



The Voice of Outdoor Kansas

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

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for additional KWF information

Program Area: Breaking News

Sportsmen condemn House attempt to weaken Clean Water Act

American sportsmen on June 21 strongly criticized the House Transportation Committee for hastily passing legislation that would dramatically weaken the Clean Water Act and undercut four decades of progress in restoring the nation's waters and wetlands and conserving valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011, H.R. 2018, has received minimal review and no hearings since its introduction three weeks ago. The bill attacks two critical components of the CWA: enforcement of water quality standards and protection of waters from discharges of dredged and fill material. H.R. 2018 would increase state control over Environmental Protection Agency implementation of the CWA, including veto authority over EPA enforcement of water quality standards and over EPA authority to block projects that compromise or diminish fish and wildlife habitat.

"In the name of responsible management of our irreplaceable waters,

wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat, we urge House lawmakers to abandon their hasty approach to advancing this legislation," said Scott Kovarovich, conservation director for the Izaak Walton League of America. "The committee should step back and hold a hearing to assess the sweeping consequences this legislation could have on water quality, streams and critical fish and wildlife habitat."

Sportsmen strongly oppose this misguided and damaging legislation," said Jan Goldman-Carter, wetlands and water resources counsel for the National Wildlife Federation. "H.R. 2018 will lead to a hodgepodge of water quality standards and contribute to an overall reduction in U.S. water quality, our natural resources and outdoor opportunities such as hunting and angling."

In April, sportsmen welcomed proposed guidance issued by the administration that would more clearly

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Protecting the Land... Passing on Our Traditions

KANSAS WILDLIFE
FEDERATION
The voice of outdoor Kansas



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Program Area: Hunters & Habitats

Texas man sentenced to jail in connection with Kansas deer hunting and guiding operation

**Receives 41 months in federal prison;
largest case in Kansas history**



A Texas man was sentenced June 21 in a Wichita federal court on felony charges of conspiracy, wildlife trafficking, and obstruction of justice related to the illegal sale of guided deer hunts in southern Kansas, announced Barry Grissom, U.S. attorney for the District of Kansas, and Ignacia S. Moreno, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

James Bobby Butler, Jr., 42, of Martinsville, Tex., was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison. Butler pleaded guilty in March 2010 to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act, one Lacey Act interstate trafficking count and one count of obstruction of justice. His brother, Marlin Jackson Butler, 36, also of Martinsville, pleaded guilty in March 2011 to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and one Lacey Act count. Marlin Butler is scheduled to be sentenced on June 24, 2011.

"Illegal wildlife trafficking is a threat to the natural resources of Kansas," Grissom said. "Our goal is to preserve and protect wildlife for everyone

to enjoy, including hunters who abide by the law."

"Thanks to outstanding cooperation between federal and state law enforcement agents and prosecutors, we put an end to a criminal conspiracy that took valuable and limited wildlife resources," Moreno added. "This prosecution sends a message to everyone in Kansas and elsewhere that there will be serious consequences for those who seek to profit by violating state and federal wildlife laws, especially at the expense of those who hunt and guide lawfully."

The Lacey Act is a federal law that makes it illegal to knowingly transport or sell in interstate commerce any wildlife taken or possessed in violation of state law or regulation. According to court documents filed in the case, James and Marlin Butler conspired together to knowingly transport and sell in interstate commerce deer that had been hunted in violation of Kansas state law.

In particular, the brothers operated a guiding service and hunting camp

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July is Park and Recreation Month

Park and Recreation Month has been celebrated across the nation since 1985. This July, be a park rock star and show America how parks and recreation make your life extraordinary!

Get excited for July's Park and Recreation Month line up:

There are five weekends this July! Sign the "5 in July Park Pledge" and make a commitment to visit a park or recreation area/facility every weekend. Create a healthy weekend habit!

Demonstrate the power of parks and recreation through NRPA's 2011 "Rock Your Park" Flash Mob Contest. NRPA will choose one agency and one non-agency group as winners, and announce the results on August 12!

And we're just getting started! There's much more coming your

way! So check out our website to stay informed on the fun!

RSVP to the Biggest Party in July! http://www.nrpa.org/july/?utm_source=prmonth_2011&utm_medium=email&utm_term=may9&utm_content=non_members&utm_campaign=eml_prmonth2011_kickoff_may9

Rock your workout. Rock your health. Rock your walk. Rock your game. Rock it in nature. Rock your park.

Park and Recreation Month is brought to you by the National Recreation and Park Association (<http://www.nrpa.org>) with support from NRPA's America's Backyard (<http://www.nrpa.org/Discover-NRPA/Americas-Backyard>) initiative. For questions, email at July@nrpa.org.

DEER

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near Coldwater at which they sold guiding services to out-of-state hunters for the purpose of illegally hunting and killing white-tailed deer and mule deer. Hunters guided by the Butler brothers killed deer in excess of annual bag limits, hunted deer without permits or with permits for the wrong deer management unit, killed deer using illegal equipment, and hunted using prohibited methods such as spotlighting. The guided hunts were sold for between \$2,500 and \$5,500 and in several instances resulted in the killing of trophy-sized buck deer. Approximately 110 deer were shot illegally by about 60 clients or staff at Camp Lone Star between 2005 and 2008.

In addition to selling guiding services, the brothers also arranged for transport of the deer, in particular the antlers and capes, from Kansas to Texas and Louisiana.

James Butler also pleaded guilty to instructing another person to conceal or destroy evidence during the investiga-

tion.

"This is the largest case in the history of wildlife law enforcement in Kansas," said Steve Oberholtzer, special agent in charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Mountain-Prairie Region. "Trophy deer are an important resource for the state of Kansas from both wildlife and economic standpoints. Joint investigations such as this one demonstrate that the combined efforts of state and federal agencies and federal prosecutors result in prosecutions that hold those who violate the law accountable. We are grateful to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for their assistance in this case and hope that it will serve as a deterrent to others who might consider exploiting our nation's wildlife for personal gain."

The case was investigated by the USFWS, KDWPT and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and jointly prosecuted by District of Kansas U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom's office and the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Crimes Section.

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Program Area: Outdoor Recreation

State park treasure hunters on the loose

Geocache contest in fourth year; prizes include annual camping permit, 14-day camping permit and annual vehicle permits; contest runs through Nov. 1

Now in its fourth year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) geocaching contest began May 27 in Kansas state parks. From then until Nov. 1, the game is to find two hidden caches at each Kansas state park, as well as a few other locations. The coordinates of the one cache at each site and the official statewide KDWP Geocaching Entry Form will be posted on the KDWP website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Participants use hand-held global positioning systems (GPS) to locate and open the first cache, where they will find the coordinates of the sec-

ond. Upon finding the second cache, the participant signs a log sheet and takes a certificate. If they show the certificate to that park office, they receive a park-specific location ink pen. Cachers must retain each certificate to turn in with the downloadable entry form for point verification toward prizes.

Prizes will be awarded based first on how many points are earned. Every second geocache found at each participating location will be worth one point. Prizes will be awarded on a point and time system after the

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All eyes on kids near water

Safe Kids Kansas campaigns to prevent childhood drowning

It's a warm summer day, and you're at the beach with your kids. Your cell phone rings, and you answer it, shifting your focus from your kids to the conversation. Good idea? Not at all, according to Safe Kids Kansas, a coalition of more than 70 statewide and regional organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries to Kansas children. In fact, taking your eyes off a child near water, however briefly, could be deadly. Children can get into trouble in a matter of seconds around water, so Safe Kids Kansas recommends that parents keep their eyes on their kids at all times when they are in or near the water.

Drowning is the second highest cause of unintentional death for children ages one to four and 10 to 14 in the U.S. And when it comes to water, "the safety of home" is an axiom that

does not apply. In fact, most pool submersion deaths and injuries occur at a home pool.

In the U.S., approximately 830 children ages 14 and younger die each year due to unintentional drowning, and there are an estimated 3,600 injuries to children after near-drowning incidents each year.

From 2000-2008 there were 129 unintentional injuries from near-drowning related incidents among Kansas kids age 14 and younger. From 2000-2009, there were 73 unintentional drowning-related deaths in Kansas age 14 years and younger. Three-quarters of these deaths were children age three and younger.

"Kids drown quickly and quietly," says Cherie Sage, state director for Safe Kids Kansas. "A drowning child

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Coast Guard closes portion of Missouri River

Closure intended for safety of anglers and boaters

The U.S. Coast Guard has closed the Missouri River to all vessel traffic, including vessels used for fishing and recreation, from mile marker 386 located downstream of Leavenworth, northward to mile marker 811, near Gavins Point Dam in Yankton, S. D. Mile marker 386 is about one-half river-mile downstream of the ADM/ Growmark grain elevator facility located on the Kansas side of the river. The closure includes the entire length of the Kansas portion of the Missouri River northward from mile marker 386.

The closure is a result of consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the governors of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

"For their own safety and the safety of emergency personnel who could be called to their rescue, it is vital that people avoid the dangerous flooding conditions on the Missouri River," said Robin Jennison, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KD-WPT)."

According to Captain Rob Ladner, a law enforcement supervisor with

KDWPT, the swift floodwaters create unpredictable currents and carry large, hazardous debris. "The high water level hides submerged obstacles, making any kind of boating unsafe," he added.

Information about flooding along the Missouri River is available from the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, www.kansastag.gov; and the U.S. Coast Guard at www.FloodResponse2011.com. The Coast Guard also urges boaters to monitor VHF-FM channels 16 and 22 for any changes to the closure.

CONTEST

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contest ends Nov. 1, though cachers may turn in their entry form whenever it is completed. One first place prize of an annual camping permit for 2012 will be awarded to the first participant

to turn in all 31 second-cache certificates. The next two geocachers to earn all 31 points and submit their forms win 14-day camping permits for 2012. Other geocachers who earn all of the 31 points and who turn in their forms, including each second cache certificate, to the Pratt Operations Office by Nov. 1 will receive a 2012 annual

vehicle permit.

This activity is a great way to introduce new patrons to state parks and other KDWP areas, as well as provide new activities for regular customers. Youngsters are usually adept at using electronic hand-held devices and find this activity doubly interesting when it gets them outdoors.

WATER

Continued from Page 4

cannot cry or shout for help. The most important precaution for parents is active supervision. Simply being near your child is not necessarily supervising."

To help keep kids safe near water, Safe Kids Kansas recommends the following precautions:

- actively supervise children in and around water. Don't leave, even for a moment. Stay where you can see, hear, and reach kids in water. Avoid talking on the phone, preparing a meal, reading, and other distractions;
- enroll kids in swimming lessons about age four, but don't assume swimming lessons make your child immune to drowning. There is no substitute for active supervision;

don't rely on inflatable swimming toys such as "water wings" and noodles. If a child can't swim, keep him within arm's reach;

- learn infant and child CPR. In less than two hours, parents can learn effective interventions that can give a fighting chance to a child whose breathing and heartbeat have stopped. Contact a local hospital, fire department, recreation department, or Red Cross office for information about local CPR classes; and

- keep rescue equipment, a phone, and emergency numbers by the pool.

Some people bring inflatable and portable pools to state parks, and these guidelines apply to water away from the beach, as well. Even 5-gallon buckets of water can be deadly to a toddler. Such water sources should be emptied and stored out of reach when not in use.

Even a near-drowning incident

can have lifelong consequences. Kids who survive a near-drowning may have brain damage, and after four to six minutes under water, the damage is usually irreversible. Although 90 percent of parents say they supervise their children while swimming, many acknowledge that they engage in other distracting activities at the same time — talking, eating, reading, or taking care of another child.

For more information about drowning and water safety, call Safe Kids Kansas at 785-296-0351 or visit www.safekids.org.

And don't forget boating safety. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks reminds boaters that all youngsters 12 and younger must wear personal flotation devices when on-board. For more information on boating safety, visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us, and click "Boating."

Life jacket or toe tag? It's your choice

If you are planning to visit a lake during the upcoming weekend, you must ask yourself, “Do I want to wear a life jacket or a toe tag?” Ultimately, only you can decide.

Last year 15 people drowned in Tulsa District lakes. This year, only half-way through the recreation season, that number has been exceeded and all but one of them could have been prevented with the use of a life jacket.

As you head to a lake, there are several important choices that must be made:

- You must choose to wear a life jacket. State law requires that a lifejacket is available for every person on board a boat, and children 12 and under must have it on while underway. Loaner jackets are available at most Corps Lakes.

1. Be sure it's right for you- The National Safe Boating Council recommends that it should be a PFD suited for your size and weight, is properly zipped

and buckled, and fits snugly.

2. Be sure its right for your activity- There are jackets designed especially for fishing, water sports, personal watercraft, hunting and paddling. There are even PFDs for pets.

3. Be sure there is a PFD for each person on board—State law requires that the PFD's are out and accessible on a boat and not stored out of reach.

4. Be sure it's right for children—Use the weight of the child to find the proper fitting PFD. If the jacket is too big the child can slip out of it when they jump in the water; if it is too small it may not have enough buoyancy to float them.

- You must choose not to mix alcohol and water. More than half of all drowning deaths are related to alcohol consumption.

- You must choose to watch your children. It only takes a child an average of 20 seconds to drown. Be a water watcher and designate someone to

always watch children or any person with special needs while on or around the water.

- You must choose to make good decisions. Don't give in to peer pressure about jumping off a bluff or swimming farther than you should. Recognize your limitations and stay within them.

- You must choose to practice safe boating. Take a boating safety course. Know the law and rules of the road before you boat. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that the majority of boating-related fatalities involve operators who have not received any boating safety instruction.

2011 is on track to have the highest number of drowning fatalities within the last ten years at Corps' lakes in Oklahoma, southern Kansas, and northern Texas. This is a record that we do not want to see broken.

Don't become a statistic. Which will you wear, a toe tag or a life jacket? It's your choice.

Public health advisory issued for Meade State Fishing Lake

On June 22, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Secretary Robin Jennison issued an Emergency Secretary Order closing some recreational access to the waters and beach areas of Meade State Park, in Meade County. A few days earlier, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) had found a blue-green algae bloom in Meade State Fishing Lake at the park. Direct water contact activities such as swimming and wading are prohibited until further notice.

In the meantime, authorities will continue to monitor lake conditions. KDHE recommends the following precautions at Meade State Fishing Lake:

- do not drink lake water;
- avoid swimming, wading, or other activities with full body contact of lake water;
- clean fish well, consume only the fillet portion, and discard all other body

parts;

- keep pets from having contact with or drinking the water.

Despite the many false reports, Lake Meade State Park is open for business. The only thing that has been shut down, due to the recent blue green algae bloom, is swimming and wading in the lake. The KDHE recommends no full body contact with lake water.

Faucet water in the state park is treated and safe to drink, and there are many activities available, including camping, fishing (clean the fish well, eat only the fillet and discard the rest), hiking, and boating. In fact, the park will be hosting a Car and Bike Show on July 17, 2011.

The park is currently included in a countywide burn ban. For cooking purposes, a propane grill with a lid is being allowed. On red flag days, there will be no types of fires allowed.

Contact with the water, such as wading or swimming, can cause a skin rash,

as well as eye, ear and throat irritation. Ingestion or inhaling aerosols (such as from personal watercraft or boating) of contaminated water can cause diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, fever, fatigue and flu-like symptoms. If you develop similar symptoms after contact with the lake water, seek medical care from your healthcare provider.

Animals, especially dogs, can also become ill as a result of coming into contact with, or ingesting the water. If your pet becomes ill soon after contact with the water, contact your veterinarian right away.

KDHE and KDWPT will continue to monitor the situation and rescind this advisory as soon as conditions warrant. If the public has any questions or concerns, KDHE can be contacted during normal business hours at 785-296-6603.

Further information on algae and algae blooms can be found online at www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/index.htm.

KDHE issues algae bloom watch

Blue-green algae blooms of particular concern as weather warms

As summer heat warms ponds, lakes, and reservoirs, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is reminding water recreationists to be on the lookout for algae blooms. At this time of year, more Kansans spend time in the water, and the agency is asking for help and heightened awareness from those who enjoy water sports.

Algae are microscopic organisms that grow naturally in the ocean and freshwater, but under certain conditions and warmer weather, they can grow rapidly. When this happens, blue-green algae can produce toxins capable of causing illness in people and animals.

"Last year, our recorded number of cases was higher than previous years," explains Dr. Robert Moser, KDHE secre-

tary. "I strongly urge everyone to check KDHE's algae website for advisories before visiting reservoirs and other public water bodies this summer. We appreciate public cooperation and assistance in making the summer season fun and safe for all Kansans."

The KDHE recommends no full body contact with impacted lake water. This following statement is from the KDHE website:

Some blue-green algae produce toxins that could pose a health risk to people and animals when they are exposed to them in large enough quantities, yet the mere presence of blue-green algae is not a cause for alarm. Health effects could occur when surface scums or water containing high levels of blue-green

algal toxins are swallowed, through contact with the skin or when airborne droplets containing toxins are inhaled while swimming, boating, and skiing. A large percentage of the public will report "allergic" type reactions after exposure to blue-green algae, such as intestinal problems, respiratory problems, or skin irritations.

Moser also noted that a large percentage of the public will report "allergic" type reactions after exposure, such as intestinal problems, respiratory problems, or skin irritations.

For the latest algae advisories and warnings around Kansas, as well as detailed information on blue-green algae, go online to www.kdheks.gov/algae-illness/algae_advisories.htm.

Program Area: Natural Resource Management

Lawsuits impact wildlife funding, taxpayer dollars

Legal defense costs are an increasing drain on conservation funding today. Alarmed by the trend, the Boone and Crockett Club has launched a new examination of federal statutes that enable ongoing litigation at a high cost to wildlife and the American taxpayer.

The Club's primary concern is the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), which reimburses organizations that successfully sue federal agencies for non-compliance with federal law.

Although well intended, abuses of EAJA are escalating into a modern conservation issue with potentially severe long-term consequences.

"The Club was and is deeply involved in designing and now protecting the economic engines that drive conservation in America," said Ben Wallace, president of Boone and Crockett Club, "Since the 1880s, we've been the guardian of the most successful wildlife conservation system in the world. It's a system that depends on funding, and we take very

seriously the fact that money and other resources intended to support conservation are being diverted elsewhere."

Past Club President Lowell E. Baier is leading the ongoing investigation and his preliminary findings were reported in a two-article series published in Boone and Crockett's magazine, "Fair Chase."

The articles, complete with detailed background and statistics, are now available free to the public at www.boone-crockett.org

EAJA was written to reimburse legal costs incurred by small nonprofit organizations along with for-profit organizations with net worth of less than \$7 million. However, America's two largest animal rights groups have filed numerous cases under EAJA even though their 2009 combined net assets exceeded \$209.6 million and cash balances exceeded \$44.5 million.

Another abuse uncovered by Baier: In 2008, an animal rights group won a legal ruling regarding wolves and petitioned

a federal court in Missoula, Mont., for \$388,370 in attorney fees. The judge awarded \$263,099, which was based on an hourly rate of \$300—even though the federal limit is \$125 per hour.

In 2007, the same litigant was awarded \$280,000 following a similar case in the Great Lakes area.

The defendant in both cases was the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, whose budget—regardless of whether it's spent on wildlife or lawyers—is financed by a combination of sportsmen fees and tax dollars.

Taxpayers bear all EAJA reimbursements to plaintiffs.

Indirect costs are considerable, too. Nearly all resource management proposals are now subject to ever-higher hidden fees as federal agencies spend more and more time and resources on elaborate environmental impact statements and other attempts to "suit proof" their decision-

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2011 KWF Outdoor Adventure Camp a success



Bottom row, left to right: Jenna Fincham, Brody Schofield, Corban Jackson, Cameron Stec, David Brandt, Zach Schlehutor, Gavin Ford, Lindsey Bergner, Paige Doran, Blaire Hoeme, Marlow Hosler, Caitlyn Kinser, Taegen Walter. **Middle row, l to r:** Adam Spear, A J Bunning, Jedd Ashby, (hands on their knees) Hailey Konen, Ehryn Henton, Grayce Berntsen, (behind the three girls just listed) Casey Lswrukiemies, Zach Williams, Alesha Bergner, Kerstin Decker, Landon Howard, Riley Thom, Cheyenne Meyer, Logan Batchman, December Geir, Grace Graham. **Top row, l to r:** Shawna Mendenhall, Conner Snell, Jerry Jackson, Patrick Doran, Jaden Leffler, Cooper Doyle, Jacob Baker, Payton Carter, Kennison White, Lane Eaton. **Counselors, l to r:** Clay Mrkonic, Tom Whitaker, Ryan Batchman, Tommie Berger, Terry Sullivan, Carl Conley, Heath Teiben, Morgan Gerstmann, Victoria Feldkamper, Cynthia Rhodes and Theresa Berger.

Thirty-nine boys and girls, aged 10-12, attended the 2011 Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC) at the Wa Shun Ga area of Rock Springs 4-H Ranch June 5 - 10. Theresa Berger, OAC Coordinator, reports that this year's campers were the best group of campers she has been involved with over the years.

Theresa thanks all the camp counselors (see photo) for their efforts in keeping the campers busy and engaged in the various outdoor activities. Thanks also go to those individuals who volunteered their time to instruct the campers in the various subjects and activities covered at the camp. We couldn't conduct the camp without them.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Aug. 15-17 — America's Grasslands Conference, Sioux Falls, SD

Aug. 18 — Grasslands Policy Summit, Sioux Falls, SD (www.sdstate.edu/wfs/grasslandconference)

Aug. 16-18 — Tallgrass Range School, Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale (www.kglc.org)

Aug. 16-20 — Five Jim Gerrish Grazing Workshops, KS Rural Center (www.kansasruralcenter.org)

Aug. 23-25 — Mid/Shortgrass Range School, Camp Lakeside, Scott State Lake (www.kglc.org)

Sept. 9-10 — Bluestem Wildlife Appreciation & Conservation Days, Emporia

Sept. 24 — National Hunting & Fishing Day celebration

2011 Shooting Sports Summit summation

By Chris Dolnack

Though there are more than 80 million gun owners in America, the hunting and shooting sports community remains a fairly tight-knit group. That unity among such a large group is unique. It's also a big reason why our sports and our traditions have and will continue to thrive.

The unity of both our industry and our sports was on full display the first week June in Louisville, Kentucky. From Tuesday to Thursday, more than 175 thought leaders from throughout the industry and the hunting and shooting sports communities took part in National Shooting Sports Foundation's 2011 Shooting Sports Summit.

Since the first Shooting Sports Summit in the 1990s, these gatherings have attracted key decision makers and opinion leaders from the firearms industry, conservation community and state wildlife agencies. Past Summits have yielded great results, sparking ideas that have led to many worthwhile programs to promote and preserve hunting and shooting.

New times demand new ideas, however, and the 2011 Shooting Sports Summit has taken up that challenge.

Background: "Models of Success"

At the last Summit, held in 2009, stakeholders associated with hunting and target shooting came together with members of Task Force 20/20, a diverse group of organizations representing manufacturers, state and federal agencies, hunting and shooting organizations, nongovernment organizations, media, shooting ranges and retailers. Overall, 26 different organizations comprise the Task Force.

All of these stakeholders came

together to set an aggressive goal: to increase participation in hunting and shooting by 20 percent over the next five years.

After considering input from Task Force working groups and Summit attendees, it was decided to move forward by creating several "Models of Success" programs. Models of Success would boost state agency projects that have demonstrated success in increasing hunting and target shooting participation.

States managing these programs have demonstrated the potential for large-scale success with the ultimate goal of rolling out the model for other states to implement.

The 2011 Summit

This year's Summit provided an overview of these Models of Success, which have the potential to be great recruitment and retention initiatives going forward for many other states for years to come.

The Summit also provided the ideal forum for new ideas to be shared. Leaders from all corners of our sports were able to make their voices heard, sharing thoughts on how we together can meet the challenges that lie ahead for hunting and shooting participation.

Among the keynote speakers was Tim Pawlenty, two-term governor of Minnesota and 2012 Republican presidential candidate. Pawlenty is an ardent supporter of Second Amendment rights and a big proponent of our shooting and hunting traditions.

Pawlenty gave a dynamic keynote address and promised hunters and shooters that he would stand in defense of them if elected.

Delivering another keynote address was new-media expert Brian Solis, best-selling author of the book "Engage." Solis is one of the most respected names in today's social-media community, and he shared some thought-provoking insight for those in our industry and our sports to ponder.

After all, as technology and the way we communicate continue to evolve, we as an industry must also make advancements and use these new tools to engage new, existing and lapsed hunters and shooters.

At the conclusion of this year's Summit, a panel made up of industry and state agency representatives solicited audience feedback on a variety of topics covered during the two-day event.

Using polling technology, attendees provided instant input on several issues. Here are a few of the results from the audience polling:

- A majority of Summit attendees believe most sportsmen and women don't know about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

- When asked, "What percent of your state's 2010 P-R funds were allocated toward target shooting?" 53 percent of attendees said 25 percent or less.

- 69 percent of Summit attendees said they are using social media to increase interest in hunting and target shooting.

- When asked, "Are states, manufacturers and retailers working cooperatively to promote hunting, target shooting?" 84 percent of attendees said yes.

Strength in Numbers

As with past Shooting Sports Summits, this year's gathering again demonstrated the unity, commitment and passion of all involved in our industry and our sports. Coming together in one place with one objective -- to increase participation in our sports -- this group of leaders has shown it is well capable of securing a bright future for us all.

The old adage holds true: there is strength in numbers. When those numbers unite to meet a common goal, the sky is the limit.

Chris Dolnack is NSSF Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer

Cabins offer lake-house experience

State parks, some wildlife areas offer comfortable alternative to roughing it

Looking for a special summer Kansas state park or more remote area experience? Rental cabins are available throughout the year at 19 Kansas state parks, four state fishing lakes, and one wildlife area. Some cabins are rustic while others feature many of the comforts of home and all enhance the pleasure of parks and lakes across the state.

Anglers, hikers, birdwatchers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts can choose from a variety of cabins, ranging from primitive to modern. (Cabins also are popular with hunters in winter.) Scenic surroundings and economical fees make these enticing reprieves from the hustle and bustle of

daily life even more appealing.

Some cabins feature amenities such as full bathroom with shower; kitchen with microwave, refrigerator, and cook-top stove; beds for as many as nine people; screened-in porch; fire ring; and barbecue grill. All cabins have heating and air conditioning, table and chairs, basic pots and pans, and table service for four are also offered at many cabins, making them all-season getaways. Cabins without water or full bathrooms are located near park shower houses.

Reservations are required, and cabins are in high demand, so renters are encouraged to call or go online well in advance of a planned trip to make

sure a cabin is available. Some are handicapped-accessible. For a list of all state park cabins, go to the KDWP website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us. Click "State Parks," then "Locations With Cabins." To reserve a cabin, go online to reserve.ksoutdoors.com. Prices vary depending on location, timing, and amenities. Weekly and monthly rates are available.

It's easy and economical to plan a home-state vacation or weekend getaway with the comforts of home. And enjoy all the outdoor recreational opportunities of one of many fine Kansas state parks, or an even more remote location at a state fishing lake or wildlife area.

Program Anglers & Habitats

LAWSUITS

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making processes. In some cases, where the intent of the lawsuit is to stop a proposed federal action, the delays and costs to a federal agency can derail time sensitive projects even if the eventual court ruling goes against the plaintiffs.

Along with wildlife, other public land- and water-based resource agencies that deal with energy, timber, agriculture, livestock and fisheries also are increasingly impacted by legal actions taken under the provisions of EAJA.

EAJA clearly encourages frequent legal challenges by some nonprofits that are, in reality, "big business." These organizations

are literally making their living by suing a variety of government agencies. Does EAJA, especially its payments to successful litigants with no reciprocal penalties for losses in court, still make sense today?

Baier's preliminary study finds that EAJA needs intensive review. Appropriate modifications could help make laws that are more effective, efficient and resistant to courts deciding wildlife management policies via taxpayer subsidized lawsuits.

The Boone and Crockett Club will continue studying this problem. Government Affairs and Conservation Policy committees will examine the results and make recommendations to the board of directors for a final decision on course of action.

Dancing after bullfrogs

Season runs July 1 through Oct. 31

As the old song goes, "Jeremiah was a bullfrog, was a good friend of mine..." Well, no one's planning on eating Jeremiah, but he'd probably make some mighty fine fry. And for those who think viewing bullfrogs as drinking buddies is absurd, they're right. But hunting them is a great way to beat the summer heat in the cool of the night with a fun outdoor adventure for young and old alike. And the resulting table fare will make the most hardcore "oldies" fan get up and dance. So get ready to boogie; the season begins July 1.

Bullfrog hunting, or "frogging," as many people

call it, is a great way to enjoy the outdoors after days have sweltered close to 100 degrees through much of June. The freedom of summer nights beckons with the call of the bullfrog in July. At this time, shorts and a T-shirt are all that's needed to cool off in the water and pursue this popular quarry.

Froggers enjoy a season that runs July 1 through Oct. 31 although most frogging activity is in the hotter months of July and August. The daily creel limit is eight, with a possession limit of 24. While bullfrogs may be taken

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Flathead handfishing season June 15-Aug. 31

Handfishing open only in specific waters

The Kansas flathead catfish handfishing season opened June 15, providing thrills and plenty of great table fare for those hearty souls who anticipate this unique adventure. The season runs June 15-Aug. 31, a time when those of strong nerve may catch flathead catfish using nothing but their hands and wits. Although such anglers may be few, the season offers a special challenge at a time when summer heat has slowed many other types of fishing.

In addition to a limited season, there are restrictions during the handfishing season. Only flathead catfish may be taken, and legal handfishing hours

are sunrise to sunset. A special \$27.50 permit is required in addition to a regular fishing license. Handfishermen may not use hooks, snorkeling or scuba gear, or any other man-made device or possess any fishing gear except a stringer. Stringers may not be used until the fish are caught by hand and are at or above the surface of the water. No man-made object that attracts fish — such as a barrel, box, bathtub, or any other object — may be used. The season is only open in the following waters:

- the entire length of the Arkansas River;

- all federal reservoirs from beyond 150 yards of the dam to the upstream end of the federal property; and

- the Kansas River from its origin downstream to its confluence with the Missouri River.

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

Floatline fishing season begins July 15

Equipment allowed in eight reservoirs; special permit required

Now in the last of a three-year pilot program, the Kansas floatline fishing season begins July 15 and runs through Sept. 15. The season is open at eight Kansas reservoirs: Hillsdale, Council Grove, Tuttle Creek, Kanopolis, John Redmond, Toronto, Wilson, and Pomona. During this time, anglers will be allowed to use floatlines from sunrise to sunset only.

Floatline fishing, sometimes called “jug fishing,” allows Kansas anglers to use no more than eight free floating floatlines with no more than two hooks attached to each line. A floatline permit (available for \$2.50) is required, enabling Kansas Department of Wildlife,

Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) staff to survey floatline anglers to monitor participation. A valid Kansas fishing license is also required, unless exempt by law. During this season, anglers are allowed to use eight floatlines or eight setlines, but not both. In addition to floatlines, an angler may fish with two poles, or three poles if a \$6.50 three-pole permit is purchased.

All floatlines must be under immediate supervision of the angler and must be removed from the water when fishing ceases. As with setlines, floatlines must be tagged with the owner’s name and address. Materials used for floats are restricted to “closed cell” devices made

of solid plastic, wood, or foam; metal, glass or any other hollow material is not allowed. Closed-cell floats are required because they do not hold water and are less likely to spread zebra mussels or other aquatic nuisance species.

At the end of this year’s season, participation and results of the floatline fishing season will be evaluated, and KDWPT staff will make recommendations to the Commission on whether to continue the program as is, expand it, or revoke it.

For more information, consult the 2011 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary, available where licenses are sold or online at www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Glen Elder youth fishing tournament postponed

Due to high water levels at Glen Elder Reservoir, the 7th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament has been postponed until July 23. Heavy rainfall in early June, on top of previous storms the previous two weeks, has caused the water level to reach 10 feet over conservation pool. The Ma-

rina and Boller Point boat ramps had been closed earlier, and the Osage boat ramp is closed as of Thursday, June 2.

The schedule of events will remain the same for July 23 with registration at the park office between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. and fishing until

3 p.m. Anyone who had previously signed up for the fishing tournament the weekend of June 4 will still be on the list for July 23. Those who cannot make that date are asked to call the park office at 785-545-3345 and let staff know. Phone this number for further information.

Zebra mussels discovered in three more Kansas waters

Boaters reminded of threat and prevention steps before holiday weekend

On June 29, officials with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that zebra mussels have been found in Council Grove Reservoir in Morris County and Melvern Reservoir in Osage County. This was just one month after zebra mussels were discovered in the Jeffery Energy Center Make-Up Lake, 6 miles east of St. Marys. Adding the twelfth and thirteenth Kansas reservoirs to the infested list disappoints KDWP aquatic nuisance species biologist Jason Goeckler because he knows the spread can be prevented.

“We expected Council Grove Reservoir because zebra mussels naturally move downstream, and they were found in Council Grove City Lake last July,” Goeckler explained. “The Melvern infestation is a different story because it could have been prevented. I still think we can prevent further spread of aquatic nuisance species if lake users will follow a few basic precautions.”

A day after biologists found zebra mussel larvae, called veligers, while sampling Council Grove Reservoir, a lake user found a rock with a single adult zebra mussel attached. Within days, both veligers and adult mussels were found at Melvern Reservoir. Veligers are too small to see with the naked eye and suspend for several weeks in the water before sinking to the bottom and attaching to a hard surface. While they are suspended in the larval stage, zebra mussels can be easily transported in flowing water or water in boats, bait buckets and through other recreational activities.

Zebra mussels are native to the Black and Caspian Sea in Europe and were introduced to the Great Lakes from the ballasts of ships in the 1980s. Zebra mussels are a problem because they filter water, up to a liter a day, to eat plankton. Although this filtering action may clear up the water, clear water does NOT mean clean water and the clear water zebra mussels leave behind will often lead to algal blooms

that are harmful to people. The clear water can also let UV rays damage fish eggs laid during the spawn. Larval fish and native mussels rely on this same plankton to survive. Zebra mussels also clog pipes by forming colonies inside of the pipes. In addition, zebra mussels also have sharp shells that cut the unprotected skin of people and pets.

If an individual is caught transporting live zebra mussels in Kansas, they may face up to six months in jail and fines up to \$5,000. Zebra mussels are just one of several invasive species that threaten our waters. Prevent their spread by following the CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY procedures and never move water or fish from one body of water to another. More information on zebra mussels and strategies to contain their spread, including an instructive video, is available at the KDWP website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us. Click “Fishing/Aquatic Nuisance Species” and then click on the picture of the zebra mussel.

Be a fishing family

There’s one great American pastime that many vacationers do each summer—go fishing. Many things about a fishing trip help you relax: the fresh air and great outdoors, sounds of splashing water, plus seeing a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Then there is the rhythmic casting and retrieving, and of course, the fight with a fish.

The biggest question most anglers face after they pick up the fly rod or fishing rod is “where to go?” Each angler has many options.

There are more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges scattered across America, and most of the ones that have water within their boundaries are open to fishing, such as Florida’s Lower Suwannee NWR. Additionally, many national forests, like the

Nantahala National Forest in western North Carolina, have rivers or streams that are open to angling. And, yes, even Bureau of Land Management parcels can offer fishing, like that found at Trinity River in California. Many state-owned areas are also open to fishing, and in many cases the state game and fish department has piers, ponds, or places to fish. Online searches or asking at bait or tackle shops near your location, should lead you to a place or water to cast over.

Those bait and tackle shops are also great places to learn the details on license requirements, what’s biting, and recommendations on what to fish with—and what to fish for.

Another great resource is to go to [\[ing/select-a-state\]\(http://www.takemefishing.org/fish-ing/select-a-state\), a program of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation \(\[www.rbff.org\]\(http://www.rbff.org\)\). Or go to <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Fishing/Where-to-Fish-in-Kansas>. Here you can find places in your own locale to “throw in a line.”](http://www.takemefishing.org/fish-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

If you find time or make plans to go fishing this summer, take a kid fishing. Be certain that the young angler on your trip has the proper gear, and has a good time. Nearly every angler can remember when they first went fishing, where, and with whom.

To ensure you have a safe and successful fishing trip, visit www.eagleclaw.com. This site has species information, news on knots, and angling pointers from the pros. Go fish!!!!

Tuttle Creek Youth/Disabled Deer Hunt Sept. 10-11

Application deadline Aug. 1

The 9th Annual Tuttle Creek Youth/Disabled Assisted Deer Hunt is just around the corner, and staff and volunteers with the Riley County Fish and Game Association, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KD-WPT), and the Tuttle Creek Lake Corps of Engineers are seeking participants for the hunt, which will be held Sept. 10-11.

The application deadline is Aug. 1.

Kansas youth 11 through 16 years of age and Kansas residents with a certified disability are eligible to participate in this hunt. Participants need a deer permit, and, if required by Kansas law, a Kansas hunting license and an approved

hunter education course. Assistance meeting these requirements, including scholarship assistance to purchase a hunting license and deer permit, is available through sponsoring agencies and associations.

Hunt participants will also be required to attend a firearm safety presentation and sight-in at the Fancy Creek Range on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 21. If participants do not have a rifle or ammunition for the hunt, these items will be provided. Each participant will be guided by an experienced hunter. Arrangements have been made with area lockers, where basic processing of harvested deer will

be handled free of charge.

Other items provided for this hunt include accessible hunting blinds, hunting locations, hunter orange hats and vests, and transportation to the field.

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

For more information or an application, phone Steve Prockish at the Tuttle Creek Lake Corps of Engineers Office, 785-539-8511, ext. 3167, or email Stephen.E.Prockish@usace.army.mil.

Duck numbers remain strong as pond counts approach record levels

Excellent wetland conditions have set the stage for above-average waterfowl production

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its preliminary report June 30 on breeding ducks and habitats, based on surveys conducted in May and early June. Total duck populations were estimated at 45.6 million breeding ducks on the surveyed area. This estimate represents an 11 percent increase over last year's estimate of 40.9 million birds and is 35 percent above the 1955-2010 long-term average. This was only the fifth time in the survey's history that the total duck population exceeded 40 million.

Habitat conditions across the U.S. and Canadian prairies and parklands were considered excellent. Further north, wetland conditions in most boreal regions of Alaska and northern Canada were good to very good at the time of the survey. During the survey and into early summer, many regions important to breeding ducks continued to receive significant snow melt and further precipitation, which could increase later breeding efforts and ensure brood survival. If these wet conditions continue, prospects going into the winter and possibly into spring 2012 will be favorable as well.

In addition to extensive grassland cover, one of the most important elements in duck breeding success is the amount of water present in portions of prairie and parkland Canada and the north-central United States. Total pond counts for the United States and Canada combined showed 8.1 million ponds, a 22 percent increase from last year's estimate and 62 percent above the long-term average. This was the second time in the survey's history that ponds exceeded 8 million.

Of the 10 species traditionally reported, eight were similar to or increased in number from 2010. Two species (scaup and American wigeon) remained below their long-term average. Northern shovelers, blue-winged teal and northern pintails were bright spots on this year's survey. Northern shovelers and bluewings reached record highs (4.6 and 8.9 million, respectively), and northern pintail numbers surpassed 4 million for the first time since 1980. Scaup numbers were similar to 2010 and remain below their long-term averages. Only three species—scaup, northern pintail and

American wigeon—remain below North American Waterfowl Management Plan population goals.

"As a waterfowler, I'm optimistic about this report. However, unprecedented water conditions are only part of the story. Water without nesting cover does little to improve the future of waterfowl," said Ducks Unlimited's CEO Dale Hall. "As good as the news is, waterfowl and prairie habitats continue to face significant long-term threats. Grassland habitat is under siege on many fronts and is being lost at alarming rates. Key public policies such as the Farm Bill and North American Wetlands Conservation Act will need to continue to focus on conservation for the good news to carry into the future. That's our challenge in years to come."

Nesting cover across the Prairie Pothole Region continues to decline, particularly on the U.S. side of the border. During the survey, observers noted many large tracts of former Conservation Reserve Program grasslands had been

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Is hunting good medicine for bad kids?

Hunter education for troubled youth spreads from Wyoming to surrounding states

According to Randall Eaton, Ph.D., among the most successful programs ever launched for troubled youth was based on wilderness survival. For 13 years, groups of teenage boys went into the southern Idaho wilderness with nothing but their clothes, a sleeping bag and a pocketknife. They had to gather or hunt whatever they ate for two weeks.

Eaton's book, *From Boys to Men of Heart: Hunting as Rite of Passage*, interviews Dr. Wade Brackenbury, field supervisor of the wilderness survival program. Brackenbury states that questionnaire surveys sent to the boys' families indicated that 85% of the boys did not get in trouble during the year after their wilderness experience. He is convinced that their most transformative experience was taking the lives of small animals for food.

Eaton and Brackenbury agree that hunting is the original and still seminal rite of passage for adolescent boys to manhood. They consider hunting a pivotal experience that engenders in both boys and girls respect for life and responsibility as well as universal virtues while engendering stewardship of the environment.

Inspired by Eaton's writing and TV productions, a revolutionary program was launched in Gillette, Wyoming, two years ago by Karl Milner, Ph.D., an Olympic Gold Medalist in shooting. Hunter Education for Troubled Youth, known as HEFTY, is spreading like wildfire. It began with the courts sending juvenile delinquents whose attitude and behavior quickly improved. The Wyoming School for Boys, a reform school, adopted HEFTY, and the Fish & Game Commissioners not only

endorsed it but also donated big game hunting tags, worth thousands of dollars each, to the kids who complete the yearlong program.

The demand from parents of kids not in trouble opened HEFTY up to all kids. Two public school districts in Wyoming adopted it. In less than two years HEFTY has grown from a local program to South Dakota, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Colorado. What began with one instructor now has 67. Recently, the Municipal Court of Denver assigned 240 kids to the HEFTY program. Visit www.hefty4kids.org.

Eaton said, "The power of hunting to transform troubled youth speaks strongly for the value of hunting for all kids." He hopes HEFTY will increase recruitment of youth to the outdoors and promote the vital role of hunting in wildlife conservation.

DUCK

Continued from Page 13

converted to cropland since last year or were in the process of being plowed. Expiring CRP contracts and high commodity prices driven by biofuel demands and other economic factors are pushing these

conversions. North Dakota alone has lost 22% of its CRP acres since 2007. Experts project that another 387,000 acres will be lost in 2010-2011 and more than 1 million acres will be lost in 2012-13. The continued loss of critical nesting cover will negatively impact the future of breeding ducks.

The FWS spring surveys provide the scientific basis for many management

programs across the continent including the setting of hunting regulations. The four Flyway Councils will meet in late July to recommend and adopt the season structure and bag limits for 2011-12. Individual states will make their specific selections within a federal framework of season length, bag limit, and outside dates. Hunters should check their state's rules for final dates.

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Calling contest to highlight 2011 Cabela's Waterfowl

Cabela's in Kansas City will host the world's best waterfowl hunters and callers for the 2011 Cabela's Waterfowl Classic August 12-14. The Classic will include Cabela's Waterfowl Classic Calling Contest, celebrities, seminars and a Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Hunters Banquet. Waterfowl manufactures will be on hand to share the latest tips and tactics as well as provide hands-on instruction about all aspects of waterfowl hunting.

The Cabela's Waterfowl Classic is designed for both the waterfowl enthusiast and those interested in learning more about the sport. Legendary waterfowl hunters will give informational seminars all weekend on different aspects of waterfowl hunting. The event will also include a variety of seminars and live demos.

Cabela's Waterfowl Classic Calling Contest

Friday, August 12

1 p.m. Open Goose Calling Contest
•1st Place - \$10,000 (Cash) •2nd Place - \$1,500 (Cabela's merchandise and gift cards) •3rd Place - \$1,000 (Cabela's merchandise and gift cards)
Finals at Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Hunters Banquet
7 p.m. Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Hunters Banquet

Saturday, August 13

9 a.m. Open Duck Calling Contest
•1st Place - \$10,000 (Cash) •2nd Place - \$1,500 (Cabela's merchandise and gift cards) •3rd Place - \$1,000 (Cabela's merchandise and gift cards)

Sunday, August 14

1 p.m. Amateur Duck-Calling Contest
2 p.m. Junior Duck-Calling Contest (13 years of age and younger)
All callers may request a registration form via email through Jimmy. Lopez@cabelas.com. Entry is open to the first 100 callers to register in each of the duck and goose calling divisions. Questions or contest rules may also be requested. Registration requires a \$100.00 entry fee for the Duck or Open Goose contests, and a \$25.00 entry fee for the Amateur Duck Calling Contest.

Duck call activity becomes therapy for patients

When the local Cabela's store in St. Louis invited world champion duck caller Buck Gardener to provide a fun activity for the patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children®, no one realized that this simple invitation would turn into a great way to help patients with their respiratory therapy.

A cacophony of duck calls raised the decibel level in the hospital's recreational therapy department on March 9 while Gardener and his pro-staffers taught the patients how to use properly their custom-made, hospital-logo duck calls. As the kids were blowing into their calls and trying to be louder than each other, Respiratory Therapist Marcela Spraul entered the room and realized she'd found a perfect tool for helping her patients enjoy their respiratory treatments.

"We walked in and saw all our

spine patients - the kids who really need to work on their pulmonary functions - using all their lung power to make their duck calls louder than each other," Spraul said. "We immediately realized that we could use this toy to help make respiratory therapy more fun for the patients."

Gardener, who was prepared for a rewarding afternoon of having fun teaching kids about the outdoors and how to use duck calls, was thrilled with the development.

"Using a duck call properly is all about air control and how you breathe," he said. "I've known that using a duck call has improved my lungs over the years, but it didn't dawn on me until now that the hospital could use these calls in a therapeutic function for the kids."

Gardener donated 60 extra duck calls to the hospital's respiratory

therapy department for their use.

The patients, on the other hand, had no idea they were doing respiratory therapy. They were just happy to have something fun and different to do... as well as something that could make a little trouble around place.

"Awesomeness," said Kayla Jordan, an 11-year-old scoliosis patient from Orient, OH. "I can use this duck call to annoy my cousins when I get home."

No doubt, she and her fellow patients will be causing a ruckus with the noisemakers later on in their rooms. "We didn't think about the nurses tonight when we planned this activity," said Barb Sacco, director of Child Life and Recreational Therapy. "The nurses are gonna kill us."

The patients will have a good excuse for it, though: it's just respiratory therapy!

National Wildlife Federation supports adding environmental measures to Gross Domestic Product

At its 75th anniversary national convention, the National Wildlife Federation adopted a policy resolution called “Valuation of Ecosystem Services.”

The resolution, approved unanimously by the Federation’s 47 state and territorial affiliates, supports adding environmental values to the U.S. system of national accounts to improve the way the nation measures economic costs and benefits.

Among the most fundamental problems with measuring the Gross Domestic Product are that it fails to account for the economic benefits of ecosystem services, and it ignores gains or losses

of natural resource stocks (such as forests, clean water and agricultural soils). These services and stocks constitute the nation’s “natural capital” and contribute enormously and directly to our economic well-being.

Including improved measures of natural resources in our national accounts would demonstrate the true value of certain kinds of investments, such as to protect and enhance forests and other healthy ecosystems. Presently, these services are considered free, and thus are not counted in the Gross Domestic Product. Similarly, appropriately including the full costs of investments

which produce toxic pollution and damage human health would enable more rational economic development decision-making.

The resolution does not endorse the ‘steady state economy’ theory, nor does it endorse any particular economic theory. It simply calls for the redesign and expansion of the GDP measurement tool to include environmental values. The National Wildlife Federation believes that economic development and environmental sustainability can and must co-exist, and that more accurate national accounting will reinforce economic activity that is sustainable.

Iconic view of pollination only scratches the surface of ecological phenomenon

Rangelands - Pollination typically brings to mind an iconic story of the bee visiting the flower in a lovely meadow. And everyone benefits from this ecological cooperation. But a closer look at the process in rangelands reveals a more complex picture of competition, attraction, negotiation, and, of course, the forces of the wind.

An article in the current issue of Rangelands provides an overview of pollination, specifically in rangeland systems. It is one of several articles in the issue exploring this topic. There is a richness to plant-pollinator interactions that is lost with a simple explanation of the process. The authors seek to give a better understanding of what is to be gained and contributed by each of the players in this ecological interaction. Pollinators on rangelands provide benefits not only to plant communities, but also to wildlife, rare plant species, and crop production, while facing a variety of challenges, and should be considered when managing for rangelands.

In rangelands, most plants are pollinated by the wind carrying pollen to other plants or by one part of a plant pol-

linating another part of the same plant. Most grasses are wind-pollinated or self-pollinated. While this does not require a plant to attract and depend on a pollinator, it leads to less genetic diversity.

Animal-pollinated plants, on the other hand, can have offspring with increased genetic diversity when pollen from more distant plants is incorporated. Pollination affects plant population and community dynamics by altering plant abundance, population viability, and floral traits.

While plants offer pollen and nectar as payment to their animal pollinators, this is not always an advantageous exchange. Insects may take pollen when it is not beneficial to the plant by taking pollen from a part of the plant that does not provide germination or by visiting wind-pollinated species. Ants and other small insects can rob a plant of its nectar without pollinating it.

It is not just insects that perform pollination. Although insects dominate, about 200,000 different species, including bats, birds, and mice, can act as pollinators. Along with the traditional honeybee, other native bee species, beetles, flies, moths, and butterflies are

the primary pollinators in rangelands.

Competition among plants to attract these pollinators has created a mixture of specialist and generalist pollinator systems. A plant might have characteristics that appeal to a specific group of pollinators, or a plant may offer something for everyone, ensuring that many animal species will visit. The shape of a flower and its color and fragrance may hold different attractions for various species.

Pollination is a fundamental part of the reproduction of many rangeland plants and plant communities, making it an important aspect of the rangeland ecosystem. Threats exist to the pollination process and, subsequently, to the well-being of the rangeland. Managers, scientists, and policy makers also have opportunities to protect the contribution of pollination to the future vitality of rangeland habitats.

Full text of the article, “An Overview of Pollination in Rangelands: Who, Why, and How,” Rangelands, Vol. 33, No. 3, June 2011, is available at <http://www.srmjournals.org/doi/full/10.2111/1551-501X-33.3.4>

KGLC range school format is rancher-friendly, questions welcomed

Why do some native grasses and forbs prefer shallow soils? Why do the plants in low-lying areas or along stream sides look different from upland plants? Why don't all native grasses and forbs respond to grazing pressure the same? What can I do to keep invasive plants out of my pastures? We hope to help students answer these and other questions. To start each school, all students are asked to state their interests in attending the school and what they hope to learn to take home and use on their ranch. In other words, the critical beginning session in our producer-oriented schools is to find out what students have come to find out, and then we tailor materials and presentations to get at answers for them, said Tim Christian, state coordinator for the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition (KGLC). And, David Kraft, NRCS state grazing lands specialist, added that each person attending the school has come with the idea of learning and sharing ranching and grazing experiences with others who are chal-

lenged with managing Kansas grassland resources while earning a living.

The 2011 Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition's (KGLC) range schools will be held August 16-18 at Camp Wood YMCA near Elmdale, and August 23-25 at Camp Lakeside, Scott County State Lake, and The Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch. This is our first year at Camp Wood and our third time to hold the school at Camp Lakeside, Christian said. The registration fee is \$300 per person and scholarships will be available to eligible ranchers, students, and agency staffs. He explained that scholarships range from \$150 for ranchers and students to \$100 for agency personnel. Registration and scholarship application deadlines are July 15 and July 22, respectively. Forms are available online at www.kglc.org, under the 2011 Range School heading in the navigation bar, or by contacting KGLC staff. We encourage anyone interested in attending to get their paperwork completed and in to us as the cut-off dates will

get here quickly, he said. Each school is limited to 35 students.

Kraft said that each instructor tries to tailor their remarks to meet the needs expressed by individuals through the entire course. The set of instructors varies by location but will include ranchers, federal agency staffs, organizational staffs, and university and Extension specialists.

Co-sponsors of the schools are the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kansas State University Extension, Fort Hays University, The Nature Conservancy, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Native Plant Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife Program and the Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management.

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

North American Butterfly Association count July 13

The 37th Annual North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Count will be held at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC), Wednesday, July 13, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is no charge to participate in the count, but volunteers need to register by Monday, July 11, by calling 785-539-8761, to assure adequate supply of materials and handouts. Those attending should bring a sack lunch, bug spray, binoculars, field guides, and camera (if you have them) and dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Attendees at the event will be on their own for transportation. If special accommodations are needed, please let the PMC

know.

The annual count program is intended to promote interest in butterflies and provide results useful for scientific monitoring of this beautiful and fascinating group of insects.

"Butterflies and their relationship with plants and their natural environment are exciting. The NABA count is a way for volunteers to help scientists monitor butterfly migration and get a good estimate of the different species and their numbers," said Rich Wynia, PMC Manager.

"Volunteers should meet at the PMC and from there will get instructions on how to participate in the count. The count area covers a 15-mile diameter with the PMC being

in the center of the circle. Due to the size of the survey area, PMC staff will organize volunteers to cover as much area as possible. While knowledge of butterflies is a plus, it is not necessary," Wynia said. More information about the butterfly count is available at www.naba.org.

Those attending the event will also learn more about the PMC and its purpose of developing plants for conservation and have the opportunity to see some of the pollinator projects at the PMC.

For more information and directions to the PMC, see the flyer at <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/kspmc/> or on the NRCS homepage at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Pair of new PF farm bill wildlife biologists in Kansas

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever announce the addition of two new Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist positions in Kansas. Kirby Calhoun will cover Dickenson, Clay, Ottawa and nearby counties, while Mark Witecha will be covering Ness, Lane, Hodgeman and nearby counties. The positions were created in partnership with the Kansas division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Pheasants Forever's Farm Bill Biologists provide on the ground technical assistance to farmers putting into practice the benefits of federal Farm Bill conservation programs (such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Reserve Program). They also assist farmers in implementing various programs and

practices recommended by Pheasants Forever and partner organizations. Pheasants Forever has more than 60 Farm Bill Biologists working from Pennsylvania to Idaho.

"I am really excited about the additions to the growing Kansas Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever team," said Steve Riley, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist Manager with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, "They come with some great experiences, and both are just finishing up their Master's degrees. They will be able to immediately help us achieve our habitat goals."

Kirby Calhoun - Abilene, Kan.

Kirby Calhoun will complete his Masters degree in Wildlife from Texas A&M this year. Previous to this, Calhoun spent 2010 working for the U.S. Forest Service as a Wildlife Biologist. Kirby has four years of military experience

in the Army, during which he was well decorated. Kirby is based out of the NRCS Service Center in Abilene and can be reached at (785) 263-1351 / Email Kirby at KCalhoun@pheasantsforever.org.

Mark Witecha - Ness City, Kan.

Not new to conservation organizations, Witecha previously interned at the Aldo Leopold Foundation near his home in south central Wisconsin. Witecha will join Pheasants Forever in early June after finishing his Master's of Science at Texas A&M - Kingsville, where he has been studying the effects of wildfire and drought on the abundance, movement and species richness of small mammals. Witecha will be based out of the Ness City Service Center and can be reached at (785) 798-3614 / Email Mark at Mwitecha@pheasantsforever.org

PF calls for USDA action to save CRP loss

On June 13, the USDA accepted 2.8 million acres nationwide offered by landowners during the recent Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup; acres Pheasants Forever says will be the most wildlife-friendly ever enrolled in the program. Although Pheasants Forever recognizes the importance of the newly enrolled 2.8 million CRP acres, the organization is concerned with a possible net loss of nearly 800,000 CRP acres in key pheasant states later in 2011. Consequently, Pheasants Forever is calling on the USDA to reallocate additional acres for a pair of continuous CRP practices to avoid devastating loss of upland habitat in the Midwest.

During the 41st CRP general signup this spring, landowners offered more than 3.7 million acres for enrollment in the country's leading conservation program, with more than 2.8 million acres ultimately accepted - an acceptance rate of 75 percent.

"The USDA selects offers based on a ratings system comprised of five environmental factors, the top of which is wildlife enhancement - that's the good

State	Accepted Acres (Signup 41)	Expiring Acres (9/30/11)	2001 Net CRP CRP Loss
Colorado	315,162	346,355	31,193
Illinois	35,483	68,482	32,999
Iowa	45,421	72,324	26,903
Kansas	336,773	531,925	195,152
Minnesota	33,180	127,595	94,415
Nebraska	86,860	151,360	64,500
North Dakota	113,964	385,656	271,962
South Dakota	47,036	126,286	79,250
Total			796,374*

*Not including continuous signup enrollment between May and September 2011

news for pheasants," said Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever's Vice President of Government Affairs, "Unfortunately, acceptance rates in some top pheasant states were closer to 50 percent, meaning nearly 800,000 acres currently providing wildlife habitat in pheasant country are susceptible to conversion this fall unless we act swiftly with USDA to provide landowners with more CRP availability."

Because the USDA budgeted to accept 4.1 million acres during the recent CRP general signup, Pheasants Forever sees room to shift acreage allotments from the general CRP to continuous

CRP practices - available to landowners year-round - and has requested the USDA to focus on two popular practices, specifically Conservation Practices 37 and 38, to help maintain wildlife habitat at or near current levels.

"USDA and Secretary Tom Vilsack are open to considering ways to use continuous enrollments to ensure CRP is targeting the most vulnerable acres," Nomsen said, "Conservation Practices 37 and 38 target exactly those vulnerable

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Sportsman access boosted by release of federal funds

Sportsmen welcomed a U.S. Department of Agriculture announcement of new state-based grants to enhance sportsman access and conserve fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned lands via the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, popularly known as “Open Fields.”

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack approved eight additional states and one tribal government to participate in VPA-HIP and allocated \$4.6 million in grants toward the total of \$17.8 million in VPA-HIP funds obligated in 2011. Fifty million dollars in funds is available for three years through Open Fields. Many of the grants funded in 2010, the first year of the program’s implementation, were for multiple years and continue to be funded in 2011.

American sportsmen have consistently voiced their support of VPA-HIP. Following the announcement, prominent members of the outdoor community strongly advocated the program and its continued funding.

“During this fiscally challenging time, these grant monies couldn’t be a better investment,” said Ron Regan, executive director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, “and they will play a key role in expanding economically important outdoor activities such as hunting and angling, particularly in rural areas that are in critical need of

economic stimulus and support.”

VPA-HIP, or Open Fields, was successfully included in the 2008 Farm Bill following the efforts of many sportsman organizations. VPA-HIP facilitates public access to private lands by augmenting existing state access programs and encouraging new walk-in programs, and it provides landowner incentives to improve fish and wildlife habitat on enrolled lands.

“Through its funding of conservation programs such as VPA-HIP, the Agriculture Department demonstrates its support of proven, on-the-ground approaches that benefit fish and wildlife and enable the public’s enjoyment of our natural resources,” said Howard Vincent, president of Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever. “Sportsmen thank Secretary Vilsack for his dedication to conservation and hunting and angling, and we look forward to supporting his continued commitment to programs like Open Fields during development of the 2012 Farm Bill.”

With today’s announcement, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming, along with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, join Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and

Wisconsin as VPA-HIP participants.

Secretary Vilsack also announced that the USDA will accept 2.8 million acres offered by landowners under the 41st Conservation Reserve Program general signup. A popular Farm Bill program, the CRP encourages farmers and ranchers to plant ground cover that bolsters soil and wildlife resources and enhances waterways and fish habitat.

The Farm Bill forms a critical element of U.S. private-lands conservation. Millions of acres of fish and wildlife habitat and the hunting and fishing opportunities they provide have been sustained through Farm Bill programs.

The House of Representatives recently passed the budget for the USDA’s Fiscal Year 2012, which starts October 1 this year. Unfortunately, the budget has eliminated funding for the Open Fields grant program, along with significant cuts to the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (41%), Grasslands Reserve Program (31%), Wetland Reserve Program (26%) and the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (20%). Hunters and anglers should contact their Senators to let them know how they feel about the Open Fields and other Farm Bill programs. The Senate may be able to restore funding for conservation programs vital to wildlife habitat enhancement on private lands.

CRP

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acres while fitting well with agricultural production at this time of high commodity prices.”

Conservation Practice 37 (CP 37), a “Duck Nesting Habitat” initiative, currently has more than 136,000 acres

enrolled in the Prairie Pothole Region states of Montana, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. The current allocation is 150,000 acres. In addition to the obvious benefits to waterfowl, CP 37 provides valuable grassland habitat for a wide variety of other wildlife species, including pheasants and sharp-tailed grouse.

Conservation Practice 38 (CP 38), also known as the State Acres for Wild-

life Enhancement program (SAFE), focuses on environmentally sensitive land, as well as species that have suffered significant population declines and/or are considered to be socially or economically valuable. Many states have maxed out their SAFE acre allotment and have waiting lists for landowners eager to enroll, including pheasant states such as Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and North Dakota.

Hunters and anglers urge Congress to protect Clean Air

More than 300 hunter and angler groups from across the U.S. called on Congress June 7th to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to hold polluters accountable and back off House and Senate attacks on the Clean Air Act.

Citing the law's bipartisan origins, the signers said that the act "has a long history of success in reducing pollution such as acid rain and smog that threatens fish and wildlife and their habitats." But today, as the EPA strives to reduce airborne toxins that cause mercury contamination and to limit carbon pollution, the Clean Air Act faces new threats from a number of bills in Congress.

Polls show Congressional attacks on the Clean Air Act fly in the face of overwhelming support for the four decades old law. The airborne toxics that EPA wants to reduce spew out of smokestacks and contaminate our waters and fish.

"Anglers across the country are

getting out on the water this spring, hoping to hook the big one. But this fundamental American pastime is being ruined by pollution that is causing harmful mercury levels in many fish," said Larry Schweiger, NWF president and CEO. "Our message to Congress is simple. Let EPA do its job and clean up the pollution that fouls our rivers, streams and lakes."

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to issue air quality standards for pollutants that harm human health and the environment, by limiting pollutants from industrial facilities, power plants and vehicle tailpipes. Recently, several U.S. senators and representative have introduced bills to handcuff, block, or delay EPA's efforts to reduce carbon, mercury, and toxic air pollution.

"The Clean Air Act has been an incredibly useful tool for protecting trout and salmon habitat across the country," said Steve Moyer, vice president of Trout Unlimited. "The 1990 Clean

Air Act amendments cut substantially deposition of acid rain that was destroying brook trout habitat along the length of the Appalachian Mountains, at a fraction of the anticipated costs to Americans. We believe the Clean Air Act can be used in the same fashion to limit greenhouse gas emissions, as well as continue to help on the long standing fight against acid rain."

The letter also outlines the role of climate change in fundamentally altering the environment and putting our outdoor heritage at risk. Curbing EPA's authority to cut greenhouse gas emissions has been a major focus of some in Congress. Last month the Senate blocked four amendments aimed at disabling EPA's initiatives to curb climate change. Earlier this year, the NWF issued a "game changers" study, reporting that America's remarkable storehouse of wildlife is threatened by the "double whammy" of climate change and toxic air pollutants.

Geary County Fish and Game Association researches history

Due to some conflicts of old news articles, the Geary County Fish and Game Association's (GCFGA) exact year of organization is still being researched. However, from the Junction City Daily Union December 14, 1923 issue, we do know the club's predecessor, Geary County Fish and Game Protective Association, was started.

"A meeting at the Community House last night, consisting of about 100 men interested in hunting and fishing. Many traveling 20 miles to attend. Temporary officers were selected, Frank Murray, chairman and A. S. Humphrey explaining the

purpose of the organization. With the farmers taking an interest in establishing several game preserves of 640 acres each in Geary County. These would be marked as such and stocked with quail and other birds the land owner providing proper shelter for a covey."

At 88-years old, the GCFGA has to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest, sportsman's group in Kansas. It's headquarters is located on Milford Corps of Engineers property and has a trap range, pistol range and sporting clays range.

GCFGA is active in youth education by holding the EEE Days

(Enhanced Environmental Education) for a week in late April, hosting every 5th grader in USD #475 of Geary County. This year they expect 650-675 youth to be involved, with part of the day's events held at the Milford Nature Center as well as the GCFGA headquarters. Since this is the 25th year to hold the event, they estimate that over 25,000 kids have been exposed to this unique form of outdoor education.

Congratulations, Geary County Fish and Game Association, for your efforts throughout your history. Hope you have another successful 88 years.

Sportsmen win major courtroom battle over hunting on public lands

The lengthy battle over hunting access on dozens of units of the 100 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge system has ended—and hunters can declare VICTORY! In April 2011, federal Judge James S. Gwin ruled for sportsmen across America by granting summary judgment in favor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other defendants while denying a lawsuit aimed at closing hunting on National Wildlife Refuge System parcels. After this ruling, an appeal process was opened, and the appeal clock began ticking. On June 13, that appeal period came to an end with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) failing to file any appeal.

“This long sought win is a great victory for hunters everywhere, and reinforces the process of keeping national wildlife refuges open for hunting, by hunters,” said Bill Horn, the US Sportsmen’s Alliance director of federal affairs.

This long-running case began in 2003, when the Fund for Animals,

which later merged with the HSUS, filed a lawsuit to stop hunting on 39 refuges. The U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation (USSAF), along with other organizations, intervened on behalf of sportsmen. Anti-hunting groups later expanded the lawsuit to nearly 60 refuges. USSAF defended this case for eight years, through many rounds of hard-fought and costly briefing, providing stability in the defense as the U.S. attorneys assigned to the case changed frequently over that time.

Judge Gwin’s April 2011 ruling stopped HSUS’ attempt at using the National Environmental Policy Act to close hunting on these refuges. In making the decision, the judge noted that “Plaintiffs, however, are not entitled to an inviolate sanctuary for their preferred uses – Congress has determined that, to the extent possible, hunters, fishers, observers, photographers, and educators must share the refuge.”

The 1997 Refuge Improvement Act made hunting, fishing and other wild-

life oriented activities priority uses on refuge units. The Act also mandated hunting and fishing activities be “facilitated”. Now, 14 years after passage of the Act, Judge Gwin’s ruling firmly rejects Plaintiffs’ attempt to “end run” the Act.

“The majority of national wildlife refuges were created to be open to hunting, and now hunters everywhere can continue to legally pursue their interests on these great public lands,” said Walter “Bud” Pidgeon, USSA president and CEO. “With the end of this prolonged battle, this solidly reaffirms that hunting is a priority use of refuge land wherever and whenever compatible with wildlife management.”

The U.S. Sportsmen’s Legal Defense Fund (SLDF), the legal arm of the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation, has worked since the beginning of this case to defend the rights of hunters and has collaborated with

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Team Democrats defend 'Top Guns' title at Congressional Shoot-out

The Democratic team of marksmen outdueled their Republican counterparts May 11 at the Congressional Shoot-Out held at the Prince George’s County Trap and Skeet Center in Glenn Dale, Maryland.

A near record turnout of Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus (CSC) members, both Democrats and Republicans, put partisan bickering aside to enjoy a friendly competition shooting rounds of trap, skeet and sporting clays.

The annual Congressional Shoot is organized by the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) and

presented by Alpha Natural Resources, ATK, the National Rifle Association (NRA), and The Outdoor Channel.

“The CSC does a tremendous job of protecting and advancing our interests and traditions and we thank them for providing a record turn-out of members for this event,” said CSF President Jeff Crane.

“I was proud to serve as team captain of the Democratic team in this year’s shoot as the Democrats took home the trophy for the third year in a row,” said CSC Co-chair Rep. Mike Ross of Arkansas.

“The Congressional Sportsmen’s

Caucus has a long history of putting policy over partisan politics in order to protect this country’s heritage of hunting, fishing, and enjoying the great outdoors,” said CSC Co-chair Rep. Jeff Miller of Florida.

Rep. Mike Thompson was the Top Gun Member of Congress. The top Democratic shooter was Rep. Peterson and the top Republican shooter was Rep. John Kline. The top Skeet shooter was Rep. Jeff Duncan, while Rep. Austin Scott won the Trap competition and Rep. Bennie Thompson won the Sporting Clays competition. Rep. Renee Ellmers won the beginner competition.

Tecumseh man breaks record less than three weeks old

Lake Shawnee has yielded a rainbow trout bonanza this spring. On April 2, Bob Lorson caught an 11.02-pound rainbow that was confirmed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) as a new state record. But it wouldn't stand long.

On April 20, Ed Ames of Tecumseh was fishing the same lake with a Kastmaster lure when he landed a monster 13.65-pound rainbow, more than 2.5 pounds larger than Lorson's catch. Realizing he had something special in his creel, Ames took the fish to The Bait Hut in Topeka where it was officially weighed and witnessed. KDWPT Region 2 Fisheries

Section supervisor Chuck Bever confirmed the species of the fish, which measured 31 7/8 inches with a girth of 17 1/4 inches. All that remained for Ames' catch to supplant Lorson's in the record books was a 30-day waiting period, which has passed, and KDWPT has officially entered Ames' rainbow as the new state record.

State record fish are listed in the Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary, available wherever licenses are sold, and on the KDWPT website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us. If you think you have caught a state record, take the fish to a grocery store or other business with certified scales as soon as possible. Do not freeze the fish

before it is weighed. The weighing must be witnessed, and the species must be confirmed by a KDWPT fisheries biologist or a Fisheries Division regional supervisor. (A tissue sample may be required.) A color photograph of the fish must accompany the application. All applications for state records require a 30-day waiting period before certification.

For more information on Kansas state record fish and KDWPT's Master Angler Program, pick up a copy of the 2011 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary, available wherever licenses are sold, or visit the KDWPT website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

WATER

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define which U.S. waters are subject to Clean Water Act protections, a move that would begin restoring long-standing protections to many of the nation's wetlands, streams, lakes and headwaters that have remained threatened in the wake of two ambiguous Supreme Court decisions and subsequent agency guidance. Recent actions undertaken by House lawmakers since that time, however, attempt to weaken or undercut these restorative measures.

"The Clean Water Act has led to immense progress nationwide in cleaning up our waters, restoring fish habitat, protecting drinking water sources, reducing wetlands loss and developing water-based recreational econo-

mies," said Steve Kline, director of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's Center for Agricultural and Private Lands. "While states play a lead role in implementing some CWA protections, the law does not function without a federal backstop that ensures its goals are met. We cannot afford to threaten our waters, which serve as economic powerhouses for innumerable communities across the country."

Waters and wetlands in the United States sustain the activities of 40 million anglers, who spend about \$45 billion annually, and 2.3 million waterfowl hunters, who spend \$1.3 billion annually.

"Whether Trout Unlimited is restoring small headwater streams in the Potomac Headwaters in West Virginia, removing acidic pollution caused by abandoned mines in Colorado, or

protecting the world famous salmon-producing watershed of Bristol Bay, Alaska, the CWA is the safety net on which we rely," said Steve Moyer, vice president of government affairs for Trout Unlimited. "H.R. 2018 would cut large holes in the safety net."

Read a letter from sportsmen to House decision makers opposing H.R. 2018 at http://www.trcp.org/assets/pdf/National_Sportsmens_and_Conservation_Organizations_Oppose_HR_2018.pdf

Inspired by the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, the TRCP is a coalition of organizations and grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing. For more information regarding the Clean Water Act, contact Jan Goldman-Carter, NWF, 202-797-6894, goldmancarterj@nwf.org.

COURT

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other groups including Safari Club International (SCI). Together, the SLDF and SCI are co-counsels and also represent Ducks Unlimited, the National Rifle Association, Izaak Walton

League, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, and California Waterfowl Association.

National Wildlife Refuges provide vast opportunities for hunters seeking waterfowl, big game, furbearers, and much more. Refuge hunting provides countless hours of public recreation while also helping maintaining optimal wildlife populations.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 empowered the Fish and Wildlife Service to open refuges to hunting when compatible with the purposes for which the refuges were established. Today, hunters can continue to enjoy these benefits thanks to this important win.

Vanishing Paradise commends landmark down payment for coastal restoration

One year after the BP oil disaster began in the Gulf of Mexico, the Natural Resources Trustees announced that BP has agreed to provide an unprecedented \$1 billion toward early restoration projects along the Gulf. This Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) down payment is a significant first step toward restoration in coastal Louisiana and the other Gulf states. Vanishing Paradise released the following statement:

"This \$1 billion down payment is an exciting first step on the long road to restoring the Gulf Coast from dam-

ages suffered throughout last year's BP oil spill," said Land Tawney, National Wildlife Federation's senior manager for sportsmen leadership. "Encroaching oil caused serious impacts to coastal Louisiana and its wetland habitats that support an abundance of our nation's fish, waterfowl and other wildlife. These threatened resources urgently need restoration. The NRDA funds announced today-combined with other potential sources of funding-give us an opportunity to achieve lasting, meaningful restoration of our Gulf Coast.

The Trustees involved are: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Department of Justice provided assistance in reaching the agreement.

The National Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited have launched a bold campaign to restore Louisiana's waterfowl habitat by reconnecting the Mississippi River with the wetlands. To find out more about their efforts, go to <http://vanishingparadise.org>

Program Area: Natural Resource Management

North American grasslands getting some needed attention

Grassland birds which are now experiencing faster and more dramatic declines than any other group of North American birds, need help. On August 15-17 the National Wildlife Federation and South Dakota State University are hosting a conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on "America's Grasslands: Status, Threats, and Opportunities."

The conference will bring together biologists, policy experts, ranchers, federal and state agency staff, representatives of elected officials, and conservationists to discuss the problems and solutions confronting North American grasslands in an effort to raise the profile of this endangered ecosystem and to work on developing a roadmap for its conservation.

The event will be immediately followed by a "Grasslands Policy Summit" August 18 sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. More details can be found here: www.sdstate.edu/wfs/grasslandconference

BULLFROGS

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by hook and line, dip net, gig, bow and arrow, or crossbow (firearms not allowed), many froggers prefer to take them by hand. All that's needed is a flashlight or headlamp, a mesh sack, an old pair of tennis shoes, and some stealth. The only other necessary ingredient is access to a local

pond, lake, or stream. A valid fishing license is needed, if required by law.

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

The fruits of this effort are not only fun times but good food. Frog legs are regarded as a delicacy and have a taste and texture resembling

a cross of shrimp and fish. A popular way to cook them is to dip the legs in egg and then into a mixture of flour and corn meal, seasoning salt, and pepper. Then the legs are fried to a golden brown in oil. This gourmet meal is a bonus to a great summer evening that both kids and adults will always remember.

Add a great old Three Dog Night song written by Hoyt Axton, and you'll be singing "joy to the world."

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, as a bonus, a free copy of *Watching Kansas Wildlife: A Guide to 101 Sites* and a complimentary ticket to the KWF Annual Meeting
- * **Kansan:** For an annual fee of \$125, you receive all the benefits listed above plus a copy of the book *Kansas Wildlife*.

Here's How to Join:

**Complete the form on Page 14 and mail with your membership fee to:
Kansas Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 771282, Wichita, KS 67277-1282**

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