



The Voice of Outdoor Kansas

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

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AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Salazar highlights two proposed projects in Kansas
to promote outdoor recreation, conservation

Just days before the release of a 50-state report outlining some of the country's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar highlighted two projects in the state of Kansas that will be included in the final report — representing what states believe are among the best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country.

Establishing the Flint Hills area as a new easement-based conservation area and a proposed Kansas River Water Trail are among 100 projects nationwide that will be highlighted in the report — two in every state — as part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative to establish a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

The report is a result of 50 meetings with governors and stakeholders held by Salazar and other senior

Interior officials to solicit ideas on how to best implement AGO in their states. These projects were identified for their potential to conserve important lands and build recreation opportunities and economic growth for the surrounding communities as part of close engagement with Gov. Sam Brownback and the state of Kansas, as well as private landowners, local- and tribal-elected officials, community organizations and outdoor-recreation and conservation stakeholders. The full 50-state report will be released in mid-November.

“Under the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, we are listening to the people of Kansas and communities across America and working with them on locally-based projects that will conserve the beauty and health of our land and water and open up more opportunities for people to enjoy them,” Salazar said. “My staff and I have been asking each governor for the most promising projects to support in their states, and we

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

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



KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

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Motorists beware: Deer on the move in November

Kansas deer-vehicle collisions peak in November

Deer can be spotted near Kansas roadways any time of year, but motorists should be especially vigilant in the fall. Deer breeding season, called the "rut," peaks in mid-November, and this is when deer-vehicle collisions are most likely. That's why the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) are working together to raise awareness and help drivers avoid collisions with deer.

According to KDWP biologist Lloyd Fox, the increase in deer-vehicle crashes at this time of year is strongly influenced by the rut. During rut, deer travel more than in other seasons and pay less attention to hazards such as vehicles. Also during the fall, many deer move to new locations as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs, limiting cover.

Not only are deer more active during the fall, shorter days mean dusk and dawn — when deer are more likely to be on the move — occur when commuter traffic is busiest. According to KDOT spokesperson Steve Swartz, there were 9,109 deer-vehicle collisions reported to KDOT in 2010. Deer-vehicle collisions occur in every Kansas county. In most cases, counties with high human populations and high traffic volumes record the most deer-vehicle crashes. Sedgwick County reported the most crashes with 391, followed by Johnson County with 346 and Butler County with 287.

Motorists should observe the following tips to avoid deer collisions:

- be especially watchful at dawn and dusk when deer are particularly active;
- watch for more than one deer — if one crosses the road, others may follow;
- reduce speed and be alert near wooded areas or green spaces such as parks or golf courses and near water sources such as streams or ponds;
- don't swerve to avoid hitting a deer — the most serious accidents occur

when motorists swerve and collide with another vehicle or run off the road and hit an obstacle;

- heed deer crossing signs;
- always wear a seat belt; and
- use bright lights and slow down whenever the reflective eyes of deer are spotted.

According to Technical Trooper Josh Kellerman of KHP, if you hit a deer, pull onto the shoulder, turn on your emergency flashers, and watch for traffic before exiting your vehicle. Do not try to remove a deer from the roadway unless you are certain it is dead; an injured deer is dangerous. If you have a cellular phone and are on a Kansas highway, dial *47 (*HP) for a highway patrol dispatcher or *582 (*KTA) for assistance on the Kansas Turnpike, or dial 911 from anywhere.

Anyone involved in a deer-vehicle crash that results in personal injury or property damage that totals \$1,000 or more is required to immediately report the crash to the nearest law enforcement agency. Failure to report any traffic accident is a misdemeanor and may result in suspension of driving privileges.

If you are involved in a non-injury crash on an interstate or U.S. highway, or any divided or multi-lane road in the state of Kansas, and if you are not transporting hazardous materials, you are required by law to move your vehicle out of the lane of traffic. This law is intended to help keep drivers and passengers safe by getting them out of the lane of traffic, and away from oncoming vehicles. Make sure you and your passengers are buckled up and are using the appropriate child safety seats, practices which help prevent injuries or death should you be involved in a crash.

For more information, phone Swartz (KDOT) at 785-296-3585 or email stevesw@ksdot.org; Kellerman (KHP) at 785-296-6800; or Ron Kaufman (KDWP) at 785-296-2870 or email ron.kaufman@ksoutdoors.com.

Budweiser RMEF remind hunters of ethical responsibilities

Two longtime partners in wildlife conservation and responsible outdoor recreation, Budweiser and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are reminding hunters of three general areas of sporting ethics to consider while afield this fall.

Ethics are the unwritten rules of traditional outdoor values. Ethics are what guide a hunter's behavior when no one else is looking. Personal accountability, conduct and decisions cannot be legislated, but they are among the foundations beneath science-based conservation and wildlife management.

Three general areas of sporting ethics:

1. Honor game, other wildlife and the land

Adhere to the tenets of fair chase. Know the limits of your firearm and ability, and only take shots that you are confident will result in a certain and quick kill. Treat quarry with respect before and after the shot. Make every effort to retrieve and use all edible game. Take only as much as you can use. Be proud of the long tradition and continuing role that hunters play in conserving the wildlife and wild

places enjoyed by all Americans.

2. Respect landowners

Always ask permission before hunting on private land, even if it's posted. Ask every time. Do not assume that being a guest once is an open invitation. Be considerate of farming and ranching operations. Keep safely away from buildings, machinery, livestock and crops. Leave gates as you found them. Treat the land as if it were your own. Thank the landowner after your hunt-offering some of your game is a friendly gesture.

3. Extend courtesy to fellow hunters as well as non-hunters

Know and follow all applicable regulations. But understand that just because an act is legal does not necessarily make it right. Or safe. Respect the customs of the local area where you're hunting, including the values of those who do not hunt. The Golden Rule always applies. Exercise personal behavior that reflects favorably on your sensibilities both as a good hunter and good citizen.

Hunters should never drink alcohol or use over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or during the hunt.

A first for education: Reauthorized ESEA to include environmental literacy

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has voted to include environmental education provisions in an amendment to the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), marking the first time environmental education has been formally included in federal K-12 education policy.

"This bill is a bellwether for American education — it signals that K-12 schooling is entering a new phase, one that embraces a broadened curriculum that is focused on increasing 21st century

skills such as critical thinking and innovation which is key to our success in the global clean energy economy" said Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education and Training at NWF. "We know that experiential learning about the natural world boosts student performance and creates a pipeline into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professions. Soon, hopefully, we'll implement that."

The No Child Left Inside (NCLI), a bill to assist states

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Conservation Achievement Program Awards

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

Please make an effort to identify folks who have made special efforts for wildlife in 2011. Those who have received Conservation Achievement Program (CAP) awards in the past can

attest to the pride they felt in being bestowed such a noteworthy recognition. Do your part and make certain we recognize those most deserving at the CAP banquet February 25, 2012.

Fill out the short form at the bottom of the official entry form in this newsletter and return to the address in the nomination box at the bottom of the page along with a narrative of that person's contributions. Do it now! E-mail me if you'd like a cyber copy of the form. Thanks for your help with this very noteworthy program for wildlife conservation in Kansas. **Get your nominations to us by December 10.**

Ken Brunson
CAP Co-Chair
40050 NE 10th St.
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brunson@sctelcom.net
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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Nov. 4-6

Kansas Speleological Society Fall Meeting, Barber Co, KS
Kansas Assn. for Conservation & Environmental Education
annual mtg, Great Bend, KS

Nov. 4-5

Nov. 4-6

Kansas Herpetological Society annual meeting, Great
Plains Nature Center, Wichita, KS

Nov. 12

Pheasant and Quail Season Opener

Nov. 19

Kansas Rural Center Sustainable Ag Conference Emporia,
KS

Nov. 19

Prairie-chicken Season Opener

Nov. 30

Firearms Deer Season Opener

Dec. 6

Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Commission Special Mtg.
Topeka, KS

Jan. 5

Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Commission Mtg. Salina,
KS

Jan. 14

Kansas Wildlife Federation BOD Mtg. Wichita, KS

Jan. 26-27

Kansas Natural Resources Conference_combined meeting
-Airport Hilton, Wichita KS

Jan. 27-29

Monster Buck Classic, Topeka

Feb 16-19

Wichita Sport, Boat and Travel Show Wichita, KS

Feb 24-25

Kansas Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting

March 3-4

Flint Hills Mall Hunting & Fishing Expo, Emporia

March 10-11

3rd Annual Kansas Hunting & Fishing Expo, Emporia

March 19-23

Spring Break for KS Regents Schools

April 1-4

Playa Symposium, Lubbock, TX

April 27-29

Kansas Birding Festival, Wakefield, KS

June 9

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Place TBA

Official Entry Form

2011 Kansas Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Award

The Kansas Wildlife Federation's CAP awards recognize outstanding accomplishments in Kansas's conservation. Nominations should be made for efforts worthy of state recognition. The accomplishment should reflect a long-time commitment to natural resources with a significant effort during the past year. A nominee must be a Kansas resident and have accomplished the meritorious work in Kansas. Nominees may be any professionals, lay people, clubs or business. Past years' winners are not eligible for nomination in the same category. Current KWF officers are not eligible.

Wildlife Conservationist

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

Water Conservationist

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

Land & Soil Conservationist

For outstanding achievement in watershed protection, wetlands development, erosion control, habitat improve-

ment or other management practices that improve land so as to benefit wildlife.

Conservation Education

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

Forest Conservationist

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

Conservation Communicator

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

Youth Conservationist

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

Conservation Organization

For outstanding achievement by an organization for work in some phase of conservation during the contest period. May include civic clubs, conservation groups, garden clubs, sportsman's clubs,

businesses, professional organizations and others.

Stream Team or Stream Monitor

For outstanding efforts by a group of citizen volunteers in monitoring and contributing to the protection of our state's waterways. Any civic club, conservation group, youth group, school groups and others. Nominees should have demonstrated leadership in stream monitoring, protection and educational efforts.

Conservation Legislator

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

Farmer/Rancher Wildlife Conservationist

This award is to recognize special efforts of a farmer and/or rancher who have made extra efforts towards conserving wildlife.

Outdoor Skills Instructor

This award recognizes wildlife, nature, shooting, and outdoor instructors for their superior involvement in educating others.

Conservationist of the Year

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

CAP Nomination Form

To make a nomination, send this form with all attachments to: Ken Brunson, CAP Chairman, 40050 NE 10th St., Pratt, Ks. 67124 by **December 1**.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phones: _____ Award Category: _____

(Please specify one of the categories for which nomination is made. Use a separate form for each nomination and category.)

Nominator's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phones: _____

*Attach a typewritten description, not to exceed three pages, detailing specific acts for which award is recommended. Include such other information as past recognition, organization memberships, affiliations, past achievements, etc. as nominator feels pertinent. When a company or organization is involved, include the name of the president, chief executive officer, sponsor, editor or other appropriate representative.

Supporting water quality protection of Kansas streams

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

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

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

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

Whereas, current legislation will

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

Whereas, current legislation requires the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to assess the social, economic, and regulatory impacts of each stream prior to classification which is beyond their capabilities and will subject all streams to a state of no classification if this legislation is passed; and,

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

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

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

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

NCLI

Continued from Page 3

in the development and implementation of environmental literacy plans for K-12 students, was introduced in July by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Congressman John Paul Sarbanes (D-MD). The environmental education terms attached to ESEA are similar in intent to NCLI, and are included as part of a suite of "well-rounded education" provisions that seek to add depth and diversity to a national prospectus criticized as being narrow and test-centric. The legislation has been supported by the 2,100-member No Child Left Inside Coalition.

While its "well-rounded" status would seem to point to supplementary status, environmental education serves a nuts-and-bolts purpose — preparing children for complex environmental challenges and, in its focus on understanding the natural world, boosting STEM learning, an area where American students are sorely in need of improvement.

In the most recent assessment by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), American students ranked 17th and 25th in science and math, respectively, among 34 countries measured. The National Assessment of Educational Progress's (NAEP) 2009 science survey found that fewer than one-half of U.S. students perform at or above the 'proficient' level in science in grades 4, 8 and 12.

While historic, the inclusion of environmental education in ESEA is merely the latest illustration of a nationwide trend toward recognition of environmental education's importance. In June, the State Board of the Maryland Department of Education adopted a first-of-its-kind policy requiring high school students to attain a basic level of environmental literacy before graduation, and the U.S. Department of Education recently opened application for its 'U.S. Green Ribbon School Award Program' to recognize institutions promoting environmental literacy and sustainable learning environments.

A call for 2012 resolutions

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

If you have an issue you would like to see addressed by KWF members at the 2012 Annual Meeting February 25, please send the proposed resolution to KWF by **January 15, 2012** at KWF Resolutions P.O. Box 771282 Wichita, KS 67277-1282 or e-mail it to info@kswildlife.org.

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

Fall turkey hunting: Time for the big birds

Wild turkeys offer special fall hunting opportunity

The wild turkey was once extirpated from Kansas, but today, wild turkey populations have been growing for years, offering hunters the opportunity to pursue them in fall and spring. While the season opened Oct. 1, it runs long enough to add this traditional game bird to the Thanksgiving and Christmas tables.

All of Kansas except Unit 4 (west-central and southwestern Kansas) is open to fall hunting, and the seasons are long. This year, the seasons run Oct. 1-Nov. 29, Dec. 12-31, and Jan. 9-31, 2012. One turkey permit per hunter is allowed, valid in Unit 1 (northwestern Kansas), Unit 2 (the

eastern one-half of the state), and Unit 3 (central Kansas). In addition, hunters may purchase as many as three additional turkey game tags valid in Unit 2 only. One turkey of either sex may be taken with each permit or tag. Hunters may use legal shotguns or archery equipment.

Unit descriptions may be found in the 2011 Kansas Hunting & Furharvesting Regulations Summary, available at the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KD-WPT) website — www.kdwpt.state.ks.us — KDWPT offices, and license vendors.

October offers some of the best

hunting. Turkeys are in small groups, and many young birds have never been hunted. Often, a hunter can stalk the birds or break up a group, then hide and call them back. Public wildlife areas and Walk-In Hunting Access lands often hold large numbers of turkeys in October before hunting pressure moves them to private land.

The combination of good turkey populations, uncrowded hunting, and mild fall weather make October an excellent time to go turkey hunting, or keep a permit in hand while hunting upland game or deer. It's also a good time to prepare for Thanksgiving dinner.

Conservation, recreation and preservation generate \$1 trillion per year for U.S. economy

Officials looking for cost-effective ways to stimulate the economy should look no further than out their own windows: That's where the authors of a new economic study demonstrate that the great outdoors and historic preservation generate a conservative estimate of more than \$1 trillion in total economic activity and support 9.4 million jobs each year.

"As a former Secretary of the Interior, governor, senator and mayor, I have witnessed firsthand how historic preservation, conservation and outdoor recreation result in tremendous benefits to our nation's economy," said Dirk Kempthorne. "This study is a valuable tool for reaffirming and quantifying those benefits."

"Sportsmen put billions of dollars of their own money annually into conservation through the licenses they buy and the excise taxes that they pay on hunting and fishing equipment," added Lindsay Thomas, a former U.S. Congressman and current chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "This combined with the other taxes that are paid through activities associated with outdoor recreation and historic preservation total over \$100 billion annually contributed to state and federal coffers."

Conducted by Southwick Associ-

ates, the study is packed with highlights including:

- In 2006, the total contribution from outdoor sports in the United States was nearly \$730 billion per year, generating more than 6.4 million U.S. jobs and \$99 billion in federal and state tax revenues. This includes hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other outdoor sports that include hiking, camping, skiing, paddle sports and bicycling.

- In 2006, the combined spending effect of hunting, fishing and wildlife watching associated with National Forest Service land totaled \$9.5 billion in annual retail sales, supported 189,400 jobs and provided \$1.01 billion in annual federal tax revenues.

- Every million dollars invested in residential historic rehabilitation generates approximately 36 jobs, \$1.24 million in income and nearly \$200,000 in state and local taxes.

- In 2010, 15 million visitors to Civil War battlefields managed by the National Park Service in just five states (Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) generated 7,700 jobs.

Commissioned by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the study is being conducted as part of a larger ongoing effort by NFWF to determine the eco-

nomics associated with natural resource conservation.

The study has commanded the attention of many, including America's Voice for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation, a coalition of more than 770 organizations representing tens of millions of citizens with diverse political backgrounds who have united in support of conservation, recreation and preservation programs as a means to create jobs and improve the economy.

"Natural resource conservation and historic preservation programs provide hundreds of thousands of jobs and strong returns on public investments that primarily help rural communities and cannot be exported abroad," said John L. Nau III, chairman emeritus of the Civil War Trust and co-chair of the AVCRP. "This country needs jobs that leverage private investment and conserve our precious natural resources and historic spaces."

"The jobs that our public lands and cultural heritage create are jaw-dropping," said William H. Meadows, president of The Wilderness Society and the AVCRP's other co-chair. "This study is yet more evidence that investing in the environment is good for the fiscal health of our country."

BEWITCHING HOUR

by **Tony Rock**

September 10, 2011, 6:32 a.m.

Thirty minutes before sunrise or precisely 32 minutes past the hour of 6 o'clock on this day, 28 hunters and their guides are free to open fire. Fourteen boys and girls and fourteen hunters needing assistance are free to experience the sport millions of Americans have enjoyed for centuries. Within minutes some of them will take their first shot with a rifle or bow at a whitetail deer. Hopefully they will shoot straight and enjoy all that follows the successful harvest of a big game animal. Some, the younger boys for example, will want to "shoot a big buck". Others will just want venison to eat.

Welcome to the annual Tuttle Creek Lake Assisted Deer Hunt. This opportunity has been provided for nine consecutive years by the cooperative effort of many sponsors and facilitators on the international, national, state and local level. Funds, facilities, advertising, transportation, guidance, services, labor and love have all been brought to focus at Tuttle Creek Lake and nearby communities in Northeast Kansas so these 28 hunters can have this opportunity.

Organizing groups for this event are the Riley County Fish and Game Association, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP), and the Tuttle Creek Lake Corps of Engineers. In addition, several other

groups, businesses, and organizations contribute to this hunt such as the Friends of Fancy Creek Range, Kansas City Chapter of Safari Club International, Kansas State Rifle Association, Tuttle Creek Lake Association, Armour Swift-Eckrich, Riley County Fish and Game Association, and the Kansas Wildlife Officers Association. GTB Custom Meats of Riley, the Clay Center Locker, and the Alta Vista Locker each provide basic processing of harvested deer free of charge.

Hunt preparations actually began for the organizing committee months ago in June. A series of meetings have ironed out logistics for preparing over 30 hunting sites, recruiting guides and hunters, serving three meals, conducting the hunt and caring for the venison. Kansas deer hunting permits have been furnished and free meat processing has been arranged for all successful hunters.

Hunter participation began weeks ago with a gathering at Fancy Creek Shooting Range. Hunters were introduced to their guides while many old acquaintances were renewed. Conservation Officers from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks were on hand to outline safety protocols. Natural Resource Officers from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers outlined the overall hunt agenda. Volunteer guides and Range Safety Officers assisted hunters with their shooting on the range. After all the talk, hunters were positioned on the firing line to sight-in

their rifles and shoot to demonstrate marksmanship. Loaner rifles and ammunition were provided for hunters if needed. After all hunters completed their range activity, a meal cooked on the grill was served to participants and families present.

So here we are again nearing "bewitching hour." Guides and their assigned hunters met again this morning, September 10, 2011, at 5 o'clock for a breakfast featuring biscuits and gravy. Some hunters had a long ride to their assigned blind while others went just around the corner. Timing is up to each hunter and guide team, but it is best to sneak into the blind well before first light. Deer do not keep the same hours as we do and make a habit of being up early! Regulations limit shooting time from a half hour before sunrise to a half hour after sunset. Anxiety runs high; there will be few disappointments. What will break the silence, the boom of a 30-06 or the crack of a .243?

Two full days are provided for the hunt. Early success or conflicting priorities for some may shorten their hunt. But in the end, most will have had proud moments long to be remembered, hunters and assistants alike.

September 11, 2011, 8:15 p.m.

For more information about future Tuttle Creek Lake Assisted Deer Hunts, contact Steve Prockish, Natural Resource Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers, 785-539-8511, x3167, or at Stephen.E.Prockish@usace.army.mil.

2011 Tuttle Creek Lake Assisted Deer Hunt summary

The 9th annual youth/handicap Tuttle Creek Lake Assisted Deer hunt is now in the books. The hunt was held September 10th and 11th. Fourteen Kansas youth 11 through 16 years of age and Fourteen Kansas residents with a certified disability participated in this hunt. Eighteen of the twenty-eight hunters harvested deer including a sixteen year old who took a fifteen point buck. None of the youth hunters had harvested a deer prior to this hunt.

In addition to the two days of hunt-

ing in September, hunt participants were also required to attend a firearm & hunting safety presentation and rifle sight-in at the Fancy Creek Shooting Range on August 21st. The Friends of Fancy Creek Range provided NRA certified Range Safety Officers to staff the shooting range during the rifle sight-in.

A meal was provided to the hunters, guides, Range Safety Officers, and other volunteers after the safety presentation and rifle sight-in. Breakfast was provided on both mornings of the hunt to

all hunters and guides.

The Riley County Fish and Game Association, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP), and Tuttle Creek Lake Corps of Engineers are sponsors of this event. In addition to the Kansas State Rifle Association, several other groups, businesses, and organizations contributed to this hunt such as the Friends of Fancy Creek Range, Kansas City Chapter of Safari

Continued on Page 10

Critical public lands bill comes to life

Under newly introduced bill HR 2834, hunting and fishing opportunities will become a priority on more than 440 million acres of federal public lands. The “Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act” was introduced at the U.S. Congress by Reps. Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Dan Boren (D-OK). Co-sponsors of the bill include Reps. Don Young (R-AK) and Mike Kelly (R-PA). The bill is also supported by other key members of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, members of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, and the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance.

This landmark measure recognizes that recreational anglers, hunters (including trapping) and shooters have been, and continue to be, the foremost supporters and funders of sound fish and wildlife management and conservation in the United States. The bill further highlights that hunting, fishing and recreational shooting occurs on Federal public lands and waters without adverse impacts or effects on other uses or users. Bill 2834’s wording follows the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, a bill that designated fishing and hunting as priority public uses on refuge lands in the U.S. The Refuge Act has curtailed attempts by anti-hunting groups to stop hunting on

some public lands where hunting has traditionally occurred.

If enacted, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act will specify that federal public land management officials shall exercise their authority under existing law, including provisions regarding land-use planning, to encourage the use of and access to federal public lands and waters for fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting. Going forward, all management plans would include provisions for those popular practices.

Opportunities to recreationally fish, hunt, trap, and shoot are declining nationally, which depresses participation in these traditional activities. As a result, less participation adversely impacts fish and wildlife conservation and funding for important projects by reducing or limiting monies available. The term “recreational shooting” means any form of sport, training, competition or pastime, whether formal or informal, that involves the discharge of a rifle, handgun, or shotgun, or the use of a bow and arrow. The public interest would be better served, and our citizens’ fish and wildlife resources benefited, by action to ensure that opportunities are facilitated to engage in fishing and hunting on Federal public lands.

The new bill will include lands

under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, including lands designated wilderness or administratively classified as wilderness eligible or suitable, and primitive or semi-primitive areas. National parks, however, are excluded from the Act as are wildlife refuges governed by the 1997 Act.

Another key provision finds that fishing and hunting are “necessary” to fulfill wilderness purposes on lands designated or managed as Wilderness. This ensures that recent anti-hunting, anti-wildlife management decisions by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco cannot be used to bar fishing, hunting or wildlife conservation efforts in Wilderness areas.

Joining the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance in championing HR 2834 are the American Sportfishing Association, National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, and the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation.

Hunters, anglers, trappers, and shooters across America who use public lands should stay abreast of the developments of this bill and note its positive long-term impact on outdoor heritage recreation on public lands in the future. Contact the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance at 614-888-4868 for more details or visit www.ussportsmen.org.

Cold-water boating requires added precautions

While pleasure boaters have winterized and stored their watercraft, avid waterfowl hunters and cold-weather anglers are gearing up for fall hunting and fishing seasons. But fall can be a dangerous time on the water. Most single-boat accidents take place this time of year, and with water temperatures cooling, these accidents can be deadly.

One common mistake is overloading a small boat with people and equipment. Overloaded boats are unstable and can easily capsize or cause passengers to fall overboard into frigid water. Sudden immersion into cold water delivers a brutal shock to the body, triggering a spontaneous inhalation reflex — deadly if one’s head is under water. But wearing a life

jacket can be enough to keep your head above water during an involuntary gasp, keeping lungs from filling with water.

In addition, the body loses heat 25 times faster in water than in air of the same temperature. Hypothermia begins with shivering and a loss of feeling in the extremities. Within minutes of being immersed in cold water, a person can become confused and lose muscle control. By keeping capsized boaters afloat, life jackets also enable them to conserve energy and get out of the water or be rescued.

The following simple steps can make a cold water boating expedition much safer:

- always wear a life jacket — new

styles and camouflage patterns, including float coats, make wearing a life jacket much more comfortable;

- dress properly for the cold — layered clothing can provide insulation and trap air to hold warmth;
- avoid cotton clothing — wool and many synthetic materials are good choices, but cotton wicks cold water in toward the body;
- never boat alone; and
- let family members or friends know where you’re going and when you plan to return.

Boating can be an excellent way to hunt or fish in cold weather, but be safe. Planning ahead for the possibility of a cold water accident can save a life.

Domestic cats: Pets or predators?

by Myron Wiley

The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is a subspecies of the wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*) and has been associated with humans for about 9,500 years. They probably were domesticated somewhat incidentally as they adapted to hunting near human habitation where rats and other vermin were an attractive food source. Due to their small size, social nature, love of play, and possible inborn tendency towards tameness, they may have been simply tolerated as they gradually diverged from their “wild” relatives. Domestic cats are distributed worldwide and may be the most popular pet in the world. House cats have been selectively bred for centuries and now come in many different body types and colors. Many pure bred strains have been developed by cat fanciers as show animals.

A few common traits are readily associated with cats. Each cat seems to have a distinctive personality and is quite independent, temperamental and pretty much lives life on its own terms. With obvious and expressive body language, they may be quite affectionate and entertaining at times, but treat you with what appears to be total disdain or contempt at other times. The instinctive feline habit of burying their feces and urine makes them easily trained to use an indoor litter box or even a toilet. Other than that, and coming when food is presented, most cats are not very trainable by the average person. Cats do not respond to commands like dogs and resist most control devices. Some will accept a small collar, but restraining one with a leash as you would a dog is nor-

mally out of the question. The response is often quite violent and may result in injury to pet and owner.

When allowed to roam freely in the outdoors, other natural cat behaviors come into play. Unlike dogs, cats have changed little in form and behavior from their wild ancestors during the domestication process. They remain well-equipped to survive in the wild if they must. The predatory instinct, combined with stealth, keen hearing, excellent low light vision, agility, fangs and claws make them proficient hunters. This can make cats valuable tools in controlling vermin around farm buildings and homes, where rats and mice can be problems. In many areas, “feral” cats (i.e., domestic cats unfamiliar with humans and living in the wild) often develop into large colonies that have had a devastating impact on certain species of wildlife. In some cases, prey species have been driven to complete extinction.

Unfortunately, the hunting instinct does not disappear even when cats are well fed by their human caretakers and predation on small animals and birds may become recreational in nature. This can become a source of irritation and friction in suburban and residential neighborhoods. Many people who live in these areas enjoy watching the wildlife in their back yards and have few if any other wildlife related opportunities. Many birds, whose natural habitats are shrinking as development occurs, will nest in landscape shrubbery or nest boxes provided by residents and congregate at feeding stations. Domestic cats allowed to roam freely throughout the neighborhood soon learn to take advantage of this easy hunting opportunity,

ambushing birds continuously at feeding stations and patrolling every inch of landscape shrubbery by day and night. Bird-watching opportunities diminish rapidly as birds are caught or learn to avoid the feeders. Fledgling birds and low or ground nests have almost no chance of survival. Other small animals that many people enjoy seeing will be seen less frequently or disappear completely.

If free-ranging domestic cats are a problem in your neighborhood, there may be some steps you can take. People love their pets and many may not realize their cats are creating a nuisance or causing harm. Do not take any measures that would cause injury or death to a wayward pet. Using diplomacy is a must to maintain pleasant neighborhood relationships. If possible, place feeding stations where they are not easily ambushed from shrubbery. Use of some commercial repellants can help to keep stray cats away from specific areas. Check with local officials to see what animal control regulations may apply in your area and encourage enforcement if necessary. Encourage spaying and neutering of all cats and dogs not used for breeding purposes to help limit the numbers of unwanted stray or feral animals.

Domestic cats truly are both wild predator and pet. When properly cared for and controlled, they can be great companions and friends. When left unchecked, they can prey heavily on wildlife.

Myron Wiley is a Biologist Aide for the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

DEER

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Club International, Tuttle Creek Lake Association, Armour Swift-Eckrich, and the Kansas Wildlife Officers Association. GTB Custom Meats of Riley, the Clay Center Locker, and the Alta Vista Locker each provided basic processing

of harvested deer free of charge.

Participants were furnished a Kansas hunting license (if needed), and all were furnished a deer permit by our participating sponsors.

If participants did not have a rifle or ammo for the hunt, these items were provided. These rifles are provided by the Riley County Fish & Game Association and through the KDWPT's Pass It On Program.

Each hunter was paired with an experienced hunter who served as volunteer guide. Other items provided for this hunt include accessible hunting blinds, hunting locations, hunter orange hats and vests, and transportation to the field. Public land surrounding Tuttle Creek Lake, including park areas normally closed to hunting, as well as private land nearby was utilized for the hunt.

Fall bird feeding tips

If you're new to bird feeding, fall is the best time to get started. Although natural foods are still abundant in the fall, birds are making their choices about which backyards they will visit in the winter.

If you want a variety of birds at your feeders, you should offer a variety of seed. Thistle seed attracts small finches. Suet attracts woodpeckers, Chickadees and Nuthatches. Black Oil Sunflower is the seed that is preferred by the widest variety of bird species.

One of the best ways to attract birds to your backyard is to provide fresh water. Using a heated birdbath is an easy way to keep the water from freezing in the winter.

How can I help the birds during wet weather?

By providing evergreen trees, shrubs and roosting boxes, you can offer a safe place for birds to escape

the elements. During storms birds will frequently seek shelter and a roosting box provides a safe place for birds to retreat.

How do birds keep warm in winter?

On cold, wintry days, most birds fluff up their feathers, creating air pockets that help keep the birds warm. The more air spaces, the better the insulation. Some birds perch on one leg, drawing the other leg to the breast for warmth. Shivering is used by almost all birds for short term adjustment to the cold. It is the main way birds increase their heat production while the bird is at rest. Shivering converts muscular energy into heat for the short term and that energy must be replaced soon.

How do I stop woodpeckers from hammering on my house?

Discontinue feeders that attract woodpeckers. Try placing wind socks, wind chimes, balloons, pinwheels or shiny, colorful streamers near and slightly above where the woodpecker is doing damage. Artificial owls and snakes may be worth a try if all else fails. Identify and cover metal objects that woodpeckers hammer on to advertise their territories.

How do I keep birds from hitting my window?

Birds hit windows because they have mistaken the reflection as open space. Often they are frightened into this error by a hawk or some other surprise. A feeder placed within three feet of a window may prevent birds from building up deadly speed before the collision. Paper cut-outs spaced about the window pane may help to show birds that it is a surface. Birds stunned after hitting windows often revive.

Beware of what you feed your wildlife!

A member of the KWF Board of Directors went down to a local Coop elevator to purchase some corn to fill his deer feeders. He was told their "Deer Corn" had been tested and found to have Aflatoxin, so it should not be fed to cattle or sheep. No mention was made as to its impact on other wildlife. So he contacted his local Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism regional office.

Aflatoxins are a group of chemicals produced by certain mold fungi. These fungi, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*, can be recognized by

yellow-green or gray-green, respectively, on corn kernels, in the field or in storage. Although aflatoxins are not automatically produced whenever grain becomes moldy, the risk of aflatoxin contamination is greater in damaged, moldy corn than in corn with little mold. Aflatoxins are harmful or fatal to livestock and are considered carcinogenic (cancer-causing) to animals and humans.

Since ruminants are similar, if it can't be fed to cattle it probably shouldn't be fed to deer. Placing high levels of Aflatoxin in areas where

quail, pheasants, prairie-chicken, turkey and other birds may get it is even more detrimental to those and other avian species.

Unfortunately, the KDWPT has no authority in this regard. It is legal in Kansas to sell and feed moldy grain. All KDWPT can do is inform people that using moldy grain of any kind is dangerous and detrimental to the wildlife species people enjoy viewing.

If you get a bag of moldy grain, do like our Board member did: take it back and trade it for grain without Aflatoxin.

Kids Gone Fishing Foundation announces publication for kids

KGH InSights, a publication of The Kids Gone Hunting Foundation is now available to read online at www.kids-gonehunting.com. The magazine-like format is geared toward kids age 7 to 17.

"In this first edition you will find stories written by kids, such as Alli Armstrong's "Kid's Eye View of Hunting" and Sydney Simmering's "Campfire Tales." Regular columns include, Great

Game, Details of the Hunt, Gear Up, On Location, Notables and Quotables, Adventure Albums and KGH Team Profiles," said Terry Horton, President. "Special Features provide updates on what's going on with the Kids Gone Hunting Team."

"We appreciate all the sponsors who help make it possible for us to continue our outreach efforts to kids about the

positive aspects of hunting," said Executive Director Brenda Potts. "New editions of KGH InSights will be released on a quarterly basis and available for viewing online under the NEWS icon."

Kids Gone Hunting Foundation creates DVDs of all-kids hunting, hosted by kids and distributed free to kids. Sign up to receive notices of each new posting at info@kidsgonehunting.com.

New computer video game allows students to learn about safety and ethics

A new video game at www.hunter-ed.com helps students learn how to make decisions about when to pass on a shot for big game and what situations provide safe, ethical shooting opportunities. This educational video game, which students can play for free, allows the learning process to begin before taking the online hunter safety course at hunter-ed.com.

A variety of shoot/don't shoot scenarios are presented that students can act on using their computer's shift key to acquire the target or the space bar to pass on the shot. The game teaches students the fundamentals about safe zones of fire and shot placement in a way that's fun and engaging.

"With this shoot or don't shoot game, Kalkomey is beginning an excit-

ing push into activity-based learning," said Edward Cossette, user experience manager for Kalkomey. "The feedback students receive from playing this online video game is based on decisions they make. The benefit is students attend to individualized feedback more closely, which results in better long-term retention of key hunter safety concepts."

After playing the game, students can learn more hunter safety skills for free at www.hunter-ed.com. Students who must receive their hunter education certification to obtain a hunting license pay a one-time fee, which is due only if they pass the test. Students can take the test as many times as they need to pass it.

After passing the exam at [\[hunter-ed.com\]\(http://hunter-ed.com\), students should immediately print out a field day qualifier certificate, which admits them to a field day in their state \(if applicable\). Many states require students to pre-register for their field day, so hunter education coordinators advise students to visit their state wildlife agency website to sign up for a field day before they take the online course.](http://hunter-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The contents at hunter-ed.com are developed in conjunction with the state agency responsible for hunter education. Students who use hunter-ed.com will study the same content used in classroom courses. This online course is offered in more than 30 states, so students are encouraged to visit www.hunter-ed.com to find a course customized for their state.

Boaters oppose ethanol increase

by **Jim Shepherd**
The Outdoor Wire

The Environmental Protection Agency has gone ahead with allowing fuel companies to increase the amount of ethanol found in their gasoline from ten to fifteen percent.

While this might not sound like a big deal, ethanol increases the acidity of fuel. If you're the owner of an older boat and motor - and that covers most of us - you may find this new fuel can cause problems. Problems can range from dissolving older fuel lines to eating away the insides of gas tanks, causing clogging and other serious damage to engines. Those engines can be anywhere from the putt-putt unit on your favorite sailboat to your lawnmower.

For nearly two years, we've periodically written about the potential for problems this new E-85 fuel can pose for boaters, but we were surprised to learn that a Southwick and Associates/AnglerSurvey.com found that a majority of respondents (55.9 percent) weren't even aware of the increase in ethanol levels (read the entire release in today's news section).

Despite that widespread awareness, nearly sixty percent disagreed with the decision - and nearly the same number said they felt the levels should be rolled back to ten percent. It's not likely to happen, but political happenings in the past few months might make legislators and bureaucrats a bit more attentive were there widespread complaints at the new ethanol levels.

Unlike gasoline with no ethanol, gasoline with ethanol, even in the ten percent volume, absorbs moisture. E-10 gasoline, according to research from BoatUS, can hold up to one half of one percent of water by volume. Those water molecules dissolve in the fuel. This "solubilized water" will bypass the water separator and burn through the engine. The danger for engines happens if there is a phase-separation of the fuel. In essence, you get a water/ethanol mixture on the bottom of the fuel tank, and a reduced-octane gasoline at the top of the tank. Either of those will damage your engine.

That's why the fuel filter is essential. Even in new engines, however, Volvo Penta's Richard Kolb says there is sometimes a mysterious gooey substance that will clog fuel filters.

Kolb theorizes the problem is ethanol reacting with any one of the 108 approved compounds used when mixing gasoline. His suggestion for getting around that problem is to change gasoline brands, but occasionally carburetor cleaner will remedy the problem.

Kolb's theories, however, were based on ten percent ethanol. There's really no way of knowing what the E-15 mixture will ultimately do in engines.

Here are some tips for dealing with ethanol, courtesy of BoatUS:

- Be ready to change fuel filters more often.
- Make sure all your hoses are marked J-1527. Not all hoses are ethanol-compatible.
- Confirm that your boat's fuel tank will handle the newer ethanol. If not, you may need to replace the tank with another material like aluminum.
- If you're leaving your boat sitting for any length of time, fill your boat's tanks to 95% of capacity. That allows room for your fuel to breathe, while limiting the space for potential condensation.
- Use fuel stabilizer, although it does not prevent phase separation.

'Double Up' for ducks

Ducks Unlimited campaign aims to show Congress that hunters and others support an increase in price of waterfowl stamp

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is asking duck hunters and other waterfowl enthusiasts to “double up for the ducks” by purchasing two federal duck stamps this year.

“The federal duck stamp has been an important tool in waterfowl habitat conservation for 77 years, but its ability to purchase and conserve important waterfowl habitat has been greatly diminished by inflation and rising land prices,” DU chief executive officer Dale Hall said, in announcing the campaign. “The purpose of the ‘Double Up for the Ducks’ campaign is to show that hunters support the duck stamp program and are willing to pay more for the duck stamp in order to conserve waterfowl habitat. We view the duck stamp as an investment in conservation, not as a tax on hunters.”

This effort is part of a larger campaign currently being led by DU to increase the price of the stamp. Since 1934, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the federal duck stamp, has added more than 5.3 million acres of waterfowl habitat to the National Wildlife Refuge System. The program is a highly efficient way for waterfowl hunt-

ers to invest in the future of their sport by conserving habitat; 98 cents out of every dollar is spent to acquire land and protect waterfowl habitat. Additionally, acquiring land under the National Wildlife Refuge System not only expands habitat protection but also expands hunting opportunities and access.

While the federal duck stamp has proved a valuable conservation tool, its buying power has not kept pace with inflation. The cost of the stamp has not increased since 1991 — 20 years — marking the longest period in the program’s history without a price increase. Simply put, \$15 is not what it used to be. Based on the Consumer Price Index, the stamp would need to cost \$24.26 today to have the same buying power that \$15 had in 1991. The total buying power of the duck stamp has decreased by 64 percent since 1991.

In 1991, revenue from the duck stamp enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire 89,000 acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System at an average cost of \$306 per acre. In 2010, the USFWS was able to acquire only 32,000 acres because

land values had tripled to an average of \$1,091 per acre.

Ducks Unlimited supports efforts to ensure that the investment waterfowl hunters have made to protect waterfowl habitat over the last 77 years is sustained. And it is up to duck hunters and all who enjoy wetlands and waterfowl to continue the conservation legacy of the federal duck stamp. For these reasons, Ducks Unlimited supports legislation that would immediately increase the price of the stamp from \$15 to \$25, which would allow the program’s revenues to keep pace with inflation.

“Increasing the price of the duck stamp will take an act of Congress,” DU Chief Conservation Officer Paul Schmidt said. “To get Congress to act, waterfowl hunters must show their elected officials that their constituents care about conservation issues. The increased sales that will occur when hunters ‘double up’ on duck stamps will help conserve more habitat and also show Congress that hunters are serious about this issue.”

For more information, visit the DU website, www.ducks.org.

Whoopers crane their necks toward Kansas

One bird sighted at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Oct. 19

Northerly winds accompanying a Canadian cold front the week of Oct. 17 moved whooping cranes south from Canada toward their wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast. As of Oct. 19, two cranes were sighted as far south as northern Texas. Additionally, there was a single whooper observed at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, near Stafford in central Kansas, the same evening. Migration is in full swing.

Many Kansans look forward to the fall migration of these magnificent birds through the state. Fall records indicate that most pass through Kansas between Oct. 17 and Nov. 10. Sighting a whooper is a special expe-

rience for both casual and avid bird watchers.

Each autumn, whooping cranes migrate south through Kansas from their Canadian nesting grounds at Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories. The Aransas-Wood Buffalo population (AWBP) of whooping cranes rebounded from 263 in the spring of 2010 to 279 in the spring of 2011. With approximately 37 chicks fledged from a record 75 nests in August 2011, the flock size should reach record levels of about 300 this fall. Twelve whooping crane juveniles were captured and fitted with transmitters in Wood Buffalo National Park in August, bringing the total number of radioed birds to 23.

The fall migration is monitored through a cooperative program supervised by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Many people in Canada and the United States will participate in the effort, which will provide the USFWS with records of whooping crane numbers and movements. Members of conservation agencies along the migration route assist with the tracking program.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is one of the agencies involved. KDWPT encourages anyone who has spotted a whooper to contact their local natural resource officer or KDWPT office.

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Zebra mussels discovered at Kanopolis Reservoir

During a periodic inspection and dewatering of the outlet works at Kanopolis Reservoir on Sept. 26, officials with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered an adult zebra mussel in the stilling basin.

Sampling of water in the lake revealed the presence of zebra mussel veligers, the larval form of the mussel. The discovery marks the 14th Kansas reservoir infested by this invasive species, which disappoints KDWPT aquatic nuisance species biologist Jason Goeckler because he knows the spread can be prevented.

“Some of the recent discoveries in eastern Kansas reservoirs were expected because zebra mussels naturally move downstream from infested lakes,” Goeckler explained. “Like the infestation at Melvern Reservoir earlier in the year, the introduction to Kanopolis could have been prevented. We can and must work together to prevent further spread of aquatic nuisance species. Lake users need to take a few minutes to follow the basic clean, drain, and dry precautions.”

The veligers in Kanopolis and other lakes are too small to see with the naked eye and suspend for several weeks before sinking to the bottom and attaching to a hard surface. While they are suspended in the larval stage, zebra mussels can be easily transported downstream in flowing water or with water in boats and bait buckets and

through other recreational activities.

While an adult zebra mussel is only about the size of a dime, the species poses a threat to native Kansas fish and aquatic animals. One adult female can produce as many as 1 million eggs per year, and zebra mussel colonies quickly become quite dense, attaching to any hard surface, including native mussels, crayfish, turtles, boats, docks, as well as water intake structures. Densities of more than 1 million zebra mussels per square meter have been documented in Lake Erie. In addition to the threat they pose to the environment, native species, and water recreation, zebra mussels cost water suppliers, power plants, and other water-related businesses \$1 billion each year — costs everyone pays.

Adult zebra mussels are filter feeders, and an infestation can dramatically disrupt a lake’s food chain by removing plankton native fish rely on. KDWPT biologists have documented decreases in body condition and abundance in several game fish species after zebra mussel infestations. Zebra mussel feeding habits may also increase the potential for blue-green algae blooms, which can be toxic to humans and animals. Dense colonies of zebra mussels make wading and swimming along shorelines dangerous because of their sharp shells. When zebra mussels die, the odor and shell fragments that wash up make any shoreline activities unpleasant.

“It’s important that lake users take

the threat of aquatic nuisance species seriously,” Goeckler added. “If their spread is allowed to continue, our water-based recreation opportunities may be changed forever.”

Zebra mussels are just one of several invasive species that threaten Kansas waters. Prevent their spread by following the CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY procedures and never move water or fish from one body of water to another. For more information about aquatic nuisance species, go to www.kdpwt.state.ks.us and click on the “STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS” window on the lower right side of the homepage.

CRANE

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

In the 1940s, only 16 whoopers remained in the world. Today, there are 157 in captivity and 414 in the wild, bringing the world population of whooping cranes to 571. For more information, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane.

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New study documents BP Oil's impact on common baitfish in Gulf

A new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences documents the effect of BP oil on Gulf killifish. This minnow-like wetlands fish, also known as bull minnow or cacahoe, is a critical part of the Gulf's food chain and are a commonly used baitfish.

The study finds that oil exposure has altered the killifish's cellular function in ways that are known to be predictive of developmental abnormalities, decreased hatching success, and decreased embryo and larval survival.

Land Tawney, senior manager for sportsmen leadership with the National Wildlife Federation, said:

"This study reminds us that the even small amounts of oil can have a lasting impact on fish, wildlife and habitats. These bull minnows are an important food source, a staple, for sportfish like redfish and speckled trout, which are key species for the Mississippi River Delta's recreational fishing.

"The study also reminds us that Congress has yet to act to protect the Gulf's ecosystem by passing com-

prehensive response legislation to restore this national treasure teeming with fish and wildlife. We urgently need action now-and sportsmen and women across the country are calling for Congress to dedicate fines and penalties from the oil spill to restoring the Mississippi River Delta and the Gulf Coast."

Learn more about Vanishing Paradise's efforts to unite hunters and anglers on the important issue of Mississippi River Delta restoration at www.vanishingparadise.org.

The Complete Guide to Kansas Fishing

Boulder, Colorado - based publishing company Big Earth Publishing announces the release of **The Complete Guide to Kansas Fishing** to bring Kansas fishing enthusiast the best advice on where and how to fish in Kansas.

Kansas is chock full of well-stocked reservoirs, rivers, and small lakes. But if you don't know what you're doing, it's all too easy to get skunked. Enter Amy Bickel and Jason Probst, who aim to make your Kansas fishing trip the best it can be. They

traveled the state, testing out fishing holes firsthand to find the best spots for fish. What's better, they tapped into the local experts to bring out the best advice on how to catch them. With luck, and this book, your next "fishing" trip will be a "catching" trip.

This guide to fishing the reservoirs, lakes and rivers of Kansas is comprehensive, informative and useful. Full color fish illustrations, topographic maps, length and creel limits and personal advice from local fishermen make this a must-have book

for everyone who picks up a fishin' pole in Kansas. There is even a great chapter on fishing with the whole family, where to shop for supplies and goodies and where to find the best campsite.

Amy Bickel, avid hunter and angler, has been writing outdoor stories for Kansas newspapers for 12 years. Jason Probst, lifelong fishing and outdoor enthusiast, has been writing and editing news stories for 9 years.

The book is 184 pages in soft cover and retails for \$22.95.

Properly cared for, game meat makes gourmet table fare

Deer hunters always enjoy the chase, but the ultimate satisfaction of taking a deer can be when the meat is served to family and friends. No hunter wants to waste weeks of practice, scouting, preparation, and bagged game, so once the deer is down and tagged and photos snapped, the work of caring for the meat begins.

No matter the weather, cooling a deer soon after the kill is critical. When weather is mild, hunters must take special care to ensure their hard-earned deer is pleasing table fare, and when cared for correctly, venison provides lean, healthy, gourmet-quality meat.

A quick, clean kill through the lungs or heart is important, and knowing one's range and equipment combined with careful shot selection are the keys to a good shot. As soon as the deer is recovered, it's also important to field dress the animal so that the carcass can cool quickly. Be careful to keep dirt, hair, and debris away from exposed meat while dressing and when moving the deer to the vehicle. Those who plan to process their own deer should hang the deer in a clean, cool building. It's often best to remove the hide so that meat can continue to cool, particularly if the weather is warmer than usual. Hunters who plan to have the deer

processed by commercial butchers should contact them as soon as possible to arrange for delivery.

A cool, clean place is essential for butchering. Many hunters like to age their deer, but a cooler is often needed for this. Aging is not necessary, but for those who prefer this method, venison should be aged at 35-39 degrees. Cooler than this, and the meat may freeze; warmer, and the meat may spoil.

With a little extra effort and time, successful deer hunters will enjoy months of rewarding venison meals. Remember: make a clean shot, field dress the deer quickly, cool the meat, and keep it clean.

Report confirms wetlands in decline

Five-year survey shows wetlands losses are slowing, marking conservation gains and need continued investment in habitat

America's wetlands declined slightly from 2004-2009, underscoring the need for continued conservation and restoration efforts, according to a report issued by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The findings are consistent with the Service's Status and Trends Wetlands reports from previous decades that reflect a continuous but diminishing decline in wetlands habitat over time.

The report, which represents the most up-to-date, comprehensive assessment of wetland habitats in the United States, documents substantial losses in forested wetlands and coastal wetlands that serve as storm buffers, absorb pollution that would otherwise find its way into the nation's drinking water, and provide vital habitat for fish, wildlife and plants.

"Wetlands are at a tipping point," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "While we have made great strides in conserving and restoring wetlands since the 1950s when we were losing an area equal to half the size of Rhode Island each year, we remain on a downward trend that is alarming. This report, and the threats to places like the Mississippi River Delta, should serve as a call to action to renew our focus on conservation and restoration efforts hand in hand with states, tribes and other partners."

"This report offers us a road map for

stemming and reversing the decline," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "It documents a number of successes in wetlands conservation, protection and reestablishment, and will be used to help channel our resources to protect wetlands where they are most threatened and reduce further wetland losses."

The net wetland loss was estimated to be 62,300 acres between 2004 and 2009, bringing the nation's total wetlands acreage to just over 110 million acres in the continental United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.

The rate of gains from reestablishment of wetlands increased by 17 percent from the previous study period (1998 to 2004), but the wetland loss rate increased 140 percent during the same time period. As a consequence, national wetland losses have outpaced gains.

The net loss includes a combination of gains in certain types of wetlands and losses in other types, especially forested wetlands.

"In a five year period, we lost over 630,000 acres of forested wetlands, mostly in the Southeast - an area equal to half a million football fields each year," Director Ashe said. "We should all be concerned about the substantial loss of this diminishing resource, which helps ensure good water quality for local communities and provides vital habitat for a diversity of important

wildlife species."

The southeast United States, primarily freshwater wetlands of the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plain, and the Lower Mississippi River experienced the greatest losses. Losses were also observed in the Great Lakes states, the prairie pothole region, and in rapidly developing metropolitan areas nationwide. The reasons for wetland losses are complex and reflect a wide variety of factors, including changes in land use and economic conditions, the impacts of the 2005 hurricane season on the Gulf Coast and climate change impacts.

This report does not draw conclusions regarding the quality or condition of the nation's wetlands. Rather, it provides data regarding trends in wetland extent and type, and it provides information to facilitate ongoing collaborative efforts to assess wetland condition. Further examination of wetland condition on a national level has been initiated by the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal, state and Tribal partners.

Wetlands provide a multitude of ecological, economic and social benefits. They provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and a variety of plants. Wetlands are nurseries for many saltwater and freshwater fishes and shellfish of

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Concealment key to warding off trail camera thieves

Trail cameras are popular among hunters who want to scout for game and landowners who just like to see what animals are roaming their property.

Keeping the cameras safe from vandals and thieves is a top priority. There is no fool-proof way to completely protect a trail camera. However, there are suggestions for trail camera security:

- Any personal property left on

public land likely will disappear. If you intend to install a trail camera on public land, consider using a less expensive model.

- Consider using a trail camera on private property that has limited access.

- Concealment of the camera is the key to securing it.

- Consider using steel cables and paddle locks to secure a camera.

- In an effort to keep a camera out

of reach, mount one higher and angle it downward.

- Install two trail cameras in one spot and place emphasis on concealing one of them. That will increase the likelihood of getting a photo of a person trying to vandalize or steal the other camera.

- Record the camera as a personal possession in your homeowner's insurance policy. Include the make, model and serial code of the camera.

Suing for BIG bucks

In case you have not heard, the U.S. economy is slow and federal dollars are scarce. Tax dollars are being very closely watched under public scrutiny. Now, there are less of those tax dollars to watch thanks to the former Fund for Animals, alias Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Back in 2003, the Fund for Animals (this group merged with and is now HSUS) sued the U.S. Department of Interior and its director Steve Williams, plus former director Dale Hall. The charge: that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the National Envi-

ronmental Policy Act. These charges targeted the USFWS ruling that permitted hunting on 39 units of the National Wildlife Refuge system, and the lawsuit covered periods ranging from 1998 through 2003.

At great expense, the USFWS reviewed and update the NEPA status and findings on those 39 refuges and an additional 21 NWRs that expanded during the five-year period. On April 13, 2011, a federal judge ruled that the USFWS new information met the criteria and hunting could continue on the listed NWRs. HSUS lost its lawsuit. Then, however,

HSUS filed on July 12, 2011 for “an award of a portion of the attorney’s fees and costs.”

The result: the USFWS must pay the defeated HSUS \$116,000. Can you say fleecing or milking the system?

The bottom line: though the HSUS lost and was defeated by the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance, the U.S. Department of Interior, and other groups in this 8-year lawsuit and hunting remains open on the refuges, the HSUS gets \$116,000 for simply suing.

As you can clearly see, lawsuits are profitable for some groups.

Sportsmen purchases remain steady

A look at the buying habits of sportsmen in 2011 compared to the previous year reveals purchases of hunting and fishing equipment have remained steady in the current year, and in fact, even slightly improved.

In the most recent survey at HunterSurvey.com, participants were asked if they were buying more, less or the same amount of hunting equipment so far this year compared to 2010. Those responding they were buying more accounted for 24.7 percent of the responses, a 4.9 percent increase over

the previous year. Meanwhile those purchasing the same amount dropped one point to 39 percent as those reporting they were buying less dropped 3.1 percent.

Asked the same question except as it relates to the purchase of fishing equipment, AnglerSurvey.com respondents saying they were buying more jumped a statistically insignificant 1.5 percent from 16.2 to 17.7 percent. Those buying the same increased 4.4 percent, while those indicating they had bought less dropped 3.6.

“While everyone in the hunting and fishing industry would love to see the ‘buying more’ responses make a significant jump, at least some of the fears of a so-called double dip recession, at least where these markets are concerned, does not appear to be on its way. Sportsmen are pretty much buying the same amount of gear,” said Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at HunterSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and AnglerSurvey.com.

Sportsmen urged to speak up on Dakota Grasslands Conservation Area

Funding would help conserve up to 2 million acres in America's 'Duck Factory'

In early September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to formally establish the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area. Numerous conservation organizations strongly support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision because this area is part of an initiative to protect almost 2 million acres of critical wetlands and grasslands in North and South Dakota. However, if this jewel for America’s wildlife is to be protected, sportsmen will need to tell Congress of its significance.

Conservation organizations have been supporting the process of establishing the Dakota Grassland

Conservation Area for some time and are thrilled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is moving forward with this project. However, to move forward with this initiative and ensure this area is conserved, sportsmen must now focus on securing the proper funding.

The purpose of the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area is to provide a voluntary and financially feasible way for ranchers and other private landowners to conserve native grasslands and wetlands. This program is also designed to be economically feasible for the federal government because it will be funded with dollars

already dedicated to conservation through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and through the revenue generated from federal duck stamp sales.

The Prairie Pothole Region is commonly known as our nation’s ‘Duck Factory’ because it plays a central role in sustaining strong duck populations and conserving this area is a top priority for our organization. To demonstrate support, Ducks Unlimited has committed \$50 million over ten years to purchase easements under this program. Now is the time

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OUTDOORS

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will do all we can to help move them forward.”

The two projects in Kansas highlighted by Salazar in the forthcoming report are:

Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area

Only three percent of the native-prairie grasslands that once stretched from Canada to Texas remain today. Establishing a new easement-based conservation area by working with key ranching community partners will protect up to 1.1 million acres of North America’s last landscape-scale tallgrass prairie. The Flint Hills area is also an important part of the conservation and recreation agenda of the State of Kansas. Rolling prairies provide ample hiking, biking, river, and equestrian trails. The state has partnered with a variety of government and private organizations to secure more than 70,000 acres of voluntary conservation easements in addition to 11,000 square miles that wind energy developers have agreed to conserve.

The Flint Hills plan calls for construction of the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, an education-focused visitor center for the NPS Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The plan also calls for campsite and cabin improvements along the Flint Hills’ trails, as well as development of a wetland-management plan to preserve crucial habitats. Kansas recognizes the

importance of youth engagement and aims to create educational and interpretive opportunities throughout these facilities.

Kansas River Water Trail

The Kansas River, one of only three publicly navigable waterways in Kansas, flows for 170 miles through both urban areas and rural landscapes. The history of the Kansas River—sometimes locally known as the “Kaw”—includes significant events in the development and settling the nation. Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery camped at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers in 1804 and noted that the river was “navigable for 80 leagues.” The river valley provided a route for overland migration to California and Oregon. The United States military used the river route to establish Fort Riley and as a supply route between other frontier posts, like Fort Leavenworth. Significant riverside historic sites open for visitors include Fort Riley, The First Territorial Capital, Historic Lecompton, Topeka, Kaw Point Park in Kansas City, and the Kansas History Center. The Kansas River historically linked these sites.

The Kansas River is a unique natural resource for Kansas and provides an attractive regional recreational opportunity. Over two million people live in the various cities and towns along the river, from the Kansas City metro area west to Junction City. The designation and development of a “Kansas River Water Trail” is a high priority for the Department of Wildlife, Parks &

Tourism, and would be the state’s first public water trail. Historically, the lack of river access sites has limited paddle sports in Kansas and forced people to travel to other states for these pursuits. Currently, there are 17 developed public access points on the river and another under construction. Last year, Kaw River State Park opened to the public in Topeka. Even with these developments, there are gaps in desired access points, including one 37-mile segment, which is significantly more than the 10–15 miles required for day trips.

The report will also include potential actions by Interior and its bureaus to support the projects identified. In Kansas, for example, the Department could provide financial and technical assistance to increase access to the Kansas River. The Department could also provide technical and financial assistance to the state of Kansas toward construction of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Visitor Center, and campsite improvements.

The Department of the Interior will work with each of its key bureaus – including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – to direct available resources and personnel to make these projects a reality.

“The America’s Great Outdoors Initiative turns the conventional wisdom about the federal government’s role in conservation on its head,” Salazar said. “Rather than dictate policies or conservation strategies from Washington, it supports grassroots, locally driven initiatives.”

DAKOTA

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to let our nation’s leaders know that sportsmen support this program and are willing to do their part to make it happen.

Upon approval, this project is expected to conserve up to 240,000 acres of wetlands and 1,700,000 acres of grasslands in the Dakotas

through conservation easements. Under the proposal, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will seek to acquire voluntary easements from willing sellers on approximately 2 million acres of native prairie habitat to benefit wildlife and support traditional economic activities, specifically livestock production.

Ducks Unlimited and conservation partners are not the only ones that have advocated for this program.

There is currently a waiting list of over 800 landowners in North and South Dakota who have expressed interest in wetlands and grasslands easements. Easements are a popular conservation tool because of the benefits they provide landowners. Land enrolled in this program can still be used as working farmland for grazing and haying, making it an economically sound investment for many ranchers.

Healthy Kids Outdoors Act supports strategies to connect kids with nature

Congressman Ron Kind (WI) and Senator Mark Udall (CO) introduced the Healthy Kids Outdoors Act on November 3rd to support state, local and federal strategies to connect youth and families with the natural world, improve children's health and support future economic growth and conservation efforts.

This legislation will help get Americans active outdoors through natural play; outdoor recreation such as camping, hiking, hunting and fishing; public health initiatives; outdoor learning environments; service learning and other initiatives.

"Children today are spending less time outdoors than any other generation in history," said Rep. Kind. "To tackle alarming childhood obesity rates and encourage healthy lifestyles, we must encourage our kids to get active, especially outdoors. I am committed to providing access and opportunities for our families to get active in nature and will continue to treasure every chance I get to take advantage of Wisconsin's abundant natural resources with my two young boys."

"I introduced the Healthy Kids

Outdoors Act, along with my House colleague Rep. Ron Kind, to help Americans, especially kids, connect with healthy, active, outdoor activities," said Sen. Udall, the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's National Parks

Subcommittee and co-chairman of the bipartisan Senate Outdoor Recreation Caucus. "Connecting with the outdoors is an excellent way to promote good physical and mental health and bolster America's conservation legacy. It also supports our vibrant outdoor economy, which is especially important in Colorado and to our rural mountain communities."

Today's children are spending less time in nature than their parents or grandparents. At the same time, one in three American kids is overweight or obese; more than half of all children in the United States are deficient in Vitamin D; instances of attention deficit disorders are on the rise; and stress, anxiety and depression rates among youth are increasing.

The Healthy Kids Outdoors Act would provide incentives to states to de-

velop cross-cutting, five-year strategies to get children and families active in the great outdoors. It would also direct the president to involve federal agencies and national partners to create a similar plan at the national level and support research further documenting the health, conservation and other benefits of active time spent outdoors in the natural world.

"The nature of childhood has changed, and there isn't much nature in it," said Larry Schweiger, National Wildlife Federation's president and CEO. "National Wildlife Federation commends Congressman Ron Kind and Senator Mark Udall for introducing legislation that will strengthen the economy by getting Americans moving through recreation and active outdoor play."

The Healthy Kids Outdoors Act has the support of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK), a national strategic partnership of non-profit organizations and corporations from the conservation, health and outdoor recreation sectors with a common interest in expanding opportunities for children, youth and families to connect with nature.

Ducks Unlimited releases mobile apps

Ducks Unlimited released multiple iPhone and Android apps this fall, providing DU supporters with new tools for waterfowling and conservation. DU has two Android apps and three iPhone apps available, which include conservation news, event listings, migration reports, sunrise and sunset calculator, and a waterfowler's journal.

"It is our goal to continually provide valuable resources for waterfowl hunters, whether that is conservation news, migration reports, or tools that promote our hunting heritage," Anthony Jones, DU web director says. "Mobile access to DU information is paramount in our constantly changing conservation climate, and combining that with waterfowling tools allows our supporters to stay in touch, even from the duck blind."

Currently available on the iPhone,

DU offers its original app with event listings, DU news, sunrise and sunset, and waterfowl identification. In September, the organization released an iPhone Waterfowl Migration App, which allows supporters to view and post migration reports from DU's Migration Map. The newest addition to DU's iPhone app resources is the Waterfowler's Journal, an app designed to help document the experiences of every hunt.

DU's Android app includes conservation news, event listings, sunrise and sunset, waterfowl identification, and the ability to view and post to DU's Migration Map. The Waterfowler's Journal Android app released early October has the same journal-type functionality as the iPhone version and allows users to document time spent in the field.

WETLANDS

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commercial and recreational importance. Wetlands are also important landscape features because they hold and slowly release flood water and snow melt, recharge groundwater, act as filters to cleanse water of impurities, recycle nutrients, and provide recreational opportunities for millions of people.

The report, *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004-2009*, is the most recent of the five reports to Congress reporting on the status and trends of wetlands across much of the United States since the mid-1950s.

For more details on the report, visit www.fws.gov/wetlands/StatusAndTrends2009.

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

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

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

How You Can Help:

- * **Basic Membership:** As a Basic member, for 30 you'll receive 6 issues of the KWF newsletter packed with the latest information on wildlife resources, events and issues around the state. You also have voting privileges at the KWF Annual Meeting.
- * **Expanded Membership:** When you send in your Expanded member dues of \$75, you receive the basic membership benefits, and, as a bonus, a free copy of *Watching Kansas Wildlife: A Guide to 101 Sites* and a complimentary ticket to the KWF Annual Meeting
- * **Kansan:** For an annual fee of \$125, you receive all the benefits listed above plus a copy of the book *Kansas Wildlife*.

Here's How to Join:

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

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