



## *The Voice of Outdoor Kansas*

May-  
June 2012

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

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

# New farm bill should protect sensitive lands

**By Troy Schroeder  
Wichita Eagle**

Kansas boasts some of the best hunting and fishing grounds in the country and a proud tradition of balancing wildlife habitat with agriculture. On my family farm, we have always worked hard to support that tradition, ensuring that our farming operation is compatible with the protection of clean water, healthy soil and wildlife habitat.

My son and I operate a 1,500-acre crop production farm in central Kansas. Over the past 10 years, we have used several U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs to improve our farm for crop production and wildlife habitat.

Kansas has 2.5 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, which compensates farmers for planting highly erodible land with permanent vegetation like native grasses for a number of years.

Nationwide, CRP prevents the erosion of 325 million tons of soil each year, enough soil to fill 19.5 million dump trucks, and keeps more than 600 million pounds of nitrogen and more than 100 million pounds of phosphorous from flowing into our nation's streams, rivers and lakes.

The farm bill is up for renewal this year, and I'm very concerned about it for a couple of reasons. The first is that lawmakers are asking everyone – including agriculture – to absorb deep cuts to long-standing programs. The second is that corn and soybean prices are at historic levels, and the pressure is enormous to take land out of conservation and put it into production.

With the expected cuts to conservation programs such as the CRP, it's essential that lawmakers ensure we have eligibility requirements – something known as “compliance” – for farmers to qualify for government subsidies, especially crop insurance. It is only fair to expect that voluntarily accepting taxpayer money comes with a responsibility to ensure the public's interests are protected by meeting basic protections for soil, water and wildlife habitat.

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

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



# KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

## Officers and Board of Directors

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# 2012 Outdoor Adventure Camp: A summer treat for youngsters

Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAC) is a six-day summer camp for kids who either enjoy the outdoors or want to learn more about it. This conservation education program is co-sponsored by the Kansas Wildlife Federation and KSU Cooperative Extension Service. This will be year 26 for this popular camp and educational opportunity.

If you are a Kansas youngster who enjoys the outdoors, now is the time to make plans to attend Outdoor Adventure Camp from Sunday, June 3 through Friday, June 8 at the Camp WaShunGa area of Rock Springs Ranch, just south of Junction City. The camp is open to boys and girls ages 10 to 12 this summer.

Mornings will be spent traipsing the grounds at Camp WaShunGa with instructors, getting a hands-on feel for how various critters and plants live together in the ecosystem we call Kansas. Afternoons are spent learning about several areas of the outdoors, including mammals, insects, birds, fish and amphibians and reptiles. Ecology, wetlands, riparian areas and watersheds are some terms you will learn about at this unique camp.

Since the prairie does not go to sleep at sundown, neither will you. Depending on the evening, you may be out and about prowling for owls, stargazing, spotlighting spiders or watching bats gobble bugs.

Other activities include scavenger hunts, water sports including swimming and canoeing, fishing, shooting sports including rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, archery, and pellet gun, and even horseback riding. You'll pick your choices, or participate in all if you like.

The price of the camp includes all food, instruction and lodging. A swimsuit, sleeping gear and clothes you'll wear for a week are about all you need to bring. Sunscreen, insect repellent, a cap and water bottle also will come in handy. The price for the entire week is \$300, which includes arts and crafts. You may want to bring a little money for snacks and souvenirs at Milford Hatchery and Nature Center. Space is limited and registration deadline is May 28.

This year the Board of Directors of KWF has made two scholarships available for children of Wounded Warriors. To apply for these scholarships, contact Theresa Berger.

Send your application and full fee to Outdoor Adventure Camp, c/o Theresa Berger, 406 S. New York Ave., Sylvan Grove, KS 67481. Checks should be made payable to the Kansas Wildlife Federation. If you need more information or an application, phone 785-526-7466. Evenings are best, or leave a message on the machine. You can also go to the KWF website [www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org) for an application.

## Can you help?

Outdoor Adventure Camp is an ongoing project of KWF, run strictly by volunteers who feel strongly that youngsters need to have an opportunity to learn more about the great outdoors! Volunteer counselors are needed to spend a week or even just a few days supervising youngsters. We prefer a counselor for every 8 to 10 youngsters. That means for 50 kids, usually about 40 boys and 10 girls, we need 4 to 5 male counselors and 1 to 2 females.

In the past, we've had parents attend with their youngsters, grandparents,

college students wanting to get into the counseling or camp administration field, teachers and people interested in helping children. We prefer college students who have an interest in working with kids- an internship may be worked out with instructors. We also have a few openings for junior counselors as well. You must be at least 18 years of age.

Who wouldn't like to spend a week with 50, 10 to 12 year-olds—trying

*Continued on Page 3*

# Outdoor Adventure Camp

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names & Day/night Phone Numbers:

Father \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Group Picture Order \$10.00 Each \_\_\_\_\_

Please include payment with camp fee.

T-shirt: (Adult Sizes)

Size: \_\_\_SM\_\_\_ Med. \_\_\_LG\_\_\_ XL\_\_\_ XXL\_\_\_

(T-shirts included in Craft Fee)

**Full \$300 fee with application due May 28.**

Refund only upon written notice of cancellation  
prior to May 28.

No reductions or refunds for late arrivals or  
early departures.

**Make check payable to the  
Kansas Wildlife Federation (KWF).**

Call 785-526-7466 for details or send  
application with payment:  
Outdoor Adventure Camp  
C/o Theresa Berger  
406 S. New York Ave.  
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481  
E-mail: [bergkwf@wtciweb.com](mailto:bergkwf@wtciweb.com)

## CAMP

*Continued from Page 2*

to get them to sleep, keeping them in line all day and nursing cuts, bruises, poison ivy—helping kids have a great summer outdoor experience?! You'll be ready to go home and relax when it's over. Moreover, it won't cost you a dime, except for the gas to get to camp. Seriously, it is a rewarding experience. Please consider helping out. Call me to get your name on the list.

This camp is funded primarily through fees collected from those attending. Outdoor Writers of Kansas

provides scholarships for participants from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program each year. Sportsman's groups throughout Kansas often fund local youngsters to provide scholarships. We welcome any donations or funding ideas to improve the program. Anyone who wants to present a program at camp should call me. We're always looking for new ideas. Outdoor Adventure Camp is for youngsters, and they come first! It takes a lot of work by a number of volunteers to make it a positive learning experience. Can you help? Call Theresa Berger at 785-526-7466 or e-mail her at [bergkwf@wtciweb.com](mailto:bergkwf@wtciweb.com).

## KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

### Officers and Board of Directors

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##### Southwest District: Open

##### 2013 NWF Representative:

##### Troy Schroeder

##### 2013 NWF Alternate

##### Representative:

##### Ted Beringer

## 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.**

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**Director at Large: Open**

**Director at Large: Open**

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Please send your mailing label and new address, clearly printed. Allow 2 to 6 weeks for the change to be made. Send to:

Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Newsletter

P.O. Box 771282

Wichita, KS 67277-1282

# Kansas launches new Bobwhite Quail initiative

Efforts aim to increase eastern Kansas quail populations in focal areas by 50 percent

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is launching a new quail restoration initiative aimed at making a difference in declining bobwhite quail populations at a landscape level. The state initiative includes the designation of two large quail management focal areas and as much as \$500,000 of KDWPT wildlife fee funds over five years to attract landowner participation. Additional funding and support are being provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Quail Forever, Safari Club International, Kansas Wildlife Federation, and The Nature Conservancy. Primary objectives are a 50 percent increase in bobwhite populations and a 5 percent increase in suitable quail habitat in each focus area.

“Bobwhite populations in eastern Kansas have declined by 50 percent or more in the past three decades or so and even more across other parts of its range nationally,” says Jim Pitman, small game coordinator for KDWPT. “Biologists have associated the declines primarily with land use changes and resultant habitat loss, and they have joined forces across the nation as the National Bobwhite Technical Committee to counter the trend at a landscape scale with the habitat-based National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI).”

KDWPT has targeted two regional bobwhite “focal areas” totaling nearly 310,000 acres for restoration over a five-year period. The focal-area strategy reflects the national consensus that working at larger landscape levels rather than on small, scattered projects provides the best opportunity to save the bird — along with a suite of other wildlife species that require the same habitat. Typically, focal areas are anchored by a large tract of public or private land as a core, and efforts are expanded outward to other interested adjacent landowners.

Kansas’ 194,911-acre northern focal area includes parts of Lyon, Wabaunsee, Coffey, and Osage counties and has a bobwhite habitat management potential of “high,” as rated in the national initiative. The core public lands are the 9,407-acre Melvern Wildlife Area and the 562-acre Lyon State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area.

The 113,711-acre southern focal area includes parts of Labette and Neosho counties. Its potential for bobwhite habitat management is rated “medium,” but Pitman adds that the additional sources of funding and potential partners available to assist the effort there make it a worthwhile target. Additionally, the public land centerpieces include the new Grand Osage Wildlife Area (formerly the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant) where approximately 9,000 acres will be managed by KDWPT when all the agreements are in place. The southern focal area also includes the 1,320-acre Big Hill Wildlife Area.

KDWPT will assist eligible landowners with enrollment in the appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cost-share programs and then cover the landowner share of approved practices with non-federal money.

The state has issued a list of acceptable quail-friendly practices, but each landowner project must have the approval of the appropriate KDWPT district biologist to receive the additional non-federal cost share. Bobwhite-friendly practices that are not eligible or accepted into USDA programs will be covered solely with non-federal dollars. Consequently, the landowners will be reimbursed for 100 percent of the estimated average costs for all approved quail-friendly work that they implement within each focus area.

For more information, call the KDWPT Region 4 Office in Wichita at 316-683-4664. To read the Kansas

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# 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.**

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## LAND

*Continued from Page 1*

Crop insurance, today's biggest farm subsidy, has not contained a compliance provision since the 1996 farm bill. The connection was severed in order to get more farmers to participate in the (then much smaller) insurance program.

But times have changed. Fewer than 100 million acres of farmland were insured under the program in 1994. Today more than 260 million acres are covered, a participation rate of more than 80 percent for the major crops.

A 2006 USDA study found that increases in crop insurance subsidies motivated producers to convert an estimated 2.5 million acres of pristine

habitat into row crop production. An additional 7 million to 14 million acres of highly erodible land and 1.5 million to 3.3 million acres of wetlands may end up in production if compliance requirements for crop insurance aren't restored.

These sensitive lands provide marginal production, but often at considerable risk to farmers and with negative impacts to water quality and wildlife habitat. In light of this damaging trend, it is imperative the new farm bill also include the "sodsaver" provision, which allows landowners to break out sensitive native land for crop production, but only at their own expense. Taxpayer dollars won't be used to subsidize such risky practices.

Including a sodsaver provision in the next farm bill would protect sensitive lands and save taxpayer dollars from

unnecessary expense, while allowing farmers the flexibility to farm these lands at their own expense if they choose.

*Troy Schroeder is a farmer in Rush and Barton counties and president of the Kansas Wildlife Federation.*

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## QUAIL

*Continued from Page 4*

Quail Initiative plan, go online to [go.gl/VmdKd](http://go.gl/VmdKd). For more information about NBCI, go online to [bringbackbobwhites.org](http://bringbackbobwhites.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/bringbackbobwhites>.

# Conservation Communicator

Mike Miller, Pratt

Mike Miller joined the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in 1983 as illustrator for the agency's magazine and other publications. After three years, he became an associate editor and writer for the magazine and in 1989 became the editor. In the more recent past he has served additionally as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Operations and is currently the Chief of Information Production Section. In 2007, he chaired the Deer Task Force Committee requiring a considerable amount of leadership for public meetings, input, and in developing sound recommendations to the Department's leaders. Perhaps a most crowning achievement has been his work with the agency's Pass It On program.

As the coordinator, Mike is responsible for statewide efforts to recruit and retain hunters. What makes Mike special is his ability to effectively administer and maintain the program, while also performing his other vital agency roles. He has the ability to excite first time shotgun shooters and assisting others by focusing on fundamentals and ultimately enhancing their abilities and confidence. Mike leads and educates, and he does so through written word, spoken compliment, patient understanding, and by example.

Pass It On educator and KWF CAP award winner Jim Kellenberger says, "Mike has been one of the finest supervisors I have had the pleasure of working for. His supervision has been what has made this program work. It has given me the opportunity to reach over 500 youth and women each year and educate them in wing-shooting".

Recently retired KDWP Hunter Education coordinator and CAP award winner Wayne Doyle had this to say about Mike, "Working with a limited budget, Mike has taken on just about every good idea presented to him.



**Mike Miller, left, from Pratt, receives the 2011 Conservation Communicator award from Don Snider, KWF President.**

His support of youth hunts, youth shoots, Laser Shot events and other outside activities has led to Mike rarely, if ever, saying NO to anyone. He has supported 4H shooting sports, Pheasants Forever and other groups with shells, targets, loaner guns, hats and most anything else that he could purchase, beg or borrow. He spent a good deal of time talking to Hunter Ed instructor groups, workshops and the Hunter Ed Advisory Committee to convince them that they were the first line in the recruitment effort. Mike was also quick to see the value of internet assisted Hunter Ed classes. Lastly, Mike is an Instructor for Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow. As in everything he does, he is an excellent instructor and is an effective and sought after public speaker."

Brent Konen, a co-nominator

expresses the general sentiment well: "Mike receives consistently positive accolades for his commitment to communicate the value of an outdoor lifestyle, and provide opportunities for all to participate in these treasured pastimes. Few people embody as much adeptness as Mike Miller. Mike has the rare ability to work with all types of audiences, in all types of arenas, all the while consistently maintaining an air of quiet confidence, respect, reverence, and passion for the outdoors. His confidence garners the attention of those fortunate to hear him speak, and his ability to communicate and illustrate makes him a tremendously effective teacher."

It is an honor to recognize Mike Miller as the Communicator of the Year for 2011 by the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

# Farmer/Rancher Wildlife Conservationist

Tim and Rebekah Peterson, Monument

September 27, 2011 marked the 30th anniversary of the rediscovery of the Black-footed Ferret, once declared extinct. Several conservation organizations, including the Kansas Wildlife Federation, wanted to celebrate the anniversary with a series of public meetings in the Oakley area, including an assembly in the Oakley school district. The reintroduction of the black-footed ferrets in Logan County has generated some controversy. Unfortunately a small group of people applied political and economic pressure to eliminate any meeting space available in the Oakley area.

Tim and Rebekah Peterson of Monument offered their homestead, Cedar Crest Farms, as the headquarters of the Black-footed Ferret Fest. They wanted to facilitate more community harmony and project a much more open-minded, respectful image on the part of residents in that part of western Kansas. Approxi-



**Tim and Rebekah Peterson, from Monument, receive the 2011 Farmer/Rancher Conservationist award from Don Snider, KWF President.**

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# Stream Monitor

Laura Calwell, Shawnee Mission



**Laura Calwell, from Shawnee Mission, receives the 2011 Stream Monitor award from Don Snider, KWF President. The Stream Monitor award was sponsored by The Watershed Institute of Overland Park.**

Laura Calwell is the Kansas Riverkeeper who has served as a full-time advocate dedicated to monitoring the health of the 173 mile long Kansas (“Kaw”) River since 2003. Laura acts as a teacher, scientist, investigator and media spokesperson. She coordinates activities of Friends of the Kaw ([www.kansasriver.org](http://www.kansasriver.org)), a nonprofit grassroots environmental organization whose mission is to protect and preserve the Kansas River. Laura also assists in writing and administering grants, developing and expanding the Friends of the Kaw website, and many other day to day activities. Laura is a founding board member for Friends of the Kaw and served for 3 years as the first secretary for the organization, as President for 4 years, and wrote the application to the Waterkeeper Alliance to create the position of Kansas Riverkeeper.

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# Outdoor Skills Instructor

Gib Rhodes, Madison

Gib Rhodes has been involved with the Kansas National Wild Turkey Federation for over nine years. He has held numerous leadership positions in that period of time, including serving as a local chapter committee member, local chapter president, banquet chairman, coordinator of youth events for his local chapter and more.

Since joining the Kansas State Chapter, Gib has become the State Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics and Sportsmanship (JAKES) Coordinator and State Newsletter editor. The excellent newsletter is a shining example of Gib's efforts to educate others about wildlife conservation efforts of the NWTF. As State JAKES Coordinator, Gib has worked with a local community every year to help host the event. The number of kids at the 2011 event doubled from the previous year under Gib's direction.

Gib also organized a youth dove hunt, youth waterfowl hunt, and JAKES fishing days for his local chapter, along with youth shooting events. All of these are examples of Gib's commitment to educate youth about wildlife and resource conservation.

As witnessed by Jared McJunkin: "As Conservation Field Supervisor for the NWTF, I have worked with volunteers across the United States and Gib is one of the most dedicated people I have ever met when it comes to getting youth involved in the outdoors."



**Gib Rhodes, from Madison, receives the 2011 Outdoor Skills Instructor award from Don Snider, KWF President. The Outdoor Skills Instructor award was sponsored by the Geary County Fish and Game Association of Junction City.**

Gib took over the chapter's youth essay contest and it has grown every year. Through Gib's leadership, the chapter now provides additional contest places and he works with others to find area youth hunts or nice prizes for them.

Gib has helped raise funding for the Beau Arndt scholarship fund for youth and maintains a great relationship with

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## PETERSON

*Continued from Page 7*

mately 100 people from across the state attended the Ferret Fest featuring presentations by volunteers from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo coming from Colorado Springs with a live Black-footed Ferret and other animals and tours to the Haverfield/Barnhardt/Blank ranch complex, one of the sites of the ferret releases.

Tim started farming full-time in 1980. Now farming approximately 2,600 acres, Tim utilizes no till completely. All new cropland is terraced and riparian areas

are protected. Numerous windbreaks have been planted, dating back to his father's original plantings in 1948. A 14-acre playa near the homestead has been enrolled in CRP. The Petersons lightly graze their pastures to provide adequate wildlife cover. They have started to leave milo rows standing along field edges to provide food for wildlife as a means of compensating for modern day combine efficiency.

Tim also serves as the Chairman of the Farm Service Agency's Kansas State Committee, whose function is to oversee the implementation of domestic farm commodity and conservation programs

and provide policy direction to the FSA Executive Director. This is Tim's second term as State Chairman, having served in the 1990's under the Clinton administration.

Tim and Rebekah believe in the merit of education and enlightened exchange of ideas regarding difficult issues related to the stewardship of private land and the preservation of our wildlife for future generations. Tim and Rebekah Peterson are excellent stewards and great ambassadors of conservation and fitting recipients of the Farmer/Rancher Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award for 2011.



# Forest Conservationist

Larry Rutter, Meriden

Larry Rutter is a long-time advocate of forest and wildlife conservation. He has served on the Kansas Tree Farm Committee and Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council Board for the past 8 years and assisted with the recent formation of the Kansas Forestry Association. Retired from the Kansas Historical Society, Larry has provided documentation of early timber claims, the role of tree planting in Kansas and many other historical forest conservation activities in the state.

Larry's love for wildlife and forest conservation has been exemplified in his Tree Farms in Wabaunsee and Osage County. Both have been certified as being managed sustainably by the American Tree Farm System. On the Osage County property, Larry improved the quality of his forestland through a selective timber harvest on 35 acres, followed by timber stand improvement and tree planting practices to promote quality walnut and oaks. Tops from the harvest were piled to create wildlife habitat for small mammals. On Larry's Wabaunsee County property he has planted thousands of black walnut and bur oak adjacent to Coon Creek, covering over 4 acres which will improve water quality, provide valuable timber products and increase quality wildlife habitat for deer, wild turkey and songbirds. This effort won Larry the 2011 Wabaunsee County Conservation District's buffer award. Additionally he has improved the quality of 18 acres of riparian forest for timber and wildlife. What is most impressive about these efforts is the quality of the conser-



**Larry Rutter, left, from Meriden, receives the 2011 Forest Conservationist award from Don Snider, KWF President. In the back, from left to right, are John Adams, Gib Rhodes and Todd Adolph representing the Kansas State Chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, which sponsored the Forest Conservationist award.**

vation practices. His tree plantings are meticulously cared for, protected from deer damage with tree shelters and from competing weeds and grass resulting in optimal growth and 100% survival. Larry also used genetically superior walnut seed that he obtained from the KSU Tuttle Creek Forestry Research site where he has also logged in volunteer time improving the seed orchard. For his accomplishments on these properties

Larry was award the 2011 Kansas Forest Stewardship Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

Equally significant is Larry's efforts of providing educational products for forest and wildlife conservation. He is a regular contributor to the Kansas Canopy, the Kansas Forest Service newsletter. Larry

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## RHODES

*Continued from Page 8*

the family. Gib does a phenomenal job of promoting youth wildlife conservation education through various media outlets. As the Kansas JAKES Coordinator, Gib has been the go-to person for NWTF chapters looking to host an event and educate others about wildlife conserva-

tion.

Gib is tireless in his efforts to organize all of the events he helps with and to show others the best ways to provide outdoor education. Gib's dedication to youth sets him apart from others. Gib not only steps up to take on events and youth programs but he is always looking for new ways to get kids involved with the outdoors and hunting. Several of the youth that attended the Flint Hills Gobblers chapter's first Spring Turkey

Hunting Clinic are now committee members with the chapter. Gib epitomizes the best in wildlife conservation educator, a teacher and mentor to youth, and an advocate for wildlife and wildlife conservation. One of Gib's qualities that makes him an exceptional volunteer is his ability to get others excited about youth activities and the JAKES program.

The KWF is proud to present to Gib Rhodes the recognition of Outdoor Skills Instructor of the Year for 2011.

# New faces at KWF

At the 2012 Annual Meeting in Salina, Troy Schroeder was elected President of the Kansas Wildlife Federation. Troy retired as a biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism a few years ago and now operates a family farm near Albert, KS with his son. He has had a life long interest in hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities along with natural resource protection. He looks forward to leading KWF through the challenges that lie ahead.

In addition to a new president, we have Board members who have taken on new responsibilities. Terry Sullivan of

Clearwater has taken on the responsibilities of the Administrative Vice President.

Matt Nowak of Leavenworth is the KWF Recording Secretary. Matt was the Northeast District Director for many years and has agreed to continue his service to the KWF.

We also have several new board members that will provide new energy to the KWF. Nick Levendofsky was appointed Northcentral District Director at the January Board of Director's meeting. Nick is from Republic, KS and farms with his family.

Elby Adamson was elected a Director

at Large at the Annual Meeting in February. He is a high school teacher in Clay Center, KS. Elby was the recipient of the 2010 KWF Conservation Achievement Program Conservation Educator of the Year.

Laura Landis was appointed as Director at Large at the January BOD meeting. Laura lives in Kansas City, KS.

We currently have Director at Large positions that are vacant. If you would like to serve on the KWF Board of Directors, contact any of the Officers or Board members listed on pages 2-4 for information.

## 2011 Kansas Hunter Education Instructor of the Year announced

Salina man garners award for exceptional volunteer service

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWPT) Hunter Education Section has announced that Shannon Clarkson, Salina, has been selected the 2011 Kansas Hunter Education Instructor of the Year. Clarkson joined the volunteer hunter education instructor ranks in 1994, adding bowhunter education certification in 1997.

"Shannon has worked diligently to prepare young hunters to safely take the fields since 1994, and he works exceptionally well with them," said Greg Salisbury in his nomination of Clarkson. "He stresses safety in live fire, and trail walks are included in each of his classes."

Wishing to better his skills in instructing young students in the technical details of shotgun shooting, Clarkson has taken the National Rifle Association (NRA) Shotgun Training Course. In addition, he holds certifications as an NRA range safety officer and a muzzleloader instructor, as well as training as a National Bowhunter Education Foundation tree stand safety instructor.

Dubbed by Salisbury as "Mister Hunter Ed of Salina," Clarkson

routinely coordinates hunter education classes in and around the city. He has embraced the use of KDWPT's instructor intranet portal for ordering supplies and submitting student rosters for the classes he organizes.

"Shannon encourages and tutors his fellow instructors to do everything he does," Salisbury added. "He is the prime recruiter of new instructors in this area, assisting with new instructor orientation workshops in Salina and surrounding counties."

Clarkson has been an active member of the Kansas Hunter Education Instructor Association (KHEIA) for many years and is the association's sitting president. The KHEIA is instrumental in securing locations for instructor workshops, staffing the registration table at the statewide instructor academy (held once every three years), and purchasing pellet gun ranges made available for use by all instructors in their programs.

In addition to his involvement in hunter education, Clarkson is deeply involved in community activities, including school events with his sons and with the local kennel club with Spark, his Nova Scotia duck tolling

retriever. Clarkson is a Cub Scout master and an assistant Webelos den leader in a Salina Cub Scout Pack. He serves on a new committee attempting to develop a public shooting range in Saline County and instructs conceal carry classes in Salina.

For his efforts, Clarkson will receive a collector Henry Golden Boy .22 caliber lever action rifle and a Browning model 322571 knife, made available through the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA), commemorating the 60th Anniversary of hunter education in North America. The set will be presented at the KHEIA Annual Meeting in June.

Also nominated were Marshall Rhea, Oakley; Greg Babcock, Lincoln; Tom Van Hoecke, Olathe; Bill Van Deventer, Wichita; and Michael Corby, Haysville. Each nominee will receive a pewter Order of the Buffalo pin and Certificate of Appreciation.

"Our thanks to each of these great instructors for contributing to the ongoing success of the Kansas Hunter Education Program," said Monica Bickerstaff, KDWPT assistant hunter education coordinator and bowhunter education coordinator.

# 12th Annual Council Grove Youth Turkey Hunt a big success

Fifteen youth participated, taking nine birds

On April 7, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) conducted the 12th Annual Council Grove Spring Turkey Hunt. A rainy spring morning did not hamper 15 eager area youngsters the morning of the hunt, and by day's end, all the participants were fortunate to see or hear wild turkeys. Eight of the participants harvested a turkey (two for one younger hunter) while others enjoyed encounters with their quarry but were unable to harvest. It was the first turkey for each of those who harvested a bird.

Area landowners provided access for this special event, which has become a big draw for area youth. The primary goal of the hunt was to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for area youngsters, bringing them together with

others of like interest. Young were paired with knowledgeable and experienced adult volunteers in an effort to initiate or further entice participants to enjoy the spring pastime of wild turkey hunting. All participants received hands-on hunting instruction, turkey hunting gear, and meals.

The following individuals and organizations assisted with the hunt:

- Organizations: The National Wild Turkey Federation, The Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, KDWPT, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Cabela's of Wichita.

- Individuals: Randy Benteman, Marvin Peterson, Brandon Houck, Jared McJunkin, Tyson Powell, Spencer Tomb, Allan Cashman, Mike Wells, Mark Hawkins, Phillip Buttrey, Jim Evans, Ja-

son Harris, Nanci Sigle, Martin Godlove, Josh Patry, Alden Neff, Derek Jackson, and Trent and Frank Siegle.

"I would like to sincerely thank all of those who contributed to this 12th annual event," said Brent Konen, Council Grove Wildlife Area manager and organizer of the hunt. "By donating resources and sharing their time and talents, they instilled not only an interest in turkey hunting in 15 area youth but also enhanced their appreciation for the outdoor world and developed some lasting friendships and memories to last a lifetime. Without the dedication and support of volunteers, this rewarding event would not be possible each year."

Volunteers interested in helping with next year's hunt should phone Konen at 620-767-5900.

## Mossy Oak event lures monster buck poaching suspect

Topeka man enters suspected illegally-taken deer in contest

On Jan. 27-29, Mossy Oak Properties of the Heartland presented the inaugural Monster Buck Classic (We are Kansas) event at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka. The event was designed to promote deer hunting and outdoor recreation in Kansas and to provide Kansas hunters with the latest information and equipment related to deer hunting.

In addition, the event featured a Monster Buck Contest, open to all Kansas residents, in which hunters could enter officially-scored bucks, with prizes offered to the largest deer in typical and non-typical categories for both white-tailed and mule deer. Fortunately for all law-abiding hunters, the contest helped expose the suspected illegal shooting of a big buck.

One entry, which would have potentially been a new Kansas state record, drew suspicion of Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) law enforcement officials, and after investigation, Da-



vid V. Kent was charged with poaching the deer.

On Feb. 1, eight charges were filed against Kent by Osage County Attorney Brandon Jones in the District Court of Osage County, Fourth Judicial District, including criminal discharge of a firearm, criminal hunting, illegally hunting with an artificial light, hunting outside of legal hours, illegal hunting during a closed season, using an illegal caliber for taking big game, illegal hunting from a vehicle,

and hunting without a valid deer permit. Kent has been summoned to appear in Osage County District Court in Lyndon, Kan., on March 1, 2012, at 9 a.m.

"As a developer of the Mossy Oak Properties brand in Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Iowa, I strongly condemn this type of behavior," said Brian D. Smith, CEO of Mossy Oak Properties of the Heartland and founder of the Kansas Big Buck Classic. "In fact, we believe in the stiffest penalties possible for poaching, and we played a strategic part in exposing this case. We cooperated 100 percent."

# CALENDAR of EVENTS

<b>May 12</b>	Geary County F&G Assoc. Kid's Fishing Derby – Charlie @ 785-238-4893
<b>May 18-20</b>	National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting – Shepherdstown, WV
<b>May 19</b>	Nebraska's Free Fishing and Park Entry Day
<b>June 2</b>	Kansas State Rifle Association Annual Mtg. <a href="http://ksraweb.net/meeting.html">http://ksraweb.net/meeting.html</a>
<b>June 9</b>	Symphony in the Flint Hills, Lyon County, west of Bushong
<b>June 16</b>	17th Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet , Emporia
<b>June 18-24</b>	National Pollinator Week <a href="http://www.pollinator.org">www.pollinator.org</a>
<b>June 21</b>	Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg. – Kansas City
<b>June 23</b>	Great American Backyard Campout
<b>July 24-26</b>	Great Plains Windbreak Renovation Conference N. Dakota <a href="mailto:rstraight@fs.fed.us">rstraight@fs.fed.us</a>
<b>July 31- Aug 2</b>	Tallgrass Range School, Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS <a href="mailto:tdchristian@cox.net">tdchristian@cox.net</a>
<b>Aug 21-23</b>	Mid-/Shortgrass Range School, Camp Lakeside, Scott County SFL
<b>August 23</b>	Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg. – Great Bend
<b>Oct. 18</b>	Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission mtg. – Fall River
<b>Oct. 30-31</b>	Governor's Water Conference - Manhattan

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## CALWELL

*Continued from Page 7*

Laura's first priority is to respond to threats to the health of the Kaw - involving investigating problems, reporting issues to appropriate agencies, making comments on legislation regulations, or educating and involving the community. For the last two years, Laura has worked hard to obtain The Johnson County Storm Water Management Grant which has provided over \$70,000 for implementing storm water education in Johnson County.

Laura has brought awareness to concerns regarding toxic algae blooms in reservoirs and encourages the reduction of storm water run-off. She also encour-

ages the creation of rain gardens to act as water filters. The creation of the recent De Soto was possible because of her involvement.

Since the early 1990s, Laura has fought against in-river dredging on the Kansas River. Over the years, her advocacy for dredging to be moved off the Kansas River has been one of the missions at the heart of conservation efforts.

Laura gives Sandbar Seminars during Friends of the Kaw float trips in order to encourage recreation on the Kansas River. The Kansas River Inventory, a project that began in 2008, is a comprehensive data project that has been undertaken by Laura and the Friends of the Kaw in order to document the state of the river. This information will be helpful in determining areas in need of restoration, as well as identifying high quality riparian

forests in need of conservation.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) presented Laura with a 2011 conservation award for outstanding achievement in raising environmental awareness. Currently Laura's time is focused on the latest fight against in-river dredging as thirteen sand dredging sites on the Kansas River are now up for public comment. Laura's work on the recent Patagonia grant that provided Friends of the Kaw with \$8,000 to help fight dredging will be used to further publicize the public's dredging concerns.

For all the amazing efforts that Laura does to protect and preserve our Kansas River, she deserves to be recognized for a second time as the Stream Monitor of the Year by the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

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## RUTTER

*Continued from Page 9*

hosted the 2011 Fall Forestry Festival on his property with over 150 people

attending. Larry also volunteers to assist with the Agroforestry Field Day, Walnut Council Field Day, and Fall Forestry Field Day. Larry has provided leadership documenting the historical role that tree planting has played in the state from the Timber Claims Act to the Prairie

States Forestry Project.

For his dedication and interest in sustaining the quality and productivity of woodlands and the wildlife that benefit from them, Larry Rutter is the 2011 winner of the KWF CAP Forest Conservationist of the Year.

# May is American Wetlands Month

May is American Wetlands Month and was created in 1991 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its federal, state, tribal, local, non-profit, and private sector partners to celebrate the vital importance of wetlands to the Nation's ecological, economic, and social health and to educate Americans about the value of wetlands as a natural resource.

The Wetlands Reserve Program became part of the 1995 Farm Bill. Since then the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been working with farmers to protect those valuable wetlands by enrolling them into easements.

"Kansas producers have enrolled over 20,000 acres into WRP since 1995," said Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist. "There are still many more that could be enrolled."

Banks posed the following questions about wetlands on your land:

- Are you tired of spending money trying to farm cropland that is just too wet most years?
- Does your cropland have fish swimming through it due to flooding?
- Do you find yourself driving through standing water trying to salvage at least part of your crop?

"If the answer to any of those questions is 'yes,'" said Banks, "then maybe it is time to consider WRP as

part of the conservation plan for your farm."

The WRP is a voluntary restoration program that provides technical and financial assistance to restore and improve wetland resources on private lands.

A WRP easement can pay you for letting your land be what it was intended to be—Wetlands!

To find out more about applying for WRP, call or visit your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the Internet at [offices.usda.gov](http://offices.usda.gov)) or call the Kansas NRCS easement team at 785-823-4548 or visit [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).

## Hunting is education!

**By Kent Barrett**

I try to keep reading each day because first of all, I enjoy it but also if for no other reason than to slow the onset of senility. As I was reading the other day, I came across an article about children and hunting. The author, Ann Hirsch was commenting on hunting as an activity and hunting's beneficial effects on children. She made a wonderful observation "By participating in the food chain, children learn respect for life, and that there is more to life than themselves". We "adults" so often bemoan the problems we see in the what's in it for me, self absorbed, selfish generation of young people growing up around us. I thought, how does hunting help youth see that there is more to life than just themselves? What did I get from my Grandfather and Father as they taught me to be a hunter?

For one thing, I learned to be patient. I still remember my Grandfather helping me learn to sit quietly and to be very still or the consequence would be that we would never

see any game. Grandpa had contracted polio as a youth so there was no room for squirming in Grandpa's blind.

I learned responsibility from handling a firearm while I was still a kid but in the presence of adults in the hunting party. Hunting is a very safe activity because it can become dangerous if the rules for safe gun handling are forgotten or ignored. Children can learn to accept responsibility for their actions.

Children can learn courage from hunting. It is always difficult to engage in something new. A line from a favorite movie illustrates this. A grizzled old hunter asks a young man if he wants to go hunting with him. The kid replies, "but I've never hunted before". The old man smiles at him and says, "Heck, neither had I until the first time". It takes real courage to tackle new challenges such as approaching a landowner that the kids don't know, to ask permission to hunt their property.

I learned fortitude, what it takes to complete a task and do it well.

This might be one of the most difficult of all the learning opportunities afforded kids as they become hunters. Whatever one chooses to do, it is important to always do it well.

And lastly, every child can learn humility. Every hunt can end successfully although that doesn't mean that we always come home with game in the bag. Accepting that we are not perfect and can sometimes miss a shot doesn't mean that we can't learn from our mistakes as well as our misses. That is a valuable learning experience for kids as they grow.

Ann Hirsch continued saying, "In the age of computers, DS and Wii, we are losing our children to a virtual world". Maybe hunting can help us bring them back to a real world that is really worth living in.

*Kent Barrett is the Hunter Education Coordinator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. He can be reached at the Pratt Operations Headquarters or by e-mail at [kent.barrett@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:kent.barrett@ksoutdoors.com).*

# Black-footed Ferret survey interesting and important

By **Tim Peterson**

Last month I participated in the effort to count the black-footed ferrets in Logan County, Kansas. I was joined by thirty volunteers from across Kansas and the United States. There was even one biology student who drove from New Jersey just to participate in this unique opportunity to see one of the rarest animals on earth.

Because of drought and predation, the prairie dog population has declined in the areas where the black-footed ferrets are present. Likewise, the ferret

population has declined. There is no reason not to anticipate a decline in the number of ferrets. A mother black-footed ferret needs to kill a prairie dog each night to feed her babies. Obviously this job is much more difficult when there are fewer prairie dogs to be found.

During the days of Buffalo Bill, prairie dog colonies were huge. It has been said that they stretched for miles on end. Today this unique ecosystem has been reduced to tiny clusters. The remaining colonies are essentially large outdoor zoos. All of the animals such

as the black-footed ferret that depend on the habitat and food provided by prairie dogs will cease to exist unless we find a way to preserve a place where they can live.

The expansive prairie dog ecosystem has been lost to history. There is too much pressure to feed a hungry and crowded world. However, we should preserve a small remnant and give budding biologists and other tourists a glimpse at the prairie as it once was.

*Tim Peterson is a Logan County landowner from Monument, Kansas.*

## New state park reservation system open for business

New campsite, cabin reservation system launched in April

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) has announced that its new online campsite and cabin reservations system is up and running. Built by Active Network, Inc, a cloud-based activity and participant management™ solutions provider, the new system makes it easy to find and reserve campsites and cabins in the state parks as well as cabins at certain state fishing lakes and wildlife areas. It is hosted on ReserveAmerica.com, a media property of Active Network for camping reservations. The online registration system powered by ActiveWorks® cloud technology was launched on schedule just after midnight on April 17.

The new reservation system allows KDWPT to take its paper- and phone-based camping reservations process online for the first time, creating tremendous efficiencies for both park staff and consumers. The centralized system allows guests to search multiple camping and cabin sites simultaneously and make reservations from the comfort of their homes. In many cases, park users will save money through reduced service fees and will be assured a site if they have made a reservation. Additionally, the system will enable KDWPT park staff to more effectively manage their statewide parks and facilities, and benefit from centralized reporting and auditing.

To make campsite and cabin reservations, guests can visit the KDWPT website, ksoutdoors.com, where they'll be directed to the new reservation site at reserveamerica.com, or they can call a KDWPT state park office or the Pratt Operations Office at 620-672-5911. For the location of the nearest Kansas state park office, go to the KDWPT website and click "State Parks/Locations." For those without computers or who still prefer using a phone, park staff will be able to use the new system to help callers with reservations.

*Continued on Page 15*

## JOIN THE KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

### Current member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Options:

Basic \$30

Expanded \$75

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please make checks payable to Kansas Wildlife Federation.

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

# Great American Backyard Campout June 23

Sponsored by National Wildlife Federation

School is out, and many kids are already spending hours inside glued to their electronic devices. It's time to boot them outside so they can benefit from some fresh air surrounded by a world of green.

A great place to start is by having your family participate in the 8th annual Great American Backyard Campout on June 23. National Wildlife Federation's fundraising event encourages parents and kids alike to trade screen time for green time by spending a night under the stars.

In the last two decades, childhood has literally moved indoors with kids spending more than seven hours per day in front of electronic media. A new report from Common Sense Media finds that more than half of all Ameri-

can children under the age of eight have access to one of the newer mobile devices at home, and nearly one-third have a TV in their bedroom. At the same time, the American Academy of Pediatrics has cautioned parents to limit their young children's screen time.

Studies show that outdoor time helps children grow lean and strong, enhances creativity and attention spans, decreases aggression, and boosts classroom performance. Bottom line; healthier, happier kids.

A night under the stars will help kids understand why it's called the GREAT outdoors. As part of National Wildlife Federation's Be Out There movement, the Great American Backyard Campout lets kids explore a

whole other world right in their own backyard, together with neighbors, with friends at a local camp ground, or at a large community camping event. For those looking to camp beyond their own backyard, the Campout website helps locate organized Campouts across the country.

When you register your Campout on National Wildlife Federation's web site you get helpful information to make your camping experience a fun one including campfire recipes, nocturnal wildlife guides, campfire songs and games, nature activities and much more. You'll also be able to fundraise for exciting prizes.

National Wildlife Federation inspires Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

## 'Rescuing' young wildlife against the law

'Rescuing' what seems to be an abandoned young animal usually a death sentence

Twenty years ago, the term "Bambi Syndrome" was circulated frequently in the press, and while you don't see the term much these days, the problem still persists: well-meaning Kansans see deer fawns or other wildlife by themselves and assume that they have been abandoned by their mother. In almost all cases, the mother is actually nearby, keeping a hidden eye on the young. If those well-meaning folks decide to "rescue" the young animal, they are usually giving it a death sentence.

Like many other wild animals, the majority of fawns are born in late May and early June. However, some whitetail does younger than one year may breed for the first time in late winter, so many newborn fawns may be seen as late as July or even August. Whitetail does that breed before they are one year old usually give birth to a single fawn. After that, twins are the norm, and triplets are not uncommon. If found alone, these charming young animals are tempting targets for the misinformed wildlife lover.

Many "wildlife kidnapping" incidents are reported each year. Raccoons are

another favorite "pick-me-up" animal. So are foxes. Other cases reported have involved great horned owls, songbirds, opossums, and bobcats.

Unfortunately, if one of these animals happens to bite someone, it must be put to death and tested for diseases such as rabies. Even if they don't bite, the young usually fail to survive in captivity. If they do survive, they lose instincts that allow them to survive in the wild and are thus condemned to a life in captivity. Care for injured or abandoned wildlife should be left in the hands of licensed wildlife rehabilitators. For a list of licensed rehabilitators, go to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) website, [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com), and click "Services/Rehabilitation."

Picking up these young animals — under any circumstances — is against the law. Both the KDWPT and the Department of Health and Environment have regulations against such activity.

Wild animals are better off left in the wild. They are not puppies or kittens and are seldom tamed, even by those who know what they are doing. They cannot

legally be inoculated by veterinarians, and few people really know how to care for them. If you see young animals in the wild this spring or summer, consider yourself lucky to have seen them. But remember, their mother is most likely watching nearby. Leave them in the wild world where they were born and where they belong.

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## PARKS

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*Continued from Page 14*

The number of campsites available for reservation will vary by park — in most parks about half of the sites can be reserved. The rest will be available through the traditional "first-come, first-served" method. Shelter and group campground reservations will continue to be made only through the park office where the facilities are located.

For more information, contact the nearest KDWPT state park or phone the Pratt Operations Office, 620-672-5911, and ask for the Parks Division.

# Free full-length video lures urban anglers

Urban Fish Stocking Program, free online video makes urban fishing a great escape

Do you want to catch more fish? You can improve your angling success by watching the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) video, The Urban Fish Stocking Program. Watching the video is free through KDWPT's website, ksoutdoors.com.

This video features KDWPT's Urban Fish Stocking Program, which was established to improve fishing opportunities in urban lakes. Through the program, lakes are currently stocked with 3/4- to 1 1/2-pound channel catfish, hybrid sunfish, and wipers as often as every two weeks from April through September. All metropolitan areas that have a popu-

lation of more than 40,000 and available public fishing waters are served by this program. Counties served include Atchison, Butler, Douglas, Finney, Johnson, Leavenworth, Lyon, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Reno, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte.

But there's more to the video than fish stocking in urban lakes. After a brief overview of the urban program, the video shows young anglers how to rig a line, set drag, set a hook, bait a hook, reel in fish, net fish, and much more. Learn how to fish for catfish, sunfish, and crappie, just a few favorites of beginning anglers. Most importantly, the video

shows kids and novice anglers how to start fishing with minimal expense and preparation time. To watch, go online to ksoutdoors.com and click the "Watch It" link on the right-hand side of the page. Enjoy — it's time to go fishing.

If you live in the above listed counties, you have an urban lake near you. These are great locations for a quick family fishing trip. Just throw the gear in the car and make the short drive to the nearest designated urban fishing lake.

For a complete list of individual lakes and a stocking schedule, just click "Fishing/Special Fishing Programs for You" at ksoutdoors.com.

## Anglers spend less time fishing than they expect

When it comes to finding time to fish, many anglers dream big at the beginning of each year. However, making all of their plans happen is a bit more of a challenge. That was the case last year as reported by anglers in a survey conducted by AnglerSurvey.com. When asked if they fished more, less or as much as expected, 45 percent of participating anglers said they made it out "less."

Conversely, less than 27 percent of

anglers made it out more than expected and only 28 percent made it out as much as expected.

"There are so many ways for people to spend their free time. Every year, we see people's best intentions to fish waylaid by other activities," says Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at AnglerSurvey.com.

Southwick Associates recently provided key research for "On the

Fence About Fishing: A Study of Why Anglers Do and Don't Fish and What Will Get Them on the Water," a study that examined the reasons anglers fish less or quit fishing altogether, as well as what activities they participated in instead of fishing. The study was conducted on behalf of the American Sportfishing Association. The key factor cited in the report was "not enough time." That report can be viewed at southwickassociates.com.

## Most anglers not deterred by lost access

One in five anglers surveyed by AnglerSurvey.com reported having to cancel or quit fishing a particular location last year because they had lost access to a favorite fishing spot. While most were able to shift their fishing to a different location, about a third of the affected anglers - or seven percent of all survey respondents - said it caused them to quit fishing altogether.

Access issues occur almost evenly across fresh and saltwater bodies of water. In fact, with three out of four anglers fishing freshwater, three out of four access problems affected freshwater anglers. Twenty-one percent

affected saltwater anglers and less than five percent affected anglers fishing brackish waters.

While lost or reduced fishing access to prime fishing areas is a concern to all anglers, many anglers were able to find another place to fish. Of those who lost access to a lake, stream or other body of water, nearly 60 percent said they were able to continue fishing. Besides the seven percent who said it caused them to quit, 35 percent admitted they fished a little less frequently.

"While access issues can often be overcome by fishing somewhere else, we are still losing some anglers each

year due to problems with fishing access. When we add up the anglers lost year after year, whether as a result of marine fishery closures or dilapidated boat ramps, access remains a major long term problem for sportfishing and fisheries conservation." says Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at AnglerSurvey.com.

To help prevent the loss of more fishing areas to development, budget cuts or government closures of fishing areas, anglers need to speak up and let leaders know that quality fishing access is important to them.



# U.S. House votes to protect hunting/shooting on public land

With bipartisan support the U.S. House of Representatives approved the most significant pro-sportsmen legislation in 15 years. H.R. 4089, which passed by a vote of 274-146, is a package of high priority issues supported by every nationally prominent conservation and sportsmen's organization. The bill was supported by 235 Republicans and 39 Democrats.

Entitled The Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012, H.R. 4089:

- Classifies Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service lands as open to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting unless closed or restricted based on scientific evidence;
- Confirms that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot ban lead in traditional ammunition or in sport fishing gear;
- Protects recreational shooting on BLM National Monument land; and
- Allows the import of legally hunted polar bear trophies now tangled in federal red-tape.

A major focus of the organizations that helped craft H.R. 4089 is to prevent frivolous lawsuits that unfairly restrict the rights of hunters, anglers and shoot-

ers and limit wildlife conservation and management. Over the last decade anti-hunting groups and their trial lawyers have filed multiple suits in courts arguing that existing federal law does not allow, or requires restrictions on fishing, hunting, and shooting on federal public lands. Defending against these suits has cost state and federal wildlife agencies and sportsmen's organizations millions of dollars.

In 1998, USSA first proposed that federal BLM and Forest Service lands, which total over 700 million acres, be declared legally open to fishing, hunting and shooting unless closed by specific agency action. In the intervening years, USSA has worked to persuade the sporting community and Congress of the need for such legislation. House passage of H.R. 4089 is the result of this long effort to build strong legal barriers against anti-hunters and the animal rights lobby.

The bill also protects fishing tackle and ammunition from attacks. Recently, the Center for Biological Diversity filed a notice of intent to sue the federal government to force the U.S. EPA to ban the use of lead in ammunition and fishing tackle. Their claim misrepresented the

intent of the Toxic Substance Control Act which was enacted in 1976 to allow the EPA to regulate new commercial chemicals entering the market and the distribution of existing chemicals found to pose unreasonable risks to public health or the environment. It was never intended to allow the regulation of ammunition and fishing tackle.

"H.R. 4089 spells out in plain language that hunting, fishing and recreational shooting are legitimate uses of federal public lands and that these lands are open, as a matter of law, to these traditional activities," said Bud Pidgeon, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance president and CEO. "And it makes it crystal clear that the U.S. EPA does not have the authority to restrict American's choices of ammunition and fishing tackle."

H.R. 4089 is supported by an array of sporting conservation groups including the American Sportfishing Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and Safari Club International and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. A complete listing of supporters can be found at [www.ussafoundation.org](http://www.ussafoundation.org).

## Kansas Wildlife and Fisheries Chief Joe Kramer receives 2012 Wetland Conservation Achievement Award

On March 16, during the 77th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Atlanta, Joe Kramer, chief of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Wildlife and Fisheries Division, was presented with the Ducks Unlimited 2012 Wetland Conservation Achievement Award in the State Agency category.

"In his 34-year conservation career, Joe has made significant contributions to the future of waterfowl and wetlands in Kansas, the Central Flyway and beyond," said Ducks Unlimited Chief Conservation Of-

ficer Paul Schmidt, who presented the award. "He has been a strong partner to Ducks Unlimited and throughout the conservation community, and we are pleased to honor him with this award."

DU's Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the restoration and conservation of North America's wetlands and other waterfowl habitat.

Kramer began his career with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism in 1976 as a wildlife area technician. In just 11 years, he

rose through the ranks to his current position, and has been responsible for putting together the majority of the current Wildlife and Fisheries Division staff, one of the most progressive state conservation staffs in the country. Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and Ducks Unlimited have worked together to deliver 18,000 acres of conserved wetlands across Kansas, and Kramer's partner-centric approach to conservation has made that possible.

"Joe has been a leader in fostering

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*Continued on Page 18*

# Operation Dry Water brings field sobriety tests to boaters

June 24-26 were awareness days; operation under way year-round

Marine law enforcement officers from local, state, and federal boating agencies — including the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) — were out in force June 24-26 for Operation Dry Water (ODW), an annual campaign focused on the detection and enforcement of boating under the influence (BUI). A secondary objective is to raise awareness among all boaters that it is unsafe as well as illegal to operate a boat under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

More than 17 percent of boating fatalities result from alcohol use, and KDWPT has gotten tougher in recent years in enforcing laws against this high-risk behavior. Operating a recreational vessel with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher is against Kansas state law. Boaters caught operating under the influence can find their voyage terminated and their vessel impounded. Additionally, penalties can include arrest, fines, and loss of boating privileges.

The effort was timed to give BUI

enforcement high visibility before the Fourth of July, perhaps the busiest recreational boating weekend of summer. A new battery of testing standards will, for the first time, allow marine patrol officers to test boaters in a seated position and apply a percentage of probability that the subject is impaired at .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) or higher.

For more information on this annual event, go online to [operationdrywater.org](http://operationdrywater.org).

## Need to borrow a child-sized life jacket?

Try one of 350 locations across the nation

“Everyone got a life jacket?”

It’s a simple question boat owners often ask when heading out on the water. However, for younger guests who require the right-sized life jacket that answer isn’t always “yes.” There may be only adult-size life jackets on board, kids may have simply outgrown their life jacket, or perhaps some younger guests joined the outing at the last minute.

To help get kids in right-sized life jackets, the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety’s Kid’s Life Jacket Loaner Program now offers over 530 locations across the country - marinas, boat clubs, waterfront businesses and even

fire houses - where kid’s life jackets in various sizes (up to 90 pounds) can be borrowed at no cost for the afternoon, day or weekend. Over 40 new loaner locations have been added this year.

In Kansas, there are 3 locations at Council Grove Reservoir, 2 locations at Marion Reservoir and 1 location each at John Redmond and Hillsdale Reservoirs. To find these locations or others across the nation, go to [www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/LJLP/map](http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/LJLP/map).

“Kids wearing an adult life vest provides a false sense of security because they can easily slip out once they hit the water,” said BoatUS Foundation Program Manager Alanna Keating. “It’s

better to make a pit stop at one of our loaner locations and grab one that fits. All you have to do is sign it out and return it when you are done. It’s that simple.”

Across the country the program on average loans out over 90,000 life jackets each year and at least three children’s lives have been saved since it began in 1997.

For more information on the program or the life jacket laws in your state, please visit [www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/LJLP](http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/LJLP). The program is largely funded by the half-million members of Boat Owners Association of The United States.

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## KRAMER

*Continued from Page 17*

wetlands conservation partnerships for the good of the resource,” said Scott Manley, Ducks Unlimited director of conservation programs, who nominated Kramer for the award.

One example of these strong partnerships is McPherson Valley Wetlands, which now spans 4,500 acres in central Kansas and provides a critical

anchor point for waterfowl and other migratory birds traversing the continent between their historical breeding and wintering grounds. This acquisition and restoration project was built on partnerships, including one with Ducks Unlimited, and took nearly 20 years to fully accomplish.

Kramer’s contributions to conservation reach far beyond Kansas as well. He has served on the Central Flyway Council and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Committee and was a founding board member of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV), serving as chairman from 1991 to 1993.

“By virtue of his 34 years of contributions to the wildlife conservation field and longtime support of joint ventures, local habitat partnerships and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, I can think of no more deserving person for this recognition,” says Mike Carter, PLJV coordinator.

# Operation Outdoors vets take in NWTF Spring Turkey Clinic

By Chuck Samples  
KVOE News

A relatively longstanding event and a brand-new initiative came together at Camp Alexander the weekend of March 24.

The National Wild Turkey Federation held its 11th annual spring turkey clinic Saturday and welcomed Operation Outdoors, a new group consisting of wounded veterans, to the fold. Operation

Outdoors President Corey Nixon was shot in the back barely a month into his first deployment at Mosul, Iraq. He recovered and served a second deployment but suffered from post traumatic stress disorder when he returned home. Nixon was “all about the outdoors” before getting shot, and it took friends and relatives prodding him to get outdoors before his life changed.

Gib Rhodes, one of the organizers of the turkey clinic, said Operation

Outdoors is a great way for wounded American heroes to enjoy the outdoors, regardless of how they decided to do it.

Over 200 people, including 106 youth, attended from all over Kansas. They attended several information stations on items like turkey biology, equipment and safety, calling, scouting and hunting.

For more information on Operation Outdoors, call 785-260-0863 or go online to [www.operationoutdoors.org](http://www.operationoutdoors.org).

## Make safety in outdoor recreation a priority

Safe Kids Kansas offers families important outdoor safety tips

Sleeping bag? Check. Hiking boots? Check. Safety guidelines? While the preparations for a family camping, boating, or hiking trip usually include a review of the necessary gear, parents should also review safety guidelines with their children, paying special attention to potential hazards specific to outdoor recreation.

Campfires, portable stoves, heaters, and fuel-burning lanterns all produce carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless and odorless gas that can poison a child very

quickly. About 30 campers each year die of CO poisoning in the U.S. Never use any of these devices in an enclosed area, even a tent. In addition, make sure these devices — as well as campfires — are clear of flammable material, from paper napkins to dry grass.

Safe Kids Kansas recommends these safety guidelines around campfires and portable heating devices:

- keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children;
- always supervise children near a

campfire or portable stove; and

- keep a bucket of water and a shovel near the fire at all times and extinguish the fire completely before going to sleep or leaving the site.

In addition, when camping and hiking keep these guidelines in mind:

- keep first aid supplies and emergency phone numbers handy and know where the nearest land-line phone is located;

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## Third Archery in the Schools state meet biggest yet

More than 250 students compete

The third annual Kansas State Archery In the Schools (AIS) Championship meet was held at Fort Hays State University on March 31, and participation revealed that the program is growing dramatically in popularity. Seven participating school districts (Anthony-Chaparral, Clearwater, Healy, Jackson Heights, Neodesha, Otis-Bison, and Stockton), plus the Chanute Christian Academy, entered 266 youngsters, including 60 high school, 114 middle school, and 92 elementary school students. This compares to 246 participants in the second annual event last year.

Started in Kentucky 13 years ago, Archery In the Schools came to Kansas in 2006. Gary Keehn, of Soldier, serves

as coordinator of the state program. Keehn helps organize events, recruit instructors, set up ranges, and conduct certification workshops for instructors, many of whom are physical education teachers in elementary and secondary Kansas schools. Instructors are trained primarily through summer workshops.

Working under Mike Rader, KDWPT wildlife education coordinator, Keehn helps schools and other organizations start programs and obtain equipment. With support from the archery industry, a \$5,000 program equipment kit can be purchased by schools for about \$3,000. Any teacher who completes a training session receives assistance towards the purchase of a kit from KDWPT.

Schools that host a basic instructor training workshop receive additional assistance. The Kansas program currently has about 200 schools involved.

Because archery is not sanctioned by the Kansas State High School Activities Association, some schools restrict money used to establish programs or pay travel expenses for competitions. Schools with the program hold fund raisers with the help of supporters, students, local businesses, and community volunteers. Partial funding for equipment comes from KDWPT and NASP. And this year, support came from Genesis Bows and Morrell Targets.

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# Bassmaster magazine crowns 100 best bass fishing lakes in U.S.

Bassmaster magazine, the official publication for members of B.A.S.S., announced Tuesday the 100 best bass fishing lakes in the U.S. The list was compiled in a months-long process that included research from state fisheries agencies, nominations from B.A.S.S. Federation Nation tournament organizers and a panel of widely traveled professional anglers, fishing writers and others.

Despite its reputation as a dangerous place to fish, Texas' Falcon Lake ranked in first place. The 58-year-old impoundment straddles the Rio Grande and is shared by Texas and Mexico. The 83,000-acre reservoir has been in the news as much for drug cartel-related crime as for its enormous catches of largemouth bass.

Falcon produced the record winning catch for the Bassmaster Elite Series circuit when Paul Elias caught 132.5 pounds of bass during four days in 2008. Although the Bassmaster Elite Series tournaments have not returned to the lake since, it regularly gives up tournament-winning catches averaging more than 8 pounds per bass.

Texas tops the list of states with eight lakes or rivers in the Top 100, followed by Florida, which has seven fisheries on the list, including No. 2-ranked Lake Okeechobee. Rounding out the Top 10 are Lake Gunter in Alabama, Lake Erie in Michigan/Ohio/New York/Pennsylvania, Lake Champlain in New York/Vermont, Lake Amistad in Texas, Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota, San Joaquin Delta in California, Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho and Clear Lake in California. Kansas has two lakes rated in the Top 100, Perry Reservoir at #60 and Wilson Reservoir at #77.

According to Bassmaster editor James Hall, the idea for ranking the best lakes emerged at a B.A.S.S. tournament during a lively discussion among outdoor writers with definite ideas about the nation's top performing lakes. Hall decided the debate warranted a more in-depth investigation.

"Instead of just having opinions, we wanted to put science behind the opinion to rate the '100 Best Bass Lakes,'" Hall said. "The method was as scientific as we could make it. The

result is a list of outstanding fisheries. I think it will be fun for people to consider where their favorite lake stands compared to the best in another state."

The 100 Best Bass Lakes list was ranked using a variety of qualifiers. Department of Natural Resource representatives provided the five most productive lakes in each state based on electroshock surveys and angler catch rates. B.A.S.S. Federation Nation presidents offered top lake recommendations based on tournament catches, while conservation directors supplied details on lake accessibility and best fish stocking practices.

A blue ribbon panel of outdoor writers, editors, Bassmaster Elite Series professional anglers and fishing industry veterans ranked the final list based on current fishability of each lake, considering its history, big fish and overall quantity potential and aesthetic surroundings of the area.

The list is slated to appear annually. For full details about each of the lakes ranked, as well as more details about each one, visit <http://www.bassmaster.com/news/100-best-bass-lakes>.

## Keeping bass alive in hot weather

The hotter the weather, the more difficult it is to keep bass in livewells healthy, especially during tournaments, when heavy limits of fish may be held for several hours until weigh-in.

"Dissolved oxygen is the single most important factor for keeping bass alive," said Randy Myers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologist from San Antonio. "It is very difficult to supply enough oxygen to keep large limits alive."

Modern bass boats typically have two ways of maintaining oxygen levels in livewells. One is to continuously exchange water in the livewell with lake water. The other is to mix air with water so that oxygen in the air can be dissolved into the water. For specific instructions concerning livewell management procedures see <http://assets.espn.go.com/>

[winnercomm/outdoors/bassmaster/pdf/b\\_con\\_KeepingBassAlive.pdf](http://winnercomm/outdoors/bassmaster/pdf/b_con_KeepingBassAlive.pdf)

Unfortunately for the fish, neither method can maintain sufficient oxygen in the water when the weight of fish in the livewell exceeds one pound of fish for every gallon of water and water temperatures are high. "There is only a small buffer between the oxygen level maintained by recirculation systems and the oxygen level detrimental to fish survival when a livewell contains a small to moderate limit of fish," Myers said. "Fish displace water in the livewell, reducing the amount of water available to hold oxygen, and in the case of a heavy limit, there may not be enough water in the livewell to hold sufficient oxygen to keep the fish alive."

Tournaments exact a penalty for dead fish brought to weigh-in, so anglers do

what they can to keep their catch alive, but their options are limited. "It is not advisable to continuously exchange water during summer months, because reservoir surface water temperatures often become excessive later in the day and can contribute to mortality," Myers said. "Alternatively, anglers can add ice to the livewell to slow fish's metabolism, run recirculation pumps continuously to provide oxygen by mixing and exchange water in livewells only two or three times a day."

Recent research by TPWD showed that during summer months most mortality of tournament-caught fish occurs one to three days after they are released back into the reservoir. This is called delayed mortality. "Delayed mortality ranged

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# Two USDA initiatives may help Lesser Prairie-Chicken and landowners

Two new USDA initiatives aimed at increasing the number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) have significance for the western Great Plains. With concerns over the Lesser Prairie-Chicken possibly being added to the endangered species list and worries over the current drought cycle, these programs may bring some relief to landowners in a part of the country once known as the “Dust Bowl.”

The first initiative, which will be available for landowners and producers this summer, is a Continuous CRP practice for soils having an erosion index of 20 or greater. These soils are extremely fragile—often very sandy—and require special care to keep them from being eroded by either wind or water. The continu-

ous practice allows landowners who meet the eligibility criteria to enroll directly into the program at any time.

“This could have a big impact on Lesser Prairie-Chickens,” says PLJV Conservation Policy Director Barth Crouch, “considering that, in Kansas alone, there are over 780,000 acres of land with those types of soils in their currently occupied range.”

The second initiative will add one million acres of Continuous CRP practices aimed at preserving wetlands and grasslands, including:

- 100,000 acres of pollinator habitat, a seeding of many different native flowering plants;
- 200,000 acres of wetlands with grass buffers;
- 400,000 acres of State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement practices,

plantings targeted to aide a specific wildlife species or suite of animals;

- 150,000 acres of duck nesting habitat, aimed at the Prairie Pothole Region of the Dakotas, Montana, and Minnesota; and

- 150,000 acres of upland habitat buffers, native grass and forb plantings around the edges of crop fields designed to help upland game birds such as Ringneck Pheasants and Bobwhite quail.

In addition, the signing incentive Payment paid on enrolling in most Continuous CRP practices is increasing from \$100 to \$150 per acre. To learn more about these initiatives, producers and landowners should contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency office.

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## ARCHERY

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The top two teams and the top three individuals in each division are eligible to participate in the 2012 NASP National Championships in Kentucky the second weekend of May.

The top scoring participants included the following:

Top Male Overall was Brandon

Williams, 9th-grader from Clearwater Middle School Blue; and

Top Female Overall was Micaela Keehn, 11th-grader from Jackson Heights High School.

High school division winner was Brandon Williams, 9th grade, Clearwater High School;

The middle school individual competition winner was Alexandria Lear, 8th grade, Anthony Middle School.

Individual elementary school winner

was Grant Ricky, 4th-grader, Clearwater Elementary Team Blue.

The top teams in each division were: High School Clearwater High School;

Middle School Clearwater Middle School Team Blue; and

Elementary School Clearwater Elementary School Team Blue.

For more information on the Kansas Archery in the Schools program, phone Mike Rader at 620-672-0708.

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## BASS

*Continued from Page 20*

from 18.2 percent to 43.1 percent of the fish in tournaments held when the water temperature exceeded 79 degrees Fahrenheit,” Myers said. “Adding mortality of fish weighed in dead can result in total mortality of 50 percent. Use of appropriate livewell management and fish-care procedures will increase the likelihood of long-term survival of fish caught in tournaments and then released.”

TPWD hatcheries routinely use oxygen injection in hauling tanks to

maintain the health of fish even when transporting more than one pound of fish to one gallon of water. “However, boat manufacturers do not offer oxygen injection systems, and very few tournament anglers have installed oxygen equipment on their boats,” Myers noted.

In addition to being a fisheries biologist, Myers is a tournament angler, and he has installed an oxygen injection system in his personal boat. “The total cost of components is less than that of many high-end fishing rods,” he said.

TPWD’s Inland Fisheries team in San Antonio tested various oxygen cylinders, regulators, hoses, connectors and dif-

fusers and developed a simple, effective and safe system that anglers can install in their bass boats. Equipment was evaluated on three different bass boat makes, each having a slightly different recirculation system. Testing revealed that livewell oxygen concentration after one hour was about twice as high for the oxygen injection system compared to standard recirculation.

“Proper installation and operation of an oxygen injection system will ensure oxygen levels remain above the preferred level of 7 mg/l even when livewells contain heavy limits,” Myers said.

# Algae blooms agitate farm ponds, farmers

Fish-killing algae blooms, oxygen depletion can harm farm ponds as well as lakes

Summer blue-green algae blooms at a number of Kansas reservoirs are not isolated to large bodies of water. Record hot temperatures this summer have created the algae blooms in farm ponds, as well, and nothing can be more disheartening than to carefully nurture a pond only to discover a fish kill on a hot summer morning. While blue-green algae blooms can be toxic to fish, fish kills can also result from oxygen depletion created by a number of factors not necessarily associated with blue-green algae blooms.

To support fish and other higher organisms, a pond or lake must have one element — dissolved oxygen. Oxygen depletion is the most common cause of fish kills, and low oxygen occurs most often during periods of calm, cloudy, hot weather. Although Kansas has not experienced many cloudy days this summer, 100-degree days have been strung together like glue, and green algae has tinted most ponds this summer.

Most dissolved oxygen in water comes from the atmosphere on windy days and as a byproduct of photosynthe-

sis in aquatic plants such as filamentous algae (commonly called “moss”), green algae, and coontail. If less sunlight penetrates deeper water — because of clouds or murky water — vegetation and oxygen content at deeper levels are reduced. Dissolved oxygen levels can also be affected by temperature. Colder water holds oxygen better, and very warm water easily loses oxygen. Atmospheric pressure is also a factor. Oxygen solubility increases as atmospheric pressure rises.

Most fish kills occur in the early morning before the sun comes up, when dissolved oxygen levels are lowest, and, unfortunately, larger fish are usually the first to be affected. Ponds or lakes with large amounts of algae or phytoplankton can have high oxygen during the day, but at night, bacteria that feed on these dying plants use up oxygen.

Herbicides or algaecides can help control aquatic vegetation and reduce the chances of a fish kill. However, this must be done carefully to prevent rapid decomposition and further oxygen depletion. Other ways to prevent oxygen

depletion include pumping or flowing water into a pond (especially in the early morning hours before sunrise); diluting runoff that adds nutrients to a pond; using a commercial aerator; reducing feed if artificial feeding is used; and maintaining proper fish density for the size of the pond.

Blue-green algae blooms such as those that have affected larger lakes in the state also can cause fish kills in ponds and small lakes. Blue-green algae blooms often resemble green or turquoise paint floating on the water. These blooms result when long-term build up of nutrients in the water (nitrogen and phosphorus) combine with hot weather and other environmental conditions to stimulate algae growth. In time, these algae blooms naturally die off.

For more information on pond management, contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism at 620-672-5911 or visit the department website, [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us). Type “Pond Management” in the search box and then click on “Producing Fish and Wildlife in Kansas Ponds.”

## New window tape can reduce bird collisions

By Robert Johns

A new, translucent adhesive tape that tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors is now available to the public. The product is being sold by American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the nation’s leading bird conservation organization.

“ABC has tested a number of different materials and patterns for their ability to deter birds from colliding with glass. The results prompted ABC to produce and make available under its own name, a new consumer product to help concerned people prevent this significant source of bird mortality,” said ABC President George Fenwick.

“There are many products on the market, and most work to some degree, but this one is the best intersect of being easy to use, effective and inexpensive,”

Fenwick added.

Birds can’t see glass and don’t understand the architectural cues, such as window frames, mullions, and handles, that alert people to the hazard. Experts estimate that up to one billion birds may die each year from resulting collisions. Unlike some sources of bird mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations. Studies have shown that even small windows can be dangerous to birds that are accustomed to flying through gaps between trees and shrubs.

“Chances are that wherever you live, birds have hit the glass on your house and you just don’t know it. Injured birds may have flown away only to die elsewhere, or been eaten by a cat,

raccoon, fox, or dog before you found them. A home may kill a dozen or more birds each year without the owner realizing. Much of this mortality takes place during spring and fall when songbirds are migrating,” Fenwick said.

Bird Tape is available in 3-inch and three-quarter-inch width rolls. The 3-inch tape is applied in blocks in a variety of patterns, while the thinner tape is applied in parallel strips, normally vertically over the full height of the window. Because it is translucent, the tape lets birds see the glass, yet unlike silhouettes that people sometimes use as deterrents, allows light to pass through into the room. It is easily applied and easily removed and lasts up to four years. Each roll covers up to 15, 24” x 32” windows (depending on application).

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# Summer safety tips for boaters looking for a good swim

“Boating and swimming often go hand-in-hand,” says BoatUS Director of Damage Avoidance Bob Adriance, “but adding alcohol to that mix can lead to some unintended outcomes.” Charged with combing through the BoatUS Marine Insurance Claims files to identify unsafe boating behaviors and help boaters avoid injury or accidents, Adriance knows what he’s talking about. “People know not to drink and drive a boat, but they don’t always know that it’s not a good idea to drink and swim,” he added.

Buried deep in the claims files, Adriance comes across a story about a group of friends having drinks at a Florida resort that decided to go for a moonlit tour of the harbor. At midnight, despite choppy seas and 20-knot winds, their boat is allowed to drift while several jump in. Unfortunately, winds quickly sweep the boat away, so the captain “backs down” on the swimmers in the water to get everyone back aboard. Amazingly, no one is hurt except for a 40-year old woman - later identified as a good swimmer - who is simply never found.

It’s no secret that alcohol often causes people to take unwise risks while at the same time inhibiting their

ability to think quickly in critical situations. With up to about 50% of all adult drownings involving alcohol, BoatUS has the following information that all boaters should know:

Medical researchers have found that combining alcohol and swimming without taking in sufficient carbohydrates can be dangerous. In the Florida case, it is believed that the woman had only a salad and two glasses of white wine for dinner, but when adding the exercise of a midnight swim, she may have developed hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, which causes weakness and confusion.

US Coast Guard tests have shown that environmental stressors - sun, wind, wave motion, vibration and glare - can slow a boat operator’s reaction time and make them prone to more errors. This fatigue reduces an operator’s reaction time as much as drinking alcohol alone. However, when you combine the two, it can lead to boaters missing ten times as many “cues” as those who are only exposed to the environmental stressors alone.

Alcohol also inhibits the body’s signaling system so that swimmers may not realize how quickly hypothermia has set in. In one case from

New England, a man who was drinking beer on a sunny day fell overboard, but the cold waters quickly prevented him from climbing back aboard. He tried to swim to shore but never made it.

Sudden cooling of the skin can also cause caloric labyrinthitis and/or hyperventilation. An inner ear disturbance, caloric labyrinthitis causes disorientation leading some swimmers to become confused on which way is up. Hyperventilation can also cause a swimmer to “breathe in” water.

Know what drowning looks like: someone who is drowning lacks lung capacity to call for help. Drowning victims move their arms as though climbing a ladder, taking quick gulps of air before slipping back under. In an adult, this can last up to a minute before the victim never resurfaces - a child may only do this for 20 seconds.

Never jump overboard before ensuring the depth of the water and knowing that it’s free of underwater hazards such as rocks, shoals, stumps, or other structures. Also pick swimming areas away from boating traffic and strong currents. It’s always best to anchor, shut down the motor, and deploy the boarding ladder before going in.

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## SAFETY

*Continued from Page 19*

- let friends and relatives know where you are going and when you are coming home;
- never let children hike alone;
- dress children in layers of clothing to help prevent heat-related illness and hypothermia;
- do not push kids to go on a longer or more strenuous hike than they can handle;
- use SPF 15 or higher sunscreen when outside;
- bring plenty of drinking water or sports drinks and high-energy snacks; and

- wear hiking boots and clothing that offers protection from scrapes and poisonous plants, as well as insect repellent.

Everyone loves the water in summer, so safety measures are in order here, too. Follow these guidelines whether wading, swimming, or boating:

- always supervise young children near water;
- insist that everyone wear personal flotation devices on boats;
- small children should wear PFDs whenever near open bodies of water;
- when boating, be able to recognize buoy markings and know how to use proper navigation lights;
- make sure boats have current safety inspections; and
- do not overload boats.

For more information about outdoor recreation safety, call 785-296-1223 or visit [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org).

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## BIRDS

*Continued from Page 22*

One or blocks of tape on a small window may help reduce collisions, but more tape is needed as window size increases because birds will simply attempt to fly around the visual barrier the tape represents. Research has shown that birds generally avoid flying through vertical spaces of 4” or less, and horizontal spaces 2” or less.

**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!**

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

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

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

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