy Owls brought out some of the worst in this cat-

egory, with both birders and bird photographers approaching far too close to the owls, and on occasion, using "bait" (e.g., live or not-so-live rodents) to draw the owls even closer. Some Snowy Owls got so used to this activity that they would actually approach observers, landing at their feet and begging for food, whether or not mouse-bait was being used! Clearly, this activity puts the owls at risk.

This baiting practice has also been observed with Great Gray Owls and Northern Hawk-Owls.

After a series of these incidents in Minnesota, the state legislature is now considering a proposed wildlife regulation, supported by a number of Minnesota legislators. In part it reads: "A person may not

intentionally lure or feed an owl in the wild with any animate or inanimate object, food, or animal... For the purposes of this section, 'lure' means to purposefully attract a wild owl in an attempt to cause it to move from one location to another and 'feed' means to put in place, in the presence of a wild owl, any living or frozen animal or facsimile."

Exceptions are made for scientific research, bird banding, or for rescue. The proposed regulation is restricted to visual luring, and an amendment is being considered to clarify that the use of audio recordings will not become illegal.

You can read the original wording of the proposed regulation here (without reference to audio recording): <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/H2852A23.pdf>

SKUNK

Continued from Page 32

ern counties, it relies heavily on riparian corridors where woody shrubs and woodland edges are present. Woody fencerows, odd areas, and abandoned farm buildings are also important habitat for Spotted Skunks.

Spotted Skunks may occur in suitable habitat anywhere in the state. The marked counties are those for which occurrence has been documented or

within which critical habitat has been designated.

Have you encountered a Spotted Skunk, or even a Striped one? We've heard many good skunk stories over the years and would enjoy hearing yours. Send them to info@kswildlife.org.

The video from the BBC show *Weird Nature* shows the Spotted Skunk performing its distinctive dance, although it's in an unusual setting. Researchers speculate that this performance (which they refer to as a

demonstration) has evolved as a warning to predators and other animals.

Once a would-be predator has seen it and then been sprayed, the thinking is that subsequent demonstrations act as warnings and discourage further attempts at predation.

It all sounds quite entertaining, as long as you're not on the receiving end!

See the video at: <http://wild.enature.com/blog/the-spotted-skunk-is-one-talented-but-smelly-acrobat#sthash.uJ8A0SF2.dpuf>

What's the best birdseed to put in your feeder this winter?

By eNature

Winter is all but in the air in many parts of the country—and it's a time of the year when many people think about feeding birds in their backyards. We're not sure why this happens only in winter, because feeding birds throughout the year has many rewards. Yet, winter is the time when bird seed sales are held, and bird feeders are promoted most widely.

Perhaps, it's the notion that birds need more help in cold weather, and therefore, bird feeding is more popular in winter. Whatever the reason, the bird feeding season is on, and people are buying lots of bird seeds.

The kind of seeds you offer backyard birds makes a difference, because all birds don't eat the same foods.

If there is one kind of seed that is most attractive to the greatest number of backyard birds, it would be sunflower in any form. Sunflower seeds are relished by finches, grosbeaks, cardinals, jays, and even some species of woodpeckers.

The two most popular forms of sunflower seeds for birds are the black oil sunflower seed, which is in the shell, and the



Chickadees are common visitors to backyard feeders

hulled (medium cracked) sunflower seed, which is out of the shell. eNature's bird expert, George Harrison, tells us that if he could feed only one kind of bird food in his backyard, it would be hulled sunflower seeds.

Other popular seeds for finches include niger (thistle), also spelled nyjer, a tiny black seed that is offered in a tube feeder with tiny port holes. Safflower seeds are a favorite among cardinals, doves and house finches. And the various wild bird seed



Dark eyed Junco

mixes are eaten by sparrows, doves, juncos and blackbirds.

So don't miss out on having a busy backyard this fall. If you leave bird seed out, it's almost certain to get found.

What do you do this time of year to attract or (as some of us like to say) take care of your local birds?

We always appreciate hearing your hints, suggestions and stories. Just send your thoughts or comments to info@kswildlife.org.

And have fun with the birds this winter!

New bird biology website awakens the sense of discovery

Enjoy interactive activities about bird song, feathers and more

We know birds have feathers—but what are they made of, how do they work, and how many kinds are there? Birds sing songs—but how do they produce those sounds, what do they mean, and can you learn to identify birds by sound alone? If just knowing the name of a bird isn't enough, then it's time to make new discoveries at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Bird Biology website. The new site is designed to appeal to anyone who's even a little bit curious about what makes birds tick.

"All About Bird Biology is all about inspiring people to find out what's really going on in the lives of birds," says Cornell Lab eLearning specialist Mya Thompson, who says scientists, teachers, artists, designers, and programmers all played an important role in developing the site and making it so appealing. "The site contains a video library of eye-opening bird be-



haviors, along with self-paced interactive lessons, articles, and animations that make learning a blast!"

Chapters currently online go in-depth on feathers and bird song. Playing the "Bird Song Hero" game allows users to

keep score as they gradually learn to recognize more than 50 bird species by sound. Educators and students surveyed after the website launch found that using birds to understand biology makes the learning go down easy.

"Awesome job! Your programs make teaching children FUN!" one teacher wrote.

"I thought this was first rate! Very engaging, not at all boring plus a lot of information was imparted. Great graphics too! You hit a home run here in my opinion!" said a bird enthusiast.

"We're developing the next chapter right now," Thompson explains. "It's called 'Fancy Males' and will focus on the ways birds use bright colors, strange ornaments, and even a little song and dance to capture a female's attention!"

Visit the All About Bird Biology website: <http://biology.allaboutbirds.org/>

What does a humpback whale really eat for dinner?

From eNature.com

How to Eat Without Teeth?

Humpbacks are baleen whales and have no teeth. They feed by using the large plates of baleen (see photo) in their mouths to filter out shrimp-like krill and other small creatures from the water. Plated grooves in the whale's mouth allow water that was taken in to easily drain, leaving a mouth full of dinner.

But most folks don't realize that baleen whales such as humpbacks also consume fish—mainly small schooling fish they hunt in same fashion as krill.

In the video you can clearly see lots of small prey fish scattering in all directions just before and as the whale breaches. You can also see the whale's baleen plates and the water rushing from its mouth as it filters out its prey.

Blowing Bubbles for Dinner

Humpbacks are energetic hunters, taking krill and small schooling fish such as herring, mackerel, pollock, and haddock. They're also quite clever and have been known to use a technique called bubble net feeding.

A whale or group of whales swims in a shrinking circle blowing bubbles below a school of prey, encircling and confining the school in an ever-smaller cylinder. The whales then suddenly swim upward through the 'net' with their mouths open, filtering huge quantities of water and capturing thousands of fish in one gulp.

It's a pretty amazing thing to observe...

And one other fun thing to note is all



Whale baleen © NOAA

the seabirds following the whales as they feed. These birds know that breaching whales panic fish and make them easy pickings for an alert bird. Looking for flocks of seabirds working the ocean's surface is time-honored way for fisherman to locate schools—and for whale watchers to find whales.

Have you had a chance to see Humpbacks or other whales? We'd love to hear your stories. Send them to info@kswildlife.org.

Surfer Almost Swallowed by Whale

Despite the title of the video above, Humpbacks don't eat surfers!

Even so, the video has received lots of attention around the internet when it appeared—and for good reason.

It shows a surfer's VERY close encounter with a humpback whale off the beaches of Santa Cruz, in Northern California.

But it's also interesting because it's a great close-up view of how a Humpback feeds and the sort of marine life that makes



Aerial view of bubble net © NOAA



Breaching Humpback Whale at Stellwagen Bank near Boston, MA © Whit Welles

up its diet. Double click on the video if you want to see a bigger version of it.

See the video at: <http://wild.enature.com/blog/what-does-a-humpback-whale-really-eat-for-dinner#sthash.bEJecSyQ.dpuf>

Ovenbird named for unique nest

The Birding Wire

The Ovenbird gets its name from its unique nest, which looks like a domed oven. This inconspicuous, ground-nesting warbler is best-known for its emphatic and distinctive song—a series of progressively louder phrases often described as “teacher, teacher, teacher.”

Like the Wood Thrush and Kentucky, Cerulean, and Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbirds require undisturbed expanses of forest for successful breeding. Although more flexible in habitat requirements on their wintering grounds, Ovenbirds and other Neotropical migratory species benefit from habitat conservation in these regions



as well.

Ovenbirds spend much of their time walking (never hopping) along the forest

floor, where they forage through the leaf litter for insects, spiders, snails, worms, and even small lizards. Since they nest on the ground, habitat fragmentation makes them especially vulnerable to brood parasites such as Brown-headed Cowbirds, and nest predators such as raccoons, chipmunks, squirrels, and snakes.

Neotropical migrants, including Ovenbirds, face a gauntlet of threats as they migrate; large numbers are killed by collisions with buildings and communications towers, and feral and free-ranging pet cats kill many others. Wintering Ovenbirds find refuge at Guatemala's Sierra Caral Reserve and Nicaragua's El Jaguar Reserve, both supported by ABC.

Report shows some gains for wetland species

A new report from the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative shows encouraging population gains for some wetland-dependent bird species. At the same time, the report's authors warn about the future implications of the continuing loss of ephemeral or temporary wetlands in the prairies of the United States and Canada. Some species such as northern pintail and black tern, which rely heavily on ephemeral wetlands, have experienced long-term declines.

The State of the Birds 2014 reports that some wetland-dependent bird populations are at or near historic high levels, including mallards, gadwall, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and northern shovelers, according to annual breeding bird surveys conducted in the United States and Canada.

"Many wetland bird species are doing

very well," said DU's Chief Scientist Dr. Scott Yaich. "We can at least partially attribute this to collective wetland conservation efforts across the continent. But, two decades of unprecedented above-average rainfall in many key breeding areas are in large part responsible for duck population increases that are masking the loss of wetland habitats documented by other studies. We continue to be very concerned about the accelerating loss of wetlands in important areas for birds and what that will mean when we inevitably enter another dry period."

The report points out that ephemeral wetlands in the U.S. Prairie Pothole Region declined by 74,340 acres between 1997 and 2009. This region is North America's most important breeding area for waterfowl and is a top conservation priority area for Ducks Unlimited. North-

ern pintail populations have been declining for several decades and are currently 20 percent below their long-term average.

The State of the Birds 2014 is authored by the U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative—a 23-member partnership of government agencies and organizations dedicated to advancing bird conservation. The report is based on extensive reviews of population data from long-term monitoring. It looks to birds as indicators of ecosystem health by examining population trends of species dependent on one of seven habitats: grasslands, forests, wetlands, oceans, aridlands, islands and coasts. This year's report is also a five-year check-in on the indicators presented in the inaugural 2009 State of the Birds report.

More information is available at www.stateofthebirds.org.

The John Wooden approach to deer hunting

By Mark Kenyon
Wired To Hunt.com

Former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, arguably the greatest sports coach that ever lived, is a deer hunting genius. Please, let me explain.

In Pat Williams' book "Coach Wooden's Greatest Secret", Pat described a conversation during which he asked John to pinpoint what he believed was his one greatest secret to success in life. Wooden's answer?

"The closest I can come to one secret of success is this: a lot of little things done well."

Little things.

This was Coach Wooden's great "Aha", the secret to success, the magic pill, the cure-all, the key. Something as simple as doing a lot of little things well. Surprising? Maybe to some, but to me it makes perfect sense. And I believe this simple truth also applies 100% to deer hunting.

In fact, I believe that this mindset, when applied in the whitetail woods, can be the single greatest difference maker in your success this deer season. I'm not the only one thinking this either.

When interviewing well known whitetail writer Steve Bartylla for our Rules of the Rut 2.0 Podcasts, he described a similar thought.

"My entire approach to hunting is to stack as many little things in my favor as I ethically and reasonably can. It's amazing how often that one little thing I did, or

that one little thing I didn't do, makes a difference between success and a thrilling encounter that ends up with me still holding onto my tag."

Deer hunting, in my opinion, is a game of inches and this is especially true when it comes to hunting mature bucks.

You might pick the right tree stand, and be there on the right day, and use all the right techniques at the right time to call in a big buck. But one small overlooked detail could bring it all to a crashing halt. For example, maybe you walked into your stand not wearing gloves and touched a tree trunk. Now when that buck comes strolling in towards your call, he passes by this tree and catches a whiff of your scent. Game over. One little thing. One small detail. A single "inch" in the big picture made the greatest difference.

This is but one example of an infinite number of situations where the tiniest of details can change your entire hunt. A single misplaced piece of gear, a flinch during a shot, one small limb in the way, a slight swirl of wind, one task ignored or overlooked because of your rush. Or on the other end of the spectrum, maybe it's the fact you greased the joints on your treestand, or the extra care you took walking into your stand, or the additional time you took practicing shooting your bow at odd angles that led to your success.

For this reason, it is my belief that it's this attention to detail and focus on the little things that separates the great deer hunters from the average.

There are a thousand different ways things can go wrong during a hunt, so take control of all that you can. By crossing your t's and dotting your i's, you can at least minimize the potential for failure and maximize opportunity for success. Influence every piece of the puzzle that you can, avoid laziness, sweat the small things. And while your focus on each tiny item may not immediately make a noticeable difference, in the long run it will pay off.

During my conversation with Steve Bartylla, he elaborated on this topic by explaining the following, "It's not going to change the world for a person. But, let's say over the next ten years you end up killing one more buck because every time you set up in a telephone pole like tree, you add extra cover. And over the next ten years you kill one more buck because in those areas without really defined buck traffic you end up cutting and planting a scrape tree to draw them over. And over the next ten years you kill one more buck because of odor control. Well all of a sudden that's three more bucks that you've killed over ten years, that you wouldn't have killed otherwise, and that's not bad."

No, not bad at all.

So this deer hunting season, keep Coach John Wooden's advice close to heart. Pay attention to the details. Sweat the small stuff. And do a lot of little things well.

I'm confident the results, eventually, will be much bigger than you could ever imagine.

Your Duck Stamp dollars at work

There were four National Wildlife Refuge acquisition projects that got approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) on September 11, 2014. The projects for valuable wetland-associated habitats are as follows:

1. Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, Texas. Boundary addition and price approval for the fee title acquisition of 475.93 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$606,800 or \$1,275 per acre.

2. Black Bayou Lake National Wild-

life Refuge, Louisiana. Price approval for the fee title acquisition of 804 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$2,010,350, or \$2,500 per acre.

3. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland. Price approval for the fee title acquisition of 153.6 acres, for the appraised value and recommended price of \$490,000, or \$3,190 per acre.

4. Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Washington. Price approval for the fee title acquisition of 303 acres, for the

appraised value and recommended price of \$455,000 or \$1,502 per acre.

In summary, there were 1,736.53 acres acquired for these refuges, with a total expenditure of \$3,562,150. The money comes out of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF), where Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp dollars are deposited.

Remember, if you bought a stamp last year, you helped make these vital acquisitions possible!

New artwork chosen for 2015-16 Duck Stamp

From WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

The 2014 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest was held on Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The five eligible species for the artwork for the 2015-2016 stamp were: Brant, Canada Goose, Northern Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. There were 186 pieces of waterfowl artwork that were eligible for the two-day contest.

This is how the artwork was distributed by species:

Brant (4.3%)

Canada Goose (28.5%)

Northern Shoveler (32.3%)

Red-breasted Merganser (15.1%)

Ruddy Duck (19.9%)

Starting Saturday morning, the five-member team of judges went through the 186 submissions to vote on which ones would be "in" or "out" for subsequent rounds of judging. To see all 186 submissions go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsHQ/sets/72157646589354930/>

Saturday's rounds of voting were intended to reduce the number to the top three winners, with the first place artwork to appear on the 2015-2016 stamp. For the first time ever, there was a three-way tie in the voting, and extra rounds had to be run to pick the final top three in order.

The winning artwork was of a pair of Ruddy Ducks painted in acrylic by Jennifer Miller of Olean, New York. (See her reproduced artwork above.) Coming in second was a flying Red-breasted



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STAMP

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Merganser by Ron Louque of Charlottesville, Virginia, and third was a Canada Goose by Frank Mittelstadt of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

You can find more on the results of the contest at the Federal Duck Stamp Office website <http://www.fws.gov/duck-stamps/>

Above is a photo of the judges and U.S. Fish and Wildlife leaders with all three top-winning images. From left to right: Jerome Ford, Assistant Director, Migratory Birds; Pete Anastasi, judge; George Petrides, judge; Delwin Benson, judge (holding third-place Canada Goose); Deb Hahn, alternate judge (holding second-place Red-breasted Merganser); Gloria Erickson and Terry Miller, judges (holding the winning Ruddy Ducks), and Rowan Gould, Deputy Director of the USFWS.

Jennifer Miller, the artist for the winning image with the Ruddy Ducks has been known for her fantasy artwork, yet she is currently creating wildlife art-

works, jewelry, masks, and sculpture as well.

Describing her outdoor as well as artistic interests, Miller says, "I grew up with a very vivid imagination, and couldn't stop drawing birds and dragons. I am mostly self-taught, with no formal art education, and studied under the guidance of the natural world... I draw a lot of inspiration from the land around me! I have what others have referred to as an 'explosive' passion for nature and wildlife, and indeed I go out of my way daily to study, observe, and learn about my interests. I am equally happy examining a wild bird through binoculars as I am examining bits of moss growing across a fallen tree."

You can find out more about Miller and her work on her website <http://www.featherdust.com/jen.html>.

Curiously, the gender of the artists making submissions to this contest was just over 80 percent male, and just under 20 percent female. Only two other women have come in first in the contest previously: Nancy Howe in 1990 (King Eider) and Sherrie Russell Meline in 2005 (Ross's Goose).

Miller's artwork with her pair of Ruddy Ducks will appear on to the 2015-2016 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp. Individual stamps, of course, will be sold for \$15 each, with almost all the proceeds - adding up to about \$24 million per year - going directly to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (MBCF). This funding secures vital breeding, stopover, and wintering habitats for waterfowl, other bird species, and other wildlife across the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Today, parts of 252 National Wildlife Refuges (accounting for 2.37 million acres) and over 200 Waterfowl Production Areas (with over 3.0 million acres secured) owe their existence to the stamp investments made through the MBCF.

We in the Friends Group can think of no better - and more efficient - way to support wildlife habitat than the act of buying a federal stamp. Buy this year's stamp, and when next year's stamp showing the two Ruddy Ducks becomes available (at the end of June 2015) buy that one, too!

It's simple. It's inexpensive. It's proven.

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!

How You Can Help:

- * **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.
- * **Expanded Membership:** When you send in your Expanded member dues of \$75, you receive the basic membership benefits and a complimentary ticket to the KWF Annual Meeting and CAP banquet.
- * **Kansan:** For an annual fee of \$150, you receive all the benefits listed above plus an additional complimentary ticket to the KWF Annual Meeting and CAP banquet.

Here's How to Join:

Complete the form on Page 12 and mail with your membership fee to:
Kansas Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 771282, Wichita, KS 67277-1282