



The Voice of Outdoor Kansas

March-
April 2012

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

News & Events

Pages 2, 6-14, 20

Outdoor Recreation

Pages 3, 4, 20

Anglers & Habitats

Pages 5, 14, 15

Hunters & Habitats

Pages 2, 3, 5, 19, 21-23

Natural Resource Management

Pages 16-18, 22

Go to our Web site,
www.kswildlife.org,
for additional KWF information

New regulations aim to stop spread of aquatic nuisance species

Anglers and boaters need to be aware of a few new regulations in 2012 that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) has enacted to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) like zebra mussels and white perch.

First, livewells and bilges must be drained and drain plugs removed from all vessels prior to transport from ANY Kansas water onto a public highway. As always, boaters and anglers are urged to remember the slogan CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY!

The second major change is that no person may possess ANY live fish upon departure from any ANS-designated water, which are defined as any water having zebra mussels, white perch, or Asian carp (see 2012 fishing regulation for a list of ANS-designated waters). This regulation mandates that whatever fish anglers harvest must be cleaned at the lake or dead and out of any water when you leave the lake.

Finally, wild-caught bait fish may only be used on the body of water where they were taken. DO NOT MOVE BAIT from water body to water body.

Although these regulations may be a slight inconvenience to some, the greater good of Kansas aquatic resources are behind these laws. Please abide by them and help spread the word about ANS!

Protecting the Land... Passing on Our Traditions

KANSAS WILDLIFE
FEDERATION
The voice of outdoor Kansas



KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Officers and Board of Directors

Kansas Wildlife Federation, Inc.

P.O. Box 771282
Wichita, KS 67277-1282
Business: 785-650-3182
Fax: 316-755-2239
E-mail: info@kswildlife.org
Website: www.kswildlife.org

KWF OFFICERS

President:

Troy Schroeder

1785 CR 390
Albert, KS 67511
Home: 785-650-3182
E-mail: troyas@gbta.net

Immediate Past President:

Don Snider

2319 W. 60th North
Wichita, KS 67204
Home: 316-755-0920
E-mail: drsnider@cox.net

Administrative Vice President:

Terry Sullivan

341 S. 3rd Street
Clearwater, KS 67206-9465
Home: 620-584-6795
Cell: 316-833-1102
E-mail: sullivan@sktc.net

Conservation Vice President:

Steve Sorensen

9 Weatherly Ct.
Valley Center, KS 67147-8547
Home: 316-755-2239
Cell: 316-214-3001
Fax: 316-755-0321
E-mail: webforbs@cox.net

Secretary:

Matt Nowak

1007 N. 2nd
Lansing, KS 66043
Business: 913-684-8979
Home: 913-727-3871
E-mail: matthew.c.nowak@us.army.mil

Treasurer:

Brian Snider

3404 E. Central Ave., Apt. 312
Wichita, KS 67208
Home: 316-210-1277
E-mail: sniderbm@gmail.com

Editor:

Steve Sorensen

Charges filed in poaching of potential state-record deer

**By Michael Pearce
The Wichita Eagle**

Charges have been filed against a Topeka man for poaching a deer that could have broken a state record that's stood for more than 35 years, according to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

David Kent was charged in Osage County Court with about eight crimes in the Nov. 11 shooting of a large, 14-point whitetail buck, KDWPT information officer Mike Miller said. Charges include hunting with an artificial light, hunting during a closed season, illegal hunting from a vehicle and the use of an illegal caliber for deer hunting.

The buck has been unofficially scored at 198 7/8 inches of antler on the Boone & Crockett system. The deer was measured by an official scorer, but hadn't met the requirement for a waiting period of at least 60 days after the time of the kill to make the score official.

The state record for a typical whitetail deer shot with a gun is 198 2/8 and was shot in Nemaha County by Dennis Finger in 1974.

Charges against Kent were filed Feb. 1 and Kent was served on Monday. What makes the case more interesting is that Kent contributed to his own arrest in several ways.

He brought the antlers to public attention at the well-attended Monster Buck Classic last month in Topeka, where he said he had killed the deer in northeast Kansas. Photography surfaced at the show placing the buck alive, in Osage County, earlier in the fall. Wildlife agents compared the photo to the antlers and determined it was the same deer.

Kent was taken into custody and the antlers confiscated shortly after he was recognized as having brought the largest typical antlers to the event. He confessed to the crime, a law-enforcement source said.

This is the third Kansas buck with antlers that could qualify to be a state record that isn't officially recognized. A typical buck that scored 199 7/8 was shot by a rifle hunter in 1999. It was confiscated when it was learned the non-resident hunter used a relative's resident permit to tag the animal. Also, a typical mule deer scoring about 207 typical points is on display at Cabela's in Kansas City, Kan. It's about five inches larger than the state record, but Wildlife and Parks won't certify it as the state record because there's no record of the person listed as the hunter having a permit for the listed year. Miller said they are not making any accusations of wrong-doing with the deer.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 19-23 | Spring Break for KS Regents Schools |
| March 22 | Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg.
Topeka |
| April 1-4 | Playa Symposium, Lubbock, TX |
| April 26 | Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg.
Wichita |
| April 27-29 | Kansas Birding Festival, Wakefield |
| May 18-20 | National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting
Shepherdstown, WV |
| June 9 | Symphony in the Flint Hills, Lyon County, west of Bushong |
| June 21 | Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg.
Kansas City |
| June 23 | Great American Backyard Campout |
| August 23 | Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg.
Great Bend |

Nest cameras make bird watching easy

As spring arrives, many bird watchers are interested in monitoring the progress of birds as they prepare their nests and raise their young. This process is made easier with the advent of remote cameras strategically placed to observe the process. There are many nest cameras placed around the world for your viewing pleasure. Some of them can be found at the following websites:

Westar Energy has a camera on their Peregrine Falcon nest box on top of their building in Topeka. Go to <http://www.westarenergy.com/wcm.nsf/content/falcons>.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has a popular Falcon-Cam, a video camera mounted at the top of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln provides streaming video of the nest box at <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/webcam/peregrine/default.asp>.

The American Kestrel webcam at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission headquarters in Lincoln at: <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wild->

life/webcam/kestrel/index.asp.

The State of Pennsylvania has a camera on a Peregrine Falcon nest on their state capitol building. To visit the Pennsylvania Peregrine Falcon Page go to <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon>.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission also has a bluebird webcam at www.pgc.state.pa.us.

A Peregrine Falcon cam in Columbus, OH is at: http://www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife/dow/falcons/live_nestbox_video.aspx

This is a web site of two live eagle nest web cams. One is from Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge near Vian, Oklahoma. It has three chicks that hatched January 24, 25 and 29. The other is a nest at Sooner Lake north of Stillwater, Oklahoma. http://www.suttoncenter.org/pages/live_eagle_camera.

There is a Bald Eagle cam in Norfolk, VA at <http://www.wvec.com/eaglecam>

Continued on Page 11

KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Officers and Board of Directors

KWF DIRECTORS Northeast District: Ted Beringer

15313 W. 80th Terrace
Lenexa, KS 66219-1530
Home: 913-541-1859
E-mail: beringer@umkc.edu

Northcentral District: Nick Levendofsky

206 Washington Ave.
Republic, KS 66964-9714
Home: 785-361-2100
E-mail: nick.levendofsky@gmail.com

Northwest District: Jim Ruder

312 N. 10th St.
WaKeeney, KS 67672-1914
Home: 785-743-5846
E-mail: bundleflower@yahoo.com

Southeast District: Phil Taunton

2508 Loma Vista Drive
Emporia, KS 66801-5856
Home: 620-342-5016
Cell: 620-794-5373
E-mail: ptaunton@cableone.net

Southcentral District: Carl Conley

320 S. 2nd
Clearwater, KS 67206-9454
Home: 620-584-2733
Cell: 620-641-3026
E-mail: conleyfam@sktc.net

Southwest District: Open

2013 NWF Representative: Troy Schroeder

2013 NWF Alternate Representative: Ted Beringer

Hounds on the run March 1

Furbearer running season lasts through Nov. 1;
firearms may not be possessed

On March 1, the great race begins. That's the opening day of Kansas furbearer running season, which gives hound enthusiasts the opportunity to chase — but not take — bobcat, opossum, raccoon, red fox, and gray fox. The season runs through Nov. 1.

Although beaver trapping season runs through March 31, all other Kansas trapping seasons and furbearer hunting seasons are over for the winter. Now it's time for furbearer hunters and their dogs to keep in shape hone skills necessary during the furbearer hunting seasons.

During the running season, no furbearer may be legally killed or taken. In addition, it is illegal for run-

ners to possess any firearm or other weapon while pursuing furbearers during the running season. (Certain exceptions apply.) Legal hours for running furbearers are 24 hours daily, and a furharvester license is required. Furbearers may also be run during the open furbearer hunting seasons, which coincide with trapping seasons.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism also reminds furbearer trappers and hunters that bobcats and swift foxes must have been pelt-tagged within seven days of season's end, which was Feb. 15. Tags should be kept with mounted specimens.

KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Officers and Board of Directors

The Kansas Wildlife Federation promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters and anglers. KWF supports the sustainable use and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats through education, partnerships, outreach and policy oversight.

**Director at Large:
Elby Adamson**

1838 12th Rd
Clay Center, KS 67432
Home: 785-632-5986
E-mail: elbyadamson@yahoo.com

**Director at Large:
Dave Hendricks**

P. O. Box 488
WaKeeney, KS 67672-0488
Home: 785-743-2644
E-mail: afbdave@yahoo.com

**Director at Large:
Laura Landis**

P. O. Box 4255
Kansas City, KS 66104-0255
Cell: 816-806-1055
E-mail: puffinscutetome@gmail.com

**Director at Large:
Cynthia Rhodes**

6505 NW Indianola Rd.
Whitewater, KS 67154-8843
Home: 316-799-2315
E-mail: cynrhodes@gmail.com

Director at Large: Open

Director at Large: Open

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please send your mailing label and new address, clearly printed. Allow 2 to 6 weeks for the change to be made. Send to:
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Newsletter
P.O. Box 771282
Wichita, KS 67277-1282

2012 Craig Tufts Educational Scholarship Award

Connecting youth to nature

The family of Craig Tufts, Family Summits, Inc. and National Wildlife Federation announce the 3rd Annual Craig Tufts Educational Scholarship Award, which is given to a young person between the ages of 8 and 18 to attend a week-long, summer outdoor educational adventure camp with a parent or guardian.

Award Details

The Craig Tufts Educational Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Craig Tufts, chief naturalist of National Wildlife Federation. Each year the Fund grants an award to one youth to attend a Family Nature Summit. The Fund provides travel, room and board and program fees for the award winner and an accompanying parent or guardian.

This year's Family Nature Summit will take place in the Estes Park, Colorado at the Y of the Rockies Camp, July 7-13 2012. For more information, visit www.familysummits.org and click on "next Summit."

Call for Applications

Who May Apply: Anyone between the ages of 8 and 18

How to Apply: Applicant will submit an original essay that addresses the following:

☐ What are your favorite outdoor or nature-related activities?

☐ Describe a memorable outdoor or nature-related experience and the impact it had on you.

☐ What aspects of the Family Summit program are you most interested in and why?

☐ Describe why attending a week-long adventure camp would be important to you

☐ Describe how you would share your experience with others.

Each essay **MUST** ...

- Be accompanied by a completed application form, downloadable at www.familysummits.org/craigtufts.php

- Be written by the applicant (not a parent or guardian)

- Be no more than three pages, double-spaced (about 750 words)

- Be typed in a 12-point font or legibly hand-written

- Include page number and applicant's name on each page

Applications may be submitted via

Email: tuftsaward@nwf.org

Fax: 703-438-6468

Mail: Craig Tufts Educational Scholarship Award

11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. E.S.T. on March 30, 2012, for consideration.

2012 State-Fish Art Contest deadline March 31

Teaching tool for grades K-12 combines art, writing and conservation

Teachers and student artists across Kansas in grades K-12 should be aware that it's time to start preparing entries for the 2012 Wildlife Forever State-Fish Art Contest. The contest is open to all students in public, private, or home schools. The entry deadline is March 31 each year.

Major changes in the contest for

2012 include the permissible size of artwork to include works 8.5 inches by 11 inches or 9 inches by 12 inches; creation of a K-3 grade-level division for artwork only; addition of a national prize for best essays in grade level divisions 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12; and a new

Continued on Page 5

2012 spring turkey permits available online

Regular season April 11-May 31; youth/disabled, archery seasons April 1-10

So far, it's been a mild winter in Kansas, but avid turkey hunters are still itching for spring, when wild turkeys gobble and the hunt for long beards is on. The Kansas spring turkey hunting season runs April 1-10 for archery-only and youth/disabled hunters and April 11-May 31 for everyone. Turkey hunters must possess a hunting license, unless exempt, and a spring turkey permit. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) makes early preparation easier by offering spring turkey permits online in January.

Legal equipment for spring turkey hunting includes 20-gauge or larger shotguns, bows, and crossbows although hunters not qualified as youth or disabled may use only archery equipment April 1-10. The state is divided into four turkey management units. Unit 4, southwest Kansas, is limited to 500 resident-only permits available through a lottery draw with an application deadline of Feb. 10. Youth permits (16 and younger) are half-price and valid statewide, including Unit 4.

Turkey permits for units 1, 2, and 3 may be purchased online from the Kansas KDWP website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us, or from license vendors across the state. (A permit purchased for Unit 1, 2, or 3 is valid in all three units.) In addition, any individual with a spring turkey permit may purchase one game tag valid only in Units 2 and 3. A turkey permit/game tag combination is available through March 31 at a reduced price. By purchasing the combination early, hunters save \$7.50 over the cost of purchasing each separately.

Hunttable populations of wild turkeys exist in nearly every Kansas county. The Rio Grande subspecies dominates the western two-thirds of the state, and the eastern subspecies is common in the eastern regions. Hybrid Rio Grande/eastern birds may be found where the two ranges converge.

A Spring Turkey Atlas showing all public hunting lands and spring Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA) lands will be available at KDWP offices and the KDWP website in late March.

10 tips for a safe spring turkey hunt

With wild turkey hunting season opening in many states, the National Wild Turkey Federation has the safety of turkey hunters in mind.

Safety is a key element when you're in the woods mimicking the sounds of wild turkeys. A safe turkey hunter is much like a safe driver — you must be defensive minded. Also, keep in mind that a safe hunter is an effective hunter.

Here are 10 tips to consider when you're in the woods:

- * Leave the area if you suspect there's another hunter already working the same bird.
- * Resist the urge to stalk turkey sounds. It is nearly impossible to sneak up on a turkey. It is also unethical and could lead to an accident.
- * Select a spot that is in open timber rather than thick brush: wearing camouflage clothing and eliminating movement is more critical to success than hiding in heavy cover.
- * Sit against a large stump, blow-down, tree trunk or rock that is wider than your shoulders and higher than your head when calling wild turkeys.
- * Never wear bright colors, especially not red, white, blue or black because these are the colors of a wild turkey gobbler. Watch out for red, white or blue on your socks, t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, hats, bandannas, etc. Wear dark undershirts and socks, and pants long enough to be tucked into boots.
- * Remain still and speak in a loud, clear voice to announce your presence to other hunters if necessary. Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence.
- * Keep your hands and head camouflaged when calling.
- * Maintain a clear field of view when using a camouflage blind or netting.
- * Ensure your decoy is not visible when you are transporting it. Stash the decoy in your vest and make sure the head is not sticking out. If you harvest a wild turkey during your hunting trip, you also should cover the bird's head and body when carrying it out from your hunting spot.
- * Put your gun's safety on and approach the downed bird with your firearm pointed in a safe direction after firing. Never run with a firearm.

ART

Continued from Page 4

category with one national winner for best artwork and essay about an invasive species.

Contest rules, guidelines, entry information and details about the contest changes can be found at www.wildlife-forever.org/contest.

Educators who wish to have their

students enter the contest can download the free "State-Fish Art Contest Lesson Plan" at www.statefishart.com. The interdisciplinary curriculum includes lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary, and student worksheets.

Located in Brooklyn Center, Minn., Wildlife Forever is a non-profit multi-species conservation organization dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage. Working at the grassroots level,

Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on-the-ground" efforts. Wildlife Forever supports habitat restoration and enhancement, land acquisition, research, and management of fish and wildlife populations.

For more information on the contest, write State Fish Art Contest, Wildlife Forever, 2700 Freeway Blvd., #1000, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430, or phone 763-253-0222.

Conservationist of the Year

Roger Boyd, Baldwin City



Roger Boyd, left, from Baldwin City, receives the 2011 Conservationist of the Year award from Don Snider, KWF President.

Roger Boyd is Director of Natural Areas & Emeritus Professor of Biology, Baker University and Adjunct Curator, Kansas University Natural History Museum. He received his undergraduate degree in Biology (BS) from Baker University, and MS in Biology at Emporia State University and his Ph.D. (Zoology & Ecology) at Colorado State University. Throughout his career at Baker, he has taught 16 different courses and established a Wildlife Degree at the university. He has led many different student and other natural history tours from Southern Texas to Mexico and into countries of South America. He is active in a

number of scientific organizations, particularly those associated with birds including the American Ornithologist Union and the Kansas Ornithological Society. He has been a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists as well as the Kansas Academy of Science.

Some of his most notable research has centered on water birds such as Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, and Least Terns. He has specialized in wetland construction, restoration, and enhancement practices. His interests have also included environmental education and conservation of prairies, wetlands, and floodplains, avian species diversity, distribution, and ecol-

ogy of Central and South American tropics and native vegetation of river floodplain wetlands in eastern KS. He has published over 80 scientific articles and received over two dozen special recognitions and honors.

Since 1982, Roger Boyd has been the principle manager for the Baker Wetlands, on the south side of Lawrence. He organized and led an Annual Baker Wetlands Day from 1991 to 2001 which played a pivotal role in promoting the long-term protection of the area. He also developed a successful mitigation plan for the South

Continued on Page 7

KWF honors 2011 Conservation Achievement Program winners



On Saturday, February 25, the Kansas Wildlife Federation honored 14 individuals and organizations for their conservation efforts in 2011 at the Conservation Achievement Program (CAP) Awards banquet in Salina. The following write-ups highlight the achievement of the winners.

BOYD

Continued from Page 6

Lawrence Trafficway which will greatly increase the size of the Baker Wetlands, fund construction of a visitor center and enhance the long-term stability of the wetlands.

Roger established Baldwin City as a Tree City USA recipient for the past 9 years. He also established the Baker University campus as the first Tree

Campus USA recipient in Kansas in 2010. Throughout his 35 year career, Roger Boyd has presented many programs to scouts, grade and high school classes, and numerous civic organizations on a wide variety natural history and environmental conservation topics. Additionally, Roger has mentored more than 20 scouts on Eagle Scout projects, developed a recycling program on the Baker University campus and was successful in establishing a program in the city that recycles an

average of over 18 tons paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, and metal per month.

Dr. Boyd's career achievements have been remarkable and more, importantly, a positive factor for the quality of human and wildlife in the State of Kansas and beyond. In recognition of his extensive accomplishments and contributions, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is proud to present Roger Boyd as the Conservationist of the Year for 2011.

Water Conservationist

Libby Albers, Wichita

Libby Albers is currently working as a City of Wichita Environmental Specialist at the Wichita WATER Center in Herman Hill Park and has been with the Gilbert-Mosley Groundwater Remediation project for most of the 10 years that she has been employed by the City. However, she has also been a Fisheries Operations Assistant and an AmeriCorps worker for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, a Naturalist at the Great Plains Nature Center, a Mechanical Equipment Operator for the City of Wichita and an Assistant Nature Director at the Jacque Nagel Nature Center at Camp Seikooc. Much of what is in the small museum and classroom exists due to Libby's vision. She shepherded the process for the exhibits concepts and now is working to complete the museum vision. Libby has raised \$238,420 allowing for the design, building and installation of seven of the fifteen intended exhibits. She has also planned and, using volunteer help, built many temporary exhibits, providing entertaining and educational experiences.

Libby presents programming at the WATER Center, and travels, giving programs in many different venues. Ms. Albers gave over 200 programs in 2011 that reached over 5,000 people.

Libby Albers started and is involved in these additional activities:

- Senior Wednesday Coalition which provides interactive programs for Wichita senior citizens

- Four Eagle Scout projects funded and completed at the WATER Center in the past five years including placement of wood duck boxes, a demonstration rain garden, a park-wide tree survey, a \$10,000 KDWP&T grant for the creation of a trail and trail guide

- Volunteer opportunities at the WATER Center involving creating bulletin board displays, maintain fountains, rebuilding sections of the stream, helping with newsletter mailings, and caring for the aquaria

- Creation of six Discover Boxes about water



Libby Albers from Wichita receives the 2011 Water Conservationist of the Year award from Don Snider, KWF President. The Kansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society sponsored the Water Conservationist award.



Rob Manes, State Director of The Nature Conservancy of Kansas, addresses attendees at the Kansas Wildlife Federation's Conservation Achievement Program awards banquet in Salina last month.

Continued on Page 9

Youth Conservationist

Megan Hilbish, Emporia

Megan Hilbish is a Junior at Emporia High School, active in many sports, debate and forensics. She is involved in student council, junior board, National Honor Society the National Forensics League and was an Upward Basketball Coach. Megan has been active and in various leadership roles in 4-H. Megan's main interest is in shooting sports. She passed hunter education when she was 7 and shot her first turkey when she was 8.

Lyon County shooting sports is an active program offering shotgun, archery, BB Gun, Air rifle, Air pistol, small-bore rifle, small-bore pistol and muzzle loading. Megan has participated in all of the disciplines. Megan is a certified Jr. Archery Instructor and enjoys helping teach beginners how to operate archery equipment safely and improve their aim. She also loves to work with the BB Gun and air rifle participants. She has taught her younger cousin and his friend how to safely handle firearms. She has also taught several women in the community how to shoot bows correctly.

Megan has been successful in competitions at the local, state and national levels. Megan led the Lyon County Team in the National BB Gun Match in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 2008. In June of 2010 she represented Kansas on the Small-bore Rifle Team at the National Shooting Sports Match



Megan Hilbish, center, from Emporia, received the 2011 Youth Conservationist of the Year award. Also present are Shirley and Jim Ruder, owners of the Bundleflower Plant and Wildflower Preserve of WaKeeney, which sponsored the Youth Conservationist award.

in Kerrville, Texas. The team placed first in CMP - with Megan placing 6th individually, 5th in Silhouettes, 6th in 3-P for an overall 5th place and an overall 14th place individual finish.

In June of 2011 she was honored to represent Kansas on the Olympic Archery team in San Antonio, Texas where she led her team in all the events and placed individually in the

top 10. The team finished 5th in 3-D, with Megan finishing 12th, the team placed 4th in Field archery with Megan placing 10th, and in FITA the team placed 4th and Megan placed 8th place individually, with an overall individual 13th place finish. She has started competing in local,

Continued on Page 10

ALBERS

Continued from Page 8

□ Getting families reconnected to the outdoors by making adventure back packs. Other activities she has developed include Fish Tales for very young children, river cleanups, and the g2g Outside program.

Libby currently serves on the Board

of the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, is a member of the National Association for Interpretation, the Senior Wednesday Coalition and serves with the Wichita Museum Educators group. She regularly helps with the Being Outdoor Women event and teaches a section of the Master Naturalists training. Libby has assisted with the River City WRAPS group, served on the Ark River Technical Task Force, the Ark River Advisory Commit-

tee and has been a steering committee member on the Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan. She maintains the City's Arkansas River website, WATER Center's webpage and Facebook site, as well as designed the WESTAR grotto signage that was installed this past spring at the site of a rain garden.

For all she does, Libby Albers is our KWF Water Conservationist of the Year for 2011.

Conservation Educator

Eric Kessler, Kansas City, Mo.

Eric Kessler teaches at Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kansas. With two bachelor's degrees in Zoology and in Arts, Eric continued with a Masters in Biology at Emporia State University. He has taught at Blue Valley since 1992 as well as giving additional instruction as a Bioscience Strand Leader and as an Evening Adjunct Biology Teacher. Eric has been very active with the Kansas Herpetological Society and the Kansas Association of Biology Teachers. He has been the recipient of and participant in over three dozen special recognitions, awards and additional teaching forums. He continually engages his students in numerous field trips, competitions, and academic challenges way beyond the expectations of educators. Few can claim as many special recognitions and accolades for his school, students and organizational activities. Some of Eric's special interest and service is related to the Kansas Herpetological Society, taking interested students to be involved in the field work and camaraderie of other like-minded folks in the out-of-doors.

Mike Rader talks of Eric's particular efforts with ECO-Meets: "I was able to witness his prowess first-hand when he started taking students to the Kansas ECO-Meet competition. The students at Blue Valley North High School and now at Blue Valley CAPS excelled under his guidance, winning the regional ECO-meet competition at Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe the last three years in a row.



Eric Kessler, center, from Kansas City, MO, receives the 2011 Conservation Educator award from Don Snider, KWF President. Brad Loveless, left, representing Westar Inc., of Topeka, which sponsored the Conservation Educator award.

His students went on to win the state championship at the Kansas ECO-Meet finals back-to-back in 2009 and 2010. That type of consistency in excellence is the norm for students under Eric's direction. He maintains a great relationship of mutual respect between himself and his students and he is helping to place intelligent, productive students at major universities and colleges all over the country. I have no doubt that most of them will

become well-informed and productive members of our society as well."

Eric continually promotes academic excellence and responsibility with his students, making him a valuable asset to the people of his area as well as for the entire academic community of our state. This recognition of Eric Kessler as the Conservation Educator of the Year through the Kansas Wildlife Federation is well deserved and long overdue.

HILLBISH

Continued from Page 9

regional and state NRA matches in small-bore rifle. She recently competed in the Olympic Tryouts in Anniston, Alabama in Precision Air Rifle. She plans to try out for Junior Olympics in small-bore rifle and air rifle in January.

Megan enjoys hunting dove, pheasant, turkey, ducks, geese and deer. A family friend has MS and can only eat deer meat so Megan tries to shoot a deer each year so she can share the meat with her. She doesn't let her meat go to waste and especially loves making jerky with it. Teaching others how to hunt and handle firearms safely is a big priority for her.

Megan is obviously a very accomplished young person who shows not only skill and interest but compassion for needs of others. For her many talents and especially those related to her outdoor shooting and hunting sports contributions, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is pleased to present our Youth Conservationist of the Year award for 2011 to Megan Hilbish.

Wildlife Conservationist

Greg Kramos, Manhattan

Greg Kramos developed an early interest in fish and wildlife conservation because of the many hunting and fishing trips his father would take him on as a kid. These experiences were further fueled by his advisor and mentor, Dr. Roger Boyd, who provided him ample opportunity to assist with various research and monitoring projects. These included monitoring efforts for Least Terns and Snowy Plovers in Kansas and Oklahoma and laid the groundwork for Greg's career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He started working for the USFWS in 1990 at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge as a Range Tech/Firefighter. He started working for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (USFWS), where he has remained for the last 20 years. During that time, he was involved in over 200 habitat restoration projects on both private and public lands across Kansas but primarily in North East and South Central Kansas.

Over the past thirteen years he has worked with a number of ranchers in the Red Hills, all passionate about conservation and their ranching way of life. Several of these ranchers make up the Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation. Working in partnership with this group and many other partners, Greg was able to orchestrate just over 1 million dollars of USFWS funding matched with \$1.4 of private and non-federal funds. These funds were used on 58 projects which improved native rangeland for livestock as well as grassland nesting birds and other grassland



Greg Kramos, left, from Manhattan, receives the 2011 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award from Don Snider, KWF President. The Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society sponsored the Wildlife Conservationist award.

obligate species on over 125,000 acres.

The synergy of this partnership helped steer additional funding and personnel from many other agencies and organizations to the Red Hills in the name of community conservation. What makes Greg most proud is his association with these ranchers and particularly the Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation. Greg Kramos has been devoted to the landscape and

ranching health of The Red Hills. His efforts through the Partners program have exemplified the best in collaboration between landowners, organizations and agencies for the benefit of the land and its stewards.

Because of his dedication, the future of The Red Hills is in much better shape. KWF is proud to present the Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award for 2011 to Greg Kramos.

NESTS

Continued from Page 3

To monitor an Allen's Hummingbird nestcam in the Los Angeles area (Orange County) go to: <http://phoebeallens.com/> There are two nestlings about to fledge at any time now.

The sites listed below feature live webcam coverage, updated videos, and/or updated photographs of nesting

birds. You can follow the efforts of the parents and the progress of the young by periodically visiting these nest sites. <http://www.viewnestingbirds.com/> or <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nest-cams/camera/index>.

This website offers numerous webcams of Bald Eagle nests, along with Sea Eagle, Eagle Owl and Hummingbird nests worldwide. <http://www.hancockwildlife.org/index.php?topic=cam-sites>

Click on the following link to see live coverage from around the world of wild birds at feeding stations, water stations and water holes. <http://www.viewnestingbirds.com/feeders.htm>

There also are some great cams from The Netherlands at <http://www.beleefdelente.nl/>. The courtship behavior of the storks is amazing. None of these cams are active at present.

Pick any of the webcams and enjoy the spring.

Conservation Organization

Kansas State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation



Don Snider, KWF President, right, presents the 2011 Organization of the Year award to Todd Adolph, Beloit, representing the Kansas Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, along with Gib Rhodes and John Adams, left, both members of the KS Chap. NWTF.

The Kansas State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (KS-NWTF) is a dedicated group of conservationists seeking to provide opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors and hunting in the state of Kansas. The member representatives from the various local chapters from across the state annually provide hundreds of volunteer hours to their cause. They meet several times a year to carry out their conservation work, often traveling across the state to reach out to others through events and programs. The Kansas State Chapter has been in existence for more than 25 years working in close partnership with the Kansas Depart-

ment of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and other state and federal agencies to conserve wild turkeys and their habitats statewide.

The work of the KS-NWTF has involved many efforts in collaboration with the national organization including supporting Families Afield legislation, the 4H Shooting Sports program, the USDA Farm Bill and other conservation legislation. It has helped in investing more than \$372 million in conserving more than 17 million acres of upland habitat as well as considerable time and resources towards outdoor and hunting education. The KS-NWTF has provided over \$885,000 and directly

conserved over 6,600 acres. This involved over \$149,000 to 55 different projects on KDWPT-managed properties, providing over \$38,000 to KDWPT's Spring Walk-In-Hunting-Area program, providing funding to purchase equipment for managing wildlife habitat and supplying more than \$182,000 for wildlife research projects and promotions for forest stand improvements on public lands.

In 2012, the KS-NWTF has obligated over \$60,000 to habitat improvement projects in Kansas. KS-NWTF has funded grassland restoration projects, prescribed burn-

Continued on Page 16

Conservation Legislator

Tom Moxley, Council Grove

State Representative Tom Moxley represents the people of Morris and much of Dickinson counties, and is a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Rep. Moxley has been instrumental in bridging philosophical and political gaps, and has been a powerful influence in establishing common ground between ranching and environmental interests. Tom and his wife Virginia have also been exemplary in conserving their own special piece of the Flint Hills, a ranch in Morris County that Tom's dad, Jerry, established in the mid-1930s.

Rep. Moxley is a founding member of the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance (TLA), a coalition of ranchers, biologists, and other conservation-minded professional and laypersons who see a healthy Flint Hills landscape as critical, both to livestock production and wildlife. TLA continues to address such challenges as invasive plants, prescribed burning, and fragmentation of the Flint Hills. Tom also was a driving force behind the establishment of the Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK), a private agricultural land trust that holds and stewards conservation easements.

As a legislator in the Flint Hills, Rep. Moxley put himself in the middle of efforts to develop a workable smoke management plan that accounts for the need to conduct controlled burns and the need to manage downwind air quality. He, along with State Senator Carolyn McGinn, co-chaired a diverse committee that developed the voluntary Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan. Rep. Moxley also has been a leading voice of reason on the siting of wind energy facilities in the state, introducing legislation to site windpower in a way that does not compromise natural landscape values. Further, he has encouraged the use of resource planning tools, such as the Kansas Natural Resource Planner, to help guide the siting of commercial wind turbines and other landscape-altering developments.



Representative Tom Moxley, Council Grove, addresses the audience after he was presented the 2011 Conservation Legislator award at the Kansas Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Program annual banquet in Salina.

People who care about the natural richness of Kansas owe Tom a debt of gratitude for his consistent and wise advocacy for Kansas natural resources.

es. Rep. Tom Moxley is an excellent and fitting recipient of this year's Legislator of the Year award from the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

KDWPT fishing forecast now online

2012 statewide summary helps anglers find best spots to fish

Each year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) prepares the Kansas Fishing Forecast, an indispensable tool that forecasts fishing prospects in public waters throughout the state.

The 2012 Kansas Fishing Forecast, now online at www.kdwpt.state.ks.us (click on Fishing/Fishing Forecast), assembles results of biologists' sampling efforts into a format that can help anglers select lakes that will most likely provide the best opportunity to catch the kind and size of fish they prefer. The information is formulated from data collected by fisheries management biologists through annual lake monitoring, which includes test netting and electroshocking.

Water bodies are separated into three categories — reservoirs (waters larger

than 1,200 acres), lakes (waters from 10 to 1,200 acres), and ponds (waters smaller than 10 acres). This helps anglers understand that while a water body may have a high rating, if it is small, its overall opportunity may be limited.

Table categories have been created for popular species and include a Density Rating, Preferred Rating, Lunker Rating, Biggest Fish (the largest fish taken in sampling), Biologist's Rating, and Three-Year Average. The Three-Year Average rating is included because not every lake can be surveyed every year.

Anglers can use the Density Rating and Lunker Rating together. For those who want numbers, go with the highest Density Rating. For those who want only big fish, go with the Lunker Rating. Somewhere in the middle might be a bet-

ter choice. A lake with a respectable rating in all three categories should provide the best overall fishing opportunities.

The Biggest Fish column lists the weight of the largest fish caught during sampling. A heavy fish listed here can give the lunker angler confidence that truly big fish are present.

The Biologist's Rating adds a human touch to the forecast. Each district fisheries biologist reviews the data from annual sampling of their assigned lakes. This review considers environmental conditions that may have affected the sampling. They also consider previous years' data. A rating of P (poor), F (fair), G (good), or E (excellent) will be in the last column. Sometimes the Density Rat-

Continued on Page 15

Fishing Atlas is anglers' guidebook

Atlas including maps of all public-access fishing areas now online, in print March 1

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) has released a tool that will help you catch more fish — and it's free. Interested?

Check out the 2012 Kansas Fishing Atlas, now available for viewing and download from KDWPT website, ksoutdoors.com. The maps in this atlas pinpoint a variety of public fishing areas, including all federal reservoirs, state fishing lakes, river access, and community lakes. Fishing Impound-

ment and Stream Habitats (F.I.S.H.) waters are included, as well. F.I.S.H. waters are privately-owned ponds or streams KDWPT has leased and opened to public fishing. F.I.S.H. sites are numbered in red on each map.

To find fishing areas, consult the map legend, then locate corresponding color codes on each map. With this atlas, anglers can locate just about any type of fishing desired.

To locate the 2012 Kansas Fishing

Atlas, click the above link or go to the KDWPT website and click "Fishing/Where to Fish in Kansas/Fishing Atlas." Printed copies will be available March 1 at most KDWPT offices and license vendors.

Combined with KDWPT Fishing Reports and Fishing Forecast, also found on the agency's website under "Fishing," the 2012 Kansas Fishing Atlas is an essential component of every angler's gear.

JOIN THE KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

Current member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Options:

☐ Basic \$30

☐ Expanded \$75

☐ Kansan \$125

New member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to Kansas Wildlife Federation.

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

KDWPT releases free crappie fishing video

Online video reveals all the secrets of catching the state's favorite panfish

A new video, *Kansas Crappie Bonanza*, was released by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) on Feb. 17 to show anglers how to catch crappie throughout the year in the Sunflower State. Although this popular panfish is pursued most actively in springtime, crappie provide a great angling opportunity year-round, even through winter ice.

Both entertaining and educational, the 25-minute video shows basic fishing strategies for each season and provides ample advice and tips from crap-

pie guides and fishing experts on how to catch crappie anytime. Although weather is incorporated into the different strategies, the video focuses on the fun of crappie fishing no matter what the weather.

Produced by outdoor videographer and photographer Gene Brehm, with assistance from the KDWPT Fisheries Division video committee, *Kansas Crappie Bonanza* will help all crappie anglers be more successful in pursuit of this abundant sport fish. On Feb. 17, the video will be available to view free of charge on the KDWPT website,

ksoutdoors.com/crappie-video. A limited number of DVD copies of the video are available free on a first-come, first-served basis from district fisheries biologists and KDWPT offices.

Crappie can be found in most waters in Kansas, from large reservoirs to small farm ponds and streams, in both urban and rural settings. As table fare, many rank crappie among the best freshwater fish, and with a 50-fish per day creel limit at most lakes, honing crappie fishing skills is a great way to provide the family with a banquet fit for a king.

Asian carp caught in Augusta City Lake

Strange-looking fish puzzles anglers

On Jan. 25, anglers were taking advantage of a fish salvage order as Augusta City Lake was being drained for renovation. During a fish salvage, anglers can take sportfish with equipment not ordinarily allowed, such as seines, snagging rigs, bow and arrow, and gigs. Most of the prizes hauled in were large flathead catfish, but one angler snagged a fish estimated to weigh about 55 pounds that no one could identify. Officials with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) became involved with the catch when a picture of the fish appeared on local television. It was immediately identified as an aquatic nuisance species (ANS), an Asian carp.

"This report supports our long-standing recommendation that fish should not be moved between waters," said Jason Goeckler, KDWPT aquatic nuisance specialist. "Here is a case of a lake with Asian carp that we didn't even know about."

Asian carp were imported to the U.S.

in the 1970s for aquaculture purposes but escaped into Midwestern rivers and streams. Previously, they had been found only in the Kansas, Missouri, Big Blue, and Wakarusa rivers and Browning Oxbow Lake in northeastern Kansas. Officials believe that the fish was released into Augusta City Lake or waters above the lake.

Two species of Asian carp have been discovered in Kansas — bighead and silver carp. Both species have scaleless heads, and silver carp may grow to more than 60 pounds and as long as 4 feet. This fish, however, was a bighead carp, which may grow to more than 100 pounds. Both species have low-set eyes and a large upturned mouth without barbels ("whiskers").

Asian carp directly compete with other fish for food resources, grow quickly, and feed voraciously. They can consume 40 percent of their body weight each day. Silver carp pose physical danger to boaters because of their leaping ability.

Anyone boating in silver carp-infested waters should be aware that these large fish may jump into their boat.

Shortly after news reports of the Augusta City Lake Asian carp, KDWPT began receiving calls and emails.

"We want to thank the public for sending in reports," Goeckler said. "Unfortunately we did not hear about this discovery prior to press-time. But the big news is that we received countless emails, calls, and online reports from the public. They shared our concern about the discovery, and their reports help us monitor these species."

Anyone who catches an Asian carp should not release the fish back into any body of water. Anglers who catch Asian carp somewhere other than the Kansas, Missouri, Big Blue, and Wakarusa rivers should freeze the fish in a sealed plastic bag, note the date and location, and call the KDWPT Emporia Research Office at 620-342-0658 or email jason.goeckler@ksoutdoors.com.

FORECAST

Continued from Page 14

ing may not agree with the Biologist's Rating. This will happen occasionally and means the Density Rating may not

accurately reflect the biologist's opinion of the fishery.

Printed copies of the forecast are available at KDWP offices, and the March/April issue of *Kansas Wildlife & Parks* magazine has the forecast as a full-color article.

Whether the angler is after big fish or more fish, the forecast will help find them. Weekly reports on fishing conditions at waters throughout the state are also posted on the website and complement the forecast.

Check the Chickadee at tax time

State income tax return Chickadee Checkoff box helps conserve all wildlife

Tax time often brings additional darkness to the post-holiday blues, but the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) offers state taxpayers the opportunity to brighten the new year's landscape by doing something good for wildlife. The Kansas State Income Tax form provides everyone with the chance to feel good about filing when they check the Chickadee Checkoff box. Checking this box gives a portion of returns or any additional contribution to all wildlife, not just birds.

Since 1981, the Chickadee Checkoff Program has helped with endangered species protection, habitat protection, and wildlife appreciation projects in Kansas. The program

has sponsored many popular programs, such as the Nursing Home Bird Feeder Program and Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) at Kansas schools. OWLS has allowed the development of outdoor laboratories at more than 200 schools across the state. Other programs sponsored by the Chickadee Checkoff include the Kansas Backyard Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Certification Program, the Bluebird Nest Box Project, the Songbird Bundle habitat planting, and surveying and protection of sensitive species. Additionally, the Checkoff has served to document bald eagle nesting success and winter roosts in Kansas.

More than \$4.2 million has been

contributed to Chickadee Checkoff since its inception. In recent years, about 10,000 taxpayers have donated to the program each year, but they have given more than twice what they gave when the program began — from an average of \$5.24 per donation to more than \$12. With the help of the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (KSCPA), the mean annual donations total \$143,590. It's a relatively small amount that goes a long way, especially when used to match federal funds.

For details, visit the KDWP website, www.kdwp.ks.us. Click "Other Services/Wildlife Diversity/Chickadee Checkoff."

Prairie-chickens dance to rhythm of spring

Male chickens dance and 'boom' to attract mates in elaborate ritual on the prairie

Each spring, one of the most extraordinary rituals in all of nature occurs right here in Kansas — the courtship of the prairie-chicken. The large expanses of natural prairie in Kansas may be awe-inspiring to humans, but to the prairie-chicken, some patches are special. These are the mating grounds — called "leks" — where male chickens gather at dusk and dawn in elaborate rituals designed to attract females.

These areas, also called booming grounds, are actually formed in fall when the order of dominance

is established among males. At this time, mature males gather in these relatively high, flat areas and attempt to establish small territories as close to the center of the lek as possible, where activity will be highest in spring. Although young males visit the lek, they are kept to the edges and are seldom given the opportunity to establish their own territories.

While the fall activity is important and interesting, the spring booming activity attracts anyone fascinated by nature. Beginning in March and lasting through the end of May, male

prairie-chickens display an incredible array of vocalizations and maneuvers to attract a female's attention.

In the mating ritual, the male prairie-chicken's tail is elevated; horn-like feathers (called pinnae) on the neck are raised over the head; and the wings are lowered with the primary feathers spread. The bird stamps its feet while moving forward or in circles, and this is followed by a series of rapid tail snaps and fans. At the same time as the tail is clicked

Continued on Page 18

NWTF

Continued from Page 12

ing projects, riparian restoration projects, and many others. The KS-NWTF also has provided matching funds for various grants in partnership with other organizations. The KS-NWTF is very active in outreach

and education efforts to Kansans including the JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics, and Sportsmanship) program, the WITO (Women in the Outdoors) program, and the Wheelin' Sportsmen program aimed at getting physically challenged individuals into the outdoors. The KS-NWTF annually provides scholarships to local chapters for

graduating high school seniors. The KS-NWTF is a very strong supporter of the 4H Shooting Sports program and the National Archery in the Schools Program.

The KWF is proud to present the 2011 CAP Conservation Organization of the Year to Kansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigates bald eagle shooting

Reward offered for information on deaths; callers may remain anonymous

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is actively investigating the deaths of two bald eagles in Kansas. The first eagle was found in a borrow ditch on 370th Road, approximately ¼ mile north of the Ness County line, in southeastern Trego County, on Jan. 9. The USFWS worked with area veterinarians to X-ray the eagle and identified the presence of metal in the bird.

The second eagle was recovered near 1700 Road in northwest Montgomery County, approximately ½ mile south of the Wilson County line on Jan. 10. This eagle was also X-rayed and showed the presence of metal.

Bald eagles are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and

the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The killing of any eagle constitutes a violation of those acts.

Anyone with information regarding the death of these eagles is asked to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, in Topeka at 785-232-5149. The USFWS will pay for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the killing of these or any other eagles or protected species. Anyone contributing information to authorities may choose to remain anonymous. Information may also be reported to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's Operation Game Thief hotline at 1-877-426-3843.

Approximately 50,000 pairs of bald eagles occupied the lower 48 states in pre-colonial times, but that number was reduced to 400 pairs by the 1960s. Biologists blame a loss of habitat, shooting, trapping, and the heavy use of pesticides such as DDT for the decline of the species, which was officially listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1976. After DDT was outlawed, bald eagles began making a comeback in the late 1980s, and the species was down-listed from endangered to threatened in 1996. In June of 2007, it was removed from the list completely.

For more information on the bald eagle, go online to www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm.

PLJV ConocoPhillips grants help fund Kansas conservation projects

\$37,307 devoted to two Kansas projects

At a January meeting of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV), the group's management board approved more than \$107,000 in ConocoPhillips grants to support five conservation projects. The grants will support habitat conservation, outreach, and research efforts in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

Two projects in Kansas will greatly improve or protect habitat by following many of the recommendations in the PLJV's Area Implementation Plans. The first is called Prescribed Fire Council Education. With a \$25,000 grant, the Kansas Prescribed Fire Council will increase their educational activities regarding prescribed burning. Fire suppression has been proven to have a detrimental effect on grasslands in Kansas. Without controlled burning, invasive species such as eastern redcedar continue their rapid expansion — and removal of these invasive species by mechanical means has failed to make significant reduc-

tions. Since 2008, six local prescribed burning associations have organized in Kansas as a result of the Kansas Prescribed Fire Council's efforts, but a major obstacle to prescribed burning has been the lack of affordable liability insurance. Additional outreach activities will help expand the statewide membership of the Council to meet statewide insurance underwriting requirements, which should increase prescribed burns conducted each year. This novel approach emulates a successful program pioneered in Oklahoma in 2011.

The second Kansas project is called Evaluating Playa Impacts. The University of Wisconsin will use a \$12,705 grant to fund research in Kansas, examining the impacts of land use on playa function, as well as the effectiveness of grass buffers to mitigate these impacts. To evaluate these issues, soil cores will be collected from playas throughout western Kansas. Cores will be analyzed for a variety

of properties, including color, particle size, organic matter content, bulk density, and magnetic susceptibility. This research takes a landscape-scale approach by using remote sensing/GIS techniques to assess catchment properties (water draining the land in the area). Catchment properties address a range of issues having an impact on playas, including implications for playas' abilities to provide wetland habitat, surface water storage, and groundwater recharge. The study will shed light on what buffers are most effective for playa function in northern portions of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

"ConocoPhillips continues to help the PLJV make a big difference with tangible habitat conservation projects such as these," said PLJV Coordinator Mike Carter. "Such long-term commitments are rare these days, and we are pleased to see the PLJV-ConocoPhillips Grant program continue into its 21st year."

Three Kansas deer confirmed positive in early stages of CWD testing

The number of cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) detected in Kansas deer continues to be low and is currently isolated to the northwest part of the state, according to the Shane Hesting, wildlife disease coordinator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP). Samples from three white-tailed bucks taken during this year's hunting season were confirmed positive for CWD in tests completed last week. Counties where the deer were taken include Wallace (new county of detection), Decatur, and Rawlins. KDWP will continue testing some vehicle-killed and sick or suspect-looking deer, as well as deer taken with depredation permits, through July 31.

"This season's testing results bring the total number of confirmed CWD cases in Kansas to 43 since testing began in 1996," says Hesting. "About 2,400 samples were collected dur-

ing the 2011-2012 deer seasons, but testing has been slow, and testing kits are continually on back order. We're about 35 percent done. More importantly, U.S. Department of Agriculture funding will not be available for collecting and testing samples next season. Without federal financial assistance, surveillance will be very limited and less robust."

Annual testing has been a part of an ongoing effort by KDWP to monitor the prevalence and spread of CWD. The disease, fatal in wild deer, was first detected in deer taken in Cheyenne County in 2005.

"It must be noted that many of the symptoms of CWD are indicative of other diseases," Hesting explains. "Thus, a sick deer may or may not be infected with CWD. CWD is a serious deer disease but is still rare in Kansas."

All but three of the 43 positive ani-

mals detected since 2005 were asymptomatic, meaning 40 animals did not show any symptoms of CWD at the time of collection. Anyone who discovers a sick or suspect deer should contact the nearest KDWP office.

There is no vaccine or other biological method that prevents CWD. However, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or livestock in the natural environment. Still, precautions should be taken. Hunters are advised not to eat meat from animals known to be infected, and common sense precautions are advised when field dressing and processing meat from animals taken in areas where CWD is found. More information on CWD can be found on KDWP's website, www.ksoutdoors.com (Hunting/Big Game Information), or at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website, www.cwd-info.org.

DANCE

Continued from Page 16

open and shut, a whoom-AH-oom sound is given as bright orange air sacs on the neck inflate for maximum exposure.

A second major display is flutter-jumping, with associated cackling calls. The male jumps several feet into the air, flies forward, and lands. In so doing, the bird advertises its presence as well as the location of the lek. Flutter-jumping is a common tactic of peripheral males when females are near the center of the display ground.

A female will typically fly to the edge of a lek and walk slowly toward the center. When the hen enters a male's territory, the male's behavior changes greatly. The ritual is performed with high frequency and extreme posturing. The male will display in circles around the female,

showing all aspects of its plumage. At the peak of this performance, the dancer often spreads his wings and lays its head flat to the ground, as if bowing to the hen. If suitably impressed, the hen will flatten to the ground, signaling a willingness to mate.

Occasionally, fights break out among competing males. This is mostly ritual, as well, involving short jumps; striking with feet, beak, and wings; and face-offs in which the competitors whine and attempt to stare each other down. Injuries do occur but are seldom serious.

With its large, colorful air sacs, horn-like pinnae, and feathers growing all the way to its feet, the prairie-chicken is one of the most beautiful and unusual birds in Kansas. Moreover, its mating ritual makes it one of the most fascinating birds to watch. Kansans are lucky to have the largest population of prairie-chickens in the world, so viewing opportunities are good.

Two species of prairie-chicken are found in Kansas. The greater prairie-chicken, by far the most populous, are found throughout portions of northcentral and eastern Kansas, especially in the Flint Hills region. The lesser prairie-chicken, which is slightly smaller and has red air-sacs instead of orange, can be found in pockets of native sandsage prairie in southwest Kansas and in mid-grass prairies of western Kansas. The lesser prairie-chicken male produces a higher-pitched, bubbly sound, or "gobble," leading to the term "gobbling grounds" for their leks. On a quiet spring morning, the sounds of both species can carry as far as two miles across the open prairie.

For a list of prairie-chicken viewing opportunities, visit the Natural Kansas website www.naturalkansas.org/birding.htm#PCV or phone the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Emporia Office at 620-342-0658 or the Pratt Operations Office at 620-672-5911.

Delta Waterfowl offers

10 suggestions for snow geese

Snow-sodden fields. Ankle-deep mud. Biting winds, driving rains and cold-to-the-bone temperatures.

Spring snow goose hunters happily endure Mother Nature's unpredictable mood swings to chase geese that hold advanced degrees in survival. Snow geese can be older than you, and have witnessed, from their lofty, discriminating vantage point, untold decoy spreads during their travels across the continent. They're savvy, cunning and difficult to hunt—even exasperating—but far from impossible.

If you're looking for a prescription for successfully hunting spring snows, Delta Waterfowl has a small coterie of snow goose aficionados who are qualified to help. After years of hunting these wily birds, they've learned some fool-proof (or nearly so) secrets to help fill your freezer with some tasty wild protein. Enjoy the spring season.

Delta Waterfowl's Top 10 Snow Goose Suggestions:

1) Scouting: If you don't find the birds, they likely won't find you. "You have to scout, scout and scout some more," says Scott Terning, Delta's director of recruitment and education. Watch the snow line; birds will be south of it, always. You can also use a number of online sources to aid your scouting and get refuge reports to determine bird concentrations, but remember nothing compares to doing real-time scouting." Terning recommends finding the largest concentration of birds on a lake, wetland or piece of sheet water. During the spring, he said, it's common to locate multiple roosts in a given area. "You want to scout these birds and locate where they are feeding for your hunt the next day," Terning says. "Taking these simple first steps will save you a lot of time and frustration."

2) The sheet water connection: "In the spring finding sheet water is often the key element in finding birds," says Delta Waterfowl Senior Vice President John Devney. "They seem to decoy far better in fields with a little water in them. Spring snows will often look

for corn stubble and sheet water in the same field."

3) Concealment: Hide, hide, hide! Fooling spring snows requires you stay well hidden. Take advantage of any field changes that allow for better concealment—from drainages to low spots to missed field vegetation. Conceal ground blinds from all angles and use decoys to break up their outlines. In grain fields it's sometimes best to ditch the ground blinds and hunt in your best "whites." And don't forget your facemask. There's typically no margin for error.

4) Decoys: You don't need a 1,000-decoy spread to have a successful hunt, says Terning. "You need a respectable amount of decoys, and the best ones you have, because quality can be more important than quantity," he said, noting that you should team up with a friend if you don't have enough decoys. "Bring along some floaters too. You'll want to use them in the sheet water." Keep decoys properly spaced, about three or four feet between each. The spread will look more natural from a distance and create the affect of having a larger spread.

5) Movement in decoys: It's very important to attract distant birds to your spread. Use kites, flyers, flags and other decoys to increase motion, especially directly behind your blinds on the upwind side of your spread. This will create the illusion of snows landing and leap-frogging over each other to feed. "Silosock flyers work really well to add movement to your spread," says Terning. Bottom line: employ as much movement as possible, even to the point of putting a white vest on your dog.

6) Late snows: The latter part of the migration can provide the best decoy hunting, because the majority of the birds are juveniles. "Young birds are much easier to decoy," says Delta's Jim Fisher, Canada's director of conservation policy. "You won't see the number of birds, generally speaking, but the decoy hunting can be excellent."

7) Hunter placement in decoys:

"Don't be afraid to move within the decoy spread to get to a better position to shoot lower birds or to have a chance at flaring birds," says Delta's Fisher. "Or leave the decoys altogether and get downwind to a spot that may give you closer shots."

8) Prepare for fog and mud: Spring hunters will likely find both in copious amounts. "Morning fog can really get guys mixed up when they're looking for the field they received permission to hunt the night before, so make a mental note of landmarks to guide you to the right spot," says Delta's Terning. "If the fog has been really bad, use a GPS to plot the precise location of where you want to set up the following day. A good map and GPS are indispensable." The spring season has another constant: mud. Be prepared for it; bring extra clothes/gear and have a plan for transporting decoys because driving a truck and trailer into a field may not be an option. "Hunters need to do their best to leave the smallest footprint as possible," says Delta's Devney. "Be respectful of landowner property and be extremely careful not to tear up muddy roads."

9) Ballistics and shooting: Fisher strongly recommends using quality shells. "I like to use three-inch shot shells with BB or BBB," he said. "Be judicious with the shots you take, know your maximum effective range and don't stray from it. After all, it's hunting, not shooting."

10) Food, glorious, food: Have a plan. Bring a cooler, ice and cleaning materials. Know the rules on how to transport birds legally. Snow geese, contrary to popular myth, are superb table fare. Bring a grill or stove and prepare a feast in the field. An easy recipe: take the tenderloins from several goose breasts. Dredge them in seasoned flour and fry. Serve them with your favorite dipping sauce. Delta President Rob Olson says sweet chili or plum and hot mustard is a terrific combination. Find some great snow goose recipes at www.deltawaterfowl.org.



Shotgun winner

Roger Peterson of Wichita is the winner of the Remington Model 870 20 gauge shotgun from the Kansas Wildlife Federation. His daughter Rachel passed her Hunter Education class at Lake Afton last October when Roger purchased his tickets for the shotgun drawing. Also pictured is Roger's grandson, Hunter Deere, who will probably use the shotgun in years to come.

Proposed amendment could change senior license exemption bill

Proposal addresses seniors' concerns while helping agency

Earlier this year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) asked the Kansas Legislature to consider eliminating the hunting and fishing license exemptions for persons 65 years of age and older. A bill to remove the exemptions was introduced into the Kansas Senate as SB 314, and was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which held hearings on the bill on February 17 and March 1.

At the March 1 hearing, Senator Allen Schmidt distributed a proposed balloon amendment giving senior residents two options. Under one option, seniors could purchase an annual half-price hunting, fishing or combination hunting/fishing license (excluding vendor and convenience fee) up to the age of 75, with no license required for 75 years of age and older. Under the current pricing structure, that would make annual hunting and fishing licenses \$9.00 each, and an annual combination hunting/fishing license \$18.00 (a \$2.50 vendor and convenience fee would be

added to the cost of each license).

The other option would be for seniors to purchase a one-time, lifetime combination senior hunting/fishing pass for an amount not to exceed one-eighth of the fee for a regular lifetime combination hunting/fishing license. The cost for a senior pass would be set by the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission through a change in regulation. According to KDWPT Secretary Robin Jennison, the cost for a lifetime combination senior hunting/fishing pass would likely be set at \$40.00 not including the vendor and convenience fee. He noted that if a person purchases the lifetime senior pass, the department would receive federal matching funds for 18 years for each pass purchased, helping the agency achieve a more stable and consistent revenue stream.

Senator Schmidt said of his amendment, "I believe this is an effective mechanism to address the concerns of our senior hunters and anglers and help KDWPT meet its needs for a broader

funding base to support the fishing and wildlife programs that are so important to Kansas."

Secretary Jennison thanked Senator Schmidt for his efforts. "We really appreciate Senator Schmidt's work in bringing this amendment forward," he said. "It is both fair to our seniors and is a great way to help the agency continue offering the programs and services outdoor enthusiasts have come to expect."

License revenues and a federal match from the excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment fund the wildlife and fisheries programs. The demographics of hunters and anglers are changing due to baby boomer retirements and greater longevity. KDWPT currently loses an estimated \$1.4 million on hunters and anglers between 65 and 74 years of age because of the exemption.

The Committee on Natural Resources is expected to act on the bill during the week of March 5.

Special spring turkey hunts applications available online

Special hunts application deadline March 18; regular season April 11-May 31

To encourage youth involvement in turkey hunting, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) will offer special hunts on select state wildlife areas this spring. In addition, KDWPT is joining with private landowners to offer special turkey hunts on private lands. Private land special hunts will be offered in 12 counties — Chase, Clay, Douglas, Leavenworth, Marshall, Osage, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Reno, Riley, Sumner, and Wabaunsee — opening more than 3,700 acres for 83 special hunts.

Public lands special spring turkey hunts will be held on Benedictine Bottoms, Grand Osage, Kansas River Fitzgerald Tract, and Noe (Jackson County) wildlife areas, as well as Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge and Pottawatomie SFL No. 2.

Special hunts range from youth-only and youth-mentor hunts to open hunts. All special hunt opportunities are available by online application and a random drawing. Those applicants who are drawn for a hunt will be notified by email with additional hunt informa-

tion and their special hunt permit. The online application and hunt information is on the KDWPT website, www.ksoutdoors.com under Hunting/Special Hunts Information. The application deadline is Sunday, March 18.

Access to lands enrolled in these special hunts will be limited to foot traffic only, unless posted otherwise. Each property will have special restrictions for dates allowed and type of hunt that will be listed on the application.

For more information or applications, contact Tina McFerrin, KDWPT, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS 67124; phone 620-672-0791; or email tina.mcferrin@ksoutdoors.com.

The 2012 spring turkey season runs April 11-May 31. Turkey permits allow hunters to use a shotgun, crossbow, or bow throughout the regular season. Archery-only and youth/disabled seasons run concurrently, April 1-10.

Turkey permits for units 1, 2, and 3 may be purchased online from the KDWPT website or over the counter at any license vendor. Detailed information on spring turkey hunting seasons, permits,

and fees may be found on the website under Hunting/Applications and Fees/Turkey. This page also includes results of the resident-only, limited-draw permit application for Unit 4.

Archery hunters, anyone 16 years old or younger, and those with disability permits may hunt April 1-10. (All youth must have an adult supervisor during the youth season.) Hunters younger than 16 are not required to have hunter education certification to hunt while they are supervised by a person 18 or older, but they must have a turkey permit. (During the regular season, persons age 12 through 15 may hunt without adult supervision if they have completed a certified hunter education course.) Hunter education certification may not be obtained until age 11, and all hunters younger than 12 must have adult supervision to hunt at any time.

A spring turkey atlas showing all public hunting lands and spring Walk-In Hunting Access program lands will be available at KDWPT offices and the KDWPT website in late March.

12th Annual Council Grove Spring Turkey Hunt April 7

Young hunters ages 11 through 16 invited; registration deadline March 23

Many young Kansans have not yet experienced the thrill of a Kansas spring turkey hunt. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) — in cooperation with Council Grove area chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — hopes to change that. On April 7, the organizations will conduct the 12th Annual Council Grove Spring Turkey Hunt.

“We’ve designed this event to entice beginning turkey hunters into the woods in search of a spring gobbler,” says Council Grove Wildlife Area

manager Brent Konen. “It provides participating hunters age 11 through 16 with an opportunity to become involved not only in the hunt but also in its preparation, so they learn a lot more than just how to shoot a turkey.”

Participants will pattern their shotguns and scout for turkeys the evening before the hunt. The morning of the hunt, they will be guided to area locations on public and private land where encounters with these magnificent game birds are likely. Program volunteers will arrange transportation to hunting sites and will be available to assist in the hunt.

The event will also include door prizes, a turkey hunting presentation, and a hunter’s breakfast and lunch.

“Kansas turkey hunting prospects are good, and the excitement of the spring hunt can spark a passion for the outdoors that lasts a lifetime,” says Konen. “Participants are also encouraged to explore historic Council Grove and scenic Morris County while visiting the area.”

Lodging is available in nearby Council Grove, and camping is available at Council Grove Reservoir. Registration is required by March 23. For more information or to register, phone Konen at 620-767-5900.

Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

A major accomplishment for the Everglades, FWS and NWRA

On January 18, 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, and Senator Bill Nelson (FL-D) announced the establishment of America's 556th national wildlife refuge, the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. Joined by a group of ranchers, sportsmen and state partners at the Future Farmers of America Training Center in Haines City, FL, the Secretary fielded questions from the audience and discussed the importance of the new refuge as part of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

This announcement marks an exciting milestone not just for the Refuge System and the State of Florida, but also for NWRA. Our team has been working hard to help the Service forge an innovative partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the ranching, agriculture and sporting communities, and federal agencies including USDA and the Department of Defense. As Dan Ashe wisely said, "This day marks the beginning of the hard work ahead." The refuge and conservation area were established on January 18, with a donation of 10 acres of prairie habitat from The Nature Conservancy. Now, we have the opportunity to make a true conservation partnership work on the ground.

Located just south of Orlando in the

Kissimmee River Basin, the Everglades Headwaters Refuge and Conservation Area includes six focus areas where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to acquire up to 50,000 acres as national wildlife refuge lands. It also allows the Service to acquire up to another 100,000 acres in conservation easements. These easements, which provide conservation protection but also allow land to stay in private ownership and on the tax rolls, will help assure that centuries of land stewardship and love for this land by Florida ranchers and sportsmen can continue into new generations.

As NWRA's Senior Vice-President for Conservation, David Houghton said in Haines City, "Not only does the Everglades Headwaters Refuge and Conservation Area secure habitat for more than 30 threatened and endangered species, the new initiative also assures expanded hunting and fishing opportunities on future refuge lands and will help sustain Florida's ranching economy."

As many NWRA friends and supporters will recall, the road to establishing the Everglades Headwaters was not a simple stroll. In the face of initial opposition, both NWRA and Friends of several Florida refuges took to the microphone at public meetings and submitted comments in favor of the refuge and conservation area proposal.

By reaching across the spectrum to engage all concerned parties, the Service, NWRA and other partners were able to find opportunities for partnership and compromise. The broad public support expressed in Haines City on January 18 illustrated demonstrated a job well done by all.

Learn more about the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area at <http://refugeassociation.org/everglades/>.

Join an Expedition through the Northern Everglades!

Would you like to see the wild Florida that will be conserved by the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area? Join Florida wildlife photographer and conservationist Carlton Ward, Jr. and filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus on their Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition! Carlton, Elam and their expedition team departed on January 17 from Everglades National Park to walk 1,000 miles in 100 days through the heart of Florida's wild terrain, until they reach Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia.

Follow Carlton and his team and see this unique wild country by visiting www.floridawildlifecorridor.org or following the expedition on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/FloridaWildlifeCorridor>.

Westar Energy Green Team novice turkey hunts April 1-17

Registration deadline March 23; preference given to inexperienced hunters

Staff at Jeffrey Energy Center (JEC) are inviting youth who have not harvested a turkey to participate in the center's spring hunt April 1-22 at JEC, about 45 minutes northwest of Topeka.

Youth must be accompanied by an adult mentor, preferably one who does not have turkey hunting experience. These trips will be guided by veteran hunters and will take place in enclosed

blinds around small crop fields scattered throughout the plant's property, where turkeys are abundant.

Youth 12 through 17 years old are eligible. All they need is a Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism turkey permit and a shotgun; no special clothing, calls, or decoys are needed. A hunting license and hunter education certificate are only necessary for hunters 16 years or older.

Hunts will take place primarily in the mornings and on weekends, but weekdays and afternoons are possible based on volunteer guide availability. Registration is open through Friday, March 23, or until all slots are filled. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with preference for inexperienced mentors. For more information or to apply, phone Barb Cornelius at 785-575-8125.

Open areas important for turkeys

Turkey hunters often ponder and are amazed at where they find gobbler signs, especially in the spring. Some of the best areas for finding gobblers often do not appear to be good habitats for turkeys. Appearances may be deceiving, however. Many times, hunters report hearing several gobblers gobbling in the areas of clearcuts, young pine plantations, fields, pastures, utility rights-of-way, wide roads and other openings. So, what is it about open areas that attract gobblers?

The answer is found in the life cycle of wild turkeys and is driven primarily by the instinct of procreation. After dispersal of winter flocks, hens seek more open habitats for nesting. This is a seasonal shift from woodland habitats where foraging for fall foods such as acorns was more prevalent in movement patterns. Wild turkeys will use openings periodically year round but open areas become a focus of use in the spring.

Gobblers respond in the spring

by moving into more open habitats as well to seek out hens for mating. So for turkey hunters, the focus of scouting efforts and listening for gobbling ought to be near open habitats adjacent to roosting habitat along rivers, creeks and branches. Gobblers often use openings for courtship and display behavior (gobble, strut and drum) in an effort to attract hens. Openings may be referred to as “staging areas” for gobblers as they are “trolling” for receptive hens throughout their springtime home range. Also, it is important to remember that each adult gobbler began life as a two-ounce poult whose survival depended on grassy openings for feeding on insects and for providing protective cover during the brood-rearing season.

To put it in a nutshell, wild turkey survival and population growth is centered on the availability and quality of openings from spring hatch to fall flocks. Landowners and hunting clubs need to create, maintain and

enhance openings throughout their property in order to provide optimum wild turkey habitat. The most important aspect of a wildlife opening is that it is maintained as an opening. This does not necessarily mean planted in crops.

A wise use of limited funds should focus on correcting soil pH and periodically fertilizing, mowing, burning and disking openings to encourage native grasses such as little bluestem, big bluestem, and Indian grass, to name a few. If you do plant crops, alternate these plantings with native plants and keep it simple with turkey-specific crops such as chufa and millets in the warm season and clovers in the cool season.

The take-home message for the landowner that turkey hunts is this: If your property consists of primarily unbroken and unmanaged woodlands with few openings and your neighbor has a balanced mix of managed forest and openings, then most of the gobbling you will hear will be across the property line.

Hunter exposed to rabies by field dressing deer

Pennsylvania Game Commission officials announced February 2 that a Lancaster County hunter has undergone post-exposure rabies shots after harvesting and field dressing a deer on Jan. 20, in Valley Township, Chester County, that ultimately tested positive for rabies.

“The hunter contacted us about his concerns that the deer was unfit for human consumption,” said John Veylupek, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer (WCO). “The hunter said that he saw the deer standing in a creek, straining and growling. He thought there was a coyote nearby from the sounds the deer was making.

“After gathering information from the hunter, as well as samples for

testing, it was determined that the deer was rabid. Because the hunter had scratches on his hands and had field dressed the deer without wearing gloves, we considered this a human exposure and urged him to contact his doctor about post-exposure rabies shots.”

Dr. Walter Cottrell, Game Commission wildlife veterinarian, reiterated the agency's long-standing recommendations that hunters and trappers avoid harvesting animals that appear sick and to wear rubber or latex gloves when field dressing any mammal.

“All mammals are susceptible to rabies and can spread the virus in the right circumstances,” Dr. Cottrell said. “To prevent the spread of

wildlife diseases, we encourage hunters and trappers to contact the Game Commission about any animals that they encounter that may appear to be sick. Also, when field dressing any mammal, it is critical to wear rubber or latex gloves to prevent exposure to not just rabies, but also to other disease organisms.”

For more information on rabies, visit the Game Commission's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), put your cursor over “Wildlife” in the menu bar listing, then put your cursor over “Wildlife Diseases” in the drop-down menu listing, click on “Wildlife Disease Reference Library” in the second drop-down menu listing and then select “Rabies” in the alphabetical listing.

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

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

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

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

How You Can Help:

- * **Basic Membership:** As a Basic member, for 30 you'll receive 6 issues of the KWF newsletter packed with the latest information on wildlife resources, events and issues around the state. You also have voting privileges at the KWF Annual Meeting.
- * **Expanded Membership:** When you send in your Expanded member dues of \$75, you receive the basic membership benefits, and, 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