

## *The Voice of Outdoor Kansas*

**November-  
December 2013**

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

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Go to our Web site,  
[www.kswildlife.org](http://www.kswildlife.org),  
for additional KWF information

# Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission approves price reduction for youth permits

Commission votes to significantly reduce resident  
and nonresident youth permit prices

At the public hearing conducted Oct. 17 in Hutchinson, the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission approved several recommendations including one that will significantly reduce the price of resident and nonresident youth big game permits starting January 1, 2014. Youth permits approved for a price reduction include deer, turkey, and antelope. In other public hearing items, the commission approved a special provision that will prohibit anglers from fishing or collecting bait from fish ladders, or any artificial barrier or dam that facilitates the natural migration of fish upstream. This provision was recommended in an effort to reduce conflict between boaters and anglers using the same passage way.

Commissioners also approved a variety of changes to fishing regulations including a 13- to 18-inch slot limit for largemouth bass at Grand Osage Wildlife Area and Howard-Polk Daniels Lake. The 15-inch minimum length limit on spotted bass will also be removed at Howard-Polk Daniels Lake. Floatline fishing will now be allowed at Elk City, Fall River, Glen Elder, and Lovewell reservoirs. A trout permit will be required for trout anglers at Meade State Fishing Lake from Nov. 1-April 15.

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



# **KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

## **Officers and Board of Directors**

### **Kansas Wildlife Federation, Inc.**

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

#### **KWF OFFICERS**

##### **President:**

**Troy Schroeder**  
1785 CR 390  
Albert, KS 67511  
Home: 785-650-3182  
E-mail: [troyas@gbta.net](mailto:troyas@gbta.net)

##### **Immediate Past President:**

**Don Snider**  
2319 W. 60th North  
Wichita, KS 67204  
Home: 316-755-0920  
E-mail: [drsnider@cox.net](mailto:drsnider@cox.net)

##### **Administrative Vice President:**

**Terry Sullivan**  
341 S. 3rd Street  
Clearwater, KS 67206-9465  
Home: 620-584-6795  
Cell: 316-833-1102  
E-mail: [sullivan@sktc.net](mailto:sullivan@sktc.net)

##### **Conservation Vice President:**

**Steve Sorensen**  
9 Weatherly Ct.  
Valley Center, KS 67147-8547  
Home: 316-755-2239  
Cell: 316-214-3001  
Fax: 316-755-0321  
E-mail: [webforbs@cox.net](mailto:webforbs@cox.net)

##### **Secretary:**

**Matt Nowak**  
1007 N. 2nd  
Lansing, KS 66043  
Business: 913-684-8979  
Home: 913-727-3871  
E-mail: [matthew.c.nowak@us.army.mil](mailto:matthew.c.nowak@us.army.mil)

##### **Treasurer:**

**Brian Snider**  
3404 E. Central Ave., Apt. 312  
Wichita, KS 67208  
Home: 316-210-1277  
E-mail: [sniderbm@gmail.com](mailto:sniderbm@gmail.com)

##### **Editor:**

**Steve Sorensen**



## **President's Message**

### **By Troy Schroeder**

The fall hunting seasons are in full swing. Unfortunately our upland bird numbers are still down and hunters will have to work for birds. It is better than last year though because late rains over much of the state at least gave us some cover to hunt. Hopefully we will have some better bird production next year. As luck would have it, I got a new pup this year and it may be a difficult to get her into birds.

With the end of the year in sight, it is time to renew your KWF membership since our memberships run on the calendar year. Please take time to renew soon. Most of our funding comes from memberships and donations. Money is a necessary evil that allows us to accomplish our mission of: conserving and protecting wildlife and habitat; advocating for wildlife, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts; and informing and educating young Kansans and those of all ages about nature and the outdoors.

The basic annual membership remains at \$30 this year but we have a couple of special deals going. First, with a membership renewal or a new membership at \$30, you have the opportunity to give friends and family members an annual membership for half price. Also, new memberships started in the last quarter (Sep-Dec) will run through 2014. If you can afford to do so, we encourage you to join at one of our expanded levels of membership. New for next year, with a membership for \$75 or more you

get a free ticket to our annual meeting and CAP banquet in Salina February 21 & 22, where we will have an auction and give awards to Kansans that have made significant contributions to wildlife. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

New for 2014, we are offering a youth membership for those 17 and under for \$10, and the first 50 to sign up will receive a free duck call. We will be having youth activities and provide information of interest to youth in our newsletter and web site.

Of course we will accept donations of any amount. Since we are a tax exempt organization, your donations are tax deductible, so please remember KWF with your year end tax planning. If interested in making a donation above and beyond membership, please contact me or any KWF Board Member. Our contact information is listed in this newsletter.

At its October meeting, the Kansas Wildlife Federation Board of Directors established the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation through the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation to ensure the future of the Kansas Wildlife Federation and its programs. This will make it easier for us to accept donations of all kind to include cash, commodities, real estate, life insurance proceeds, annuities, etc. Although we have joined this NW Kansas Foundation, we remain a statewide organization and will accept donations and fund projects statewide. Look for a complete announcement of the Foundation in this newsletter.

# 2014 KWF Annual Meeting set for Salina

The Kansas Wildlife Federation's 2014 Annual Meeting is set for Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22, at the Quality Inn & Suites by Choice Hotels at 2110 West Crawford Ave. in Salina. The 2013 Conservation Achievement Program (CAP) awards banquet will be held Saturday night at the same location.

Friday night we will convene a meeting to review pending Kansas legislation dealing with wildlife issues and discuss any resolutions to be brought before the membership

at the meeting Saturday morning. Come participate in this important process.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the special rates of \$60 and \$65 per night (single or double beds) and will be held until February 1. Call the Quality Inn at 785-825-2111 to make reservations. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Kansas Wildlife Federation to receive the special room rate. Call soon before the rooms run out.

See you in Salina.

## Calendar of events

- Nov 14** Kansas Rural Center Whole Farm Planning Workshop for Women Only, Linn
- Nov 16** Twin Rivers Jr. Shooting Sport Benefit & Banquet, Emporia 620-344-1429
- Nov 24-26** Outdoor Writers of Kansas Fall Conference, Ringneck Ranch, Tipton
- Dec 6** Beau Arndt Foundation Benefit, Civic Center, El Dorado
- 2014**
- Jan 9** KWPT Commission Meeting, Southwest College, Winfield
- Jan 13** Kansas Legislature Reconvenes, Topeka
- Jan 18** KWF Board of Directors Meeting, Wichita
- Jan 24-26** Monster Buck Classic, Kansas Expo, Topeka
- Jan 30-31** Kansas Natural Resource Conference, Wichita [www.kansas-nrc.org](http://www.kansas-nrc.org)
- Feb 7-9** KC Hunters Expo, Overland Park
- May 2-4** Kansas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting, Junction City <http://ksbirds.org>
- June 19-22** Hunt 4 Hunger Midwest Outdoor Expo, Topeka

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

## PERMITS

*Continued from Page 1*

The last public hearing item presented to the commission included recommendations to change future turkey hunting regulations. Commissioners approved the creation of a youth/disabled season that will allow youth to hunt turkeys free of competition from April 1 to the first full weekend of the month starting with the

2015 spring season. Regular archery season will start the Monday following the youth/disabled season, and regular firearm season will start the Wednesday after the second Saturday. Bag limits for the fall turkey season will also be reduced in Units 3, 5, and 6 from four birds to one bird. Season dates for the spring 2014 turkey season will remain unchanged.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014 at Southwestern College, 100 College St., in Winfield.

## KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

### Officers and Board of Directors

#### KWF DIRECTORS Northeast District:

##### Ted Beringer

15313 W. 80th Terrace  
Lenexa, KS 66219-1530  
Home: 913-541-1859

E-mail: [beringert@umkc.edu](mailto:beringert@umkc.edu)

#### Northcentral District:

##### Nick Levendofsky

206 Washington Ave.  
Republic, KS 66964-9714  
Home: 785-361-2100

E-mail: [nick.levendofsky@gmail.com](mailto:nick.levendofsky@gmail.com)

#### Northwest District:

##### Dave Hendricks

P. O. Box 488  
Wamego, KS 67672-0488  
Home: 785-743-2644

E-mail: [afbdave@yahoo.com](mailto:afbdave@yahoo.com)

#### Southeast District:

##### Phil Taunton

2508 Loma Vista Drive  
Emporia, KS 66801-5856  
Home: 620-342-5016  
Cell: 620-794-5373

E-mail: [ptaunton@cableone.net](mailto:ptaunton@cableone.net)

#### Southcentral District:

##### Carl Conley

320 S. 2nd  
Clearwater, KS 67206-9454  
Home: 620-584-2733  
Cell: 620-641-3026

E-mail: [conleyfam@sktc.net](mailto:conleyfam@sktc.net)

#### Southwest District: Open

#### 2013 NWF Representative: Troy Schroeder

#### 2013 NWF Alternate Representative: Ted Beringer

**KWF Affiliates:**  
**Geary County Fish & Game  
Association**  
Junction City, KS

**Kansas Wildlife Officers  
Association**  
Iola, KS

**Quail & Upland Wildlife  
Federation**  
Buffalo, MO



## KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

### Officers and Board of Directors

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

**Director at Large:  
Elby Adamson**

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

**Director at Large:  
Angela Anderson**

353 Road 300  
Allen, KS 66833  
Cell: 620-481-9547  
E-mail:  
mystery\_barnowl@yahoo.com

**Director at Large:  
Cindy Higgins**

1023 Elm  
Eudora, KS 66028  
Home: 785-542-2606  
E-mail: cinhiggins@yahoo.com

**Director at Large:  
Randy Kidd**

16879 46th St.  
McLouth, KS 66054  
Home: 785-863-3425  
E-mail: drrkidd@gmail.com

**Director at Large:  
Cynthia Rhodes**

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

**Director at Large:  
Jim Strine**

1900 Fort St.  
Hays, KS 67601-4304  
Home: 785-625-8940  
E-mail: jstrine@ksu.edu

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

# 2013 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 2013. 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 22, 2014 in Salina.

To nominate someone simply e-mail a nomination of 2,000 words (more or less) to drrkidd@gmail.com. Make sure you put full contact information for yourself and the nominee, including mailing and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Do it now! E-mail me if you'd like a cyber copy of the form. Thanks for your help with this very noteworthy program for wildlife conservation in Kansas. Get your nominations to us by December 10.

Randy Kidd  
CAP Chair  
16879 46th St.  
McLouth, KS 66054-4125  
drrkidd@gmail.com  
Ph. 785-863-3425

## A class for all ages ...

### By Phil Taunton KWF SE District Director

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood." Marie Curie

Welcome to the world of hunter education..... A young squirrel hunter sees movement in a tree, takes quick aim, squeezes the trigger, and the shot he chose to take will change his life forever. Concealed in the tree was a camouflaged bow hunter who plummeted to the ground with a fatal wound to the head.

A party of deer hunters sees their quarry standing on the crest of a hill and a couple of them recklessly shoot at the sky-lighted animal. A bullet travels some 500 yards over the hill and strikes a non-hunting father of three, who was driving a country road, checking on the family-owned land; an example of another incident, another

tragedy that could have been avoided. In reality, statistics show hunting is one of the safest sports there is.

A child, left at home to "baby-sit" a younger sibling, finds a firearm in his parent's dresser or closet that is loaded or has ammunition readily accessible. Draw your own conclusion!

What does the last dilemma have to do with being a safe hunter you might ask? A basic hunter education course teaches its students how to safely store firearms and ammunition in the home....a valuable life lesson to any responsible gun owner.

The two main goals of Hunter Education are to prevent hunting incidents and to ensure the future of our hunting heritage and tradition.

One of the sections of the course, "Principles of Wildlife Management"

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### CAP Nomination Form

To make a nomination, send this form with all attachments to: Randy Kidd, CAP Chairman, preferably electronically to drrkidd@gmail.com. by December 10

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 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.

## Official entry form 2013 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 develop-

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

### Conservation Education

For outstanding achievement in educating others in conservation. The process may be formal or informal. The nominations may be for leadership, which, by example 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.

# KWF establishes foundation

The Kansas Wildlife Federation has established the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation through the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation to ensure the future of the Kansas Wildlife Federation and its programs.

The official signing of documents took place Saturday, October 26, in Salina at the quarterly meeting of the Kansas Wildlife Federation Board of Directors.

Income from the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation will be used to further the mission of the organization: conserving and protecting wildlife and habitat; advocating for wildlife, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts; and informing and educating Kansans of all ages about nature and the outdoors.

Troy Schroeder, KWF President stated, "the Kansas Wildlife Federation chose the GNWKCF because of their successful business model and diversity of groups they represent. However KWF is a statewide organization and funds going into the foundation will be solicited and used for projects statewide."

Some Kansas Wildlife Federation Board of Directors have already made contributions individually to show their support of the newly formed Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation. Contributions can be made at any time to the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation, PO Box 771282, Wichita, KS 67277-1282. Anonymous donations can be made directly to GNWKCF P.O. Box 593 Bird City, KS 67731. Contributions can be in the form of cash, commodities, stocks, life insurance, equipment or real estate. Checks can be made to the KWF Foundation.

For more information on the KWF Foundation contact Troy Schroeder, KWF President, (785) 650-3182, Albert,



**KWF President Troy Schroeder, left, and Administrative Vice President Terry Sullivan, right, sign documents establishing the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation through the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation. Also pictured is Catherine Domsch, GNWKCF Executive Director.**

KS or [info@kswildlife.org](mailto:info@kswildlife.org); Nick Levendofsky, KWF Development Chairman, (785) 527-0941, Courtland, KS; or Catherine Domsch, Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation Executive Director, (785) 734-2556, Bird City, KS or [cathy@gnwkcf.org](mailto:cathy@gnwkcf.org).

The Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF) is a regional community foundation based in Bird City, Kansas. "Serving as the host for the Kansas Wildlife Federa-

tion Foundation is an honor for me, and an amazing fit for both organizations. GNWKCF focus' on rural community development, and the promotion of the traditions of hunting and fishing and conserving and protecting wildlife and habitat are essential to rural community development," stated Catherine Domsch, Executive Director of Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation. To learn more about GNWKCF, go to their website at [www.gnwkc.org](http://www.gnwkc.org).





# A call for 2014 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 2014 Annual Meeting February 22 in Salina, please send the proposed resolution to KWF by January 15, 2014 at KWF Resolutions P.O. Box 771282 Wichita, KS 67277-1282 or e-mail it to [info@kswildlife.org](mailto:info@kswildlife.org).

The proposed resolution will be reviewed Friday night, February 21 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 or [info@kswildlife.org](mailto:info@kswildlife.org).

## Example

### 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.

## CLASS

*Continued from Page 4*

teaches students about the carrying capacity of the land and the need all God's creatures have for food, water, shelter and space in order to survive...people included. Arrangement of these habitat components also comes into play.

The "Ethics and Responsibility" segment of this course, along with basic firearm handling and safety, is also very beneficial.

Respect is the one word I choose to use when relating to a responsible hunter.

Remember the Golden Rule? Do unto others as you wish they would do unto you. Hopefully that is still preached everywhere.

The responsible hunter must respect and care about all forms of wildlife, both game and non-game animals alike. Due to this respect, he will learn to conserve wildlife and our natural resources.

He knows a successful hunt is measured by the pleasure of the experience,

watching a hunting dog work, a child harvesting his first squirrel or rabbit for the table and the camaraderie of friends and fellow hunters.

The hunter must respect the land he hunts and the landowners. He must always strive to leave the areas he has privilege to hunt litter free and undamaged. Gates are to be left the way they are found and standing crops are never to be driven or trod upon.

A responsible hunter always gets permission to hunt on private lands. It's the law! Permission is sought long before the opening of hunting season when farmers are most likely not to be busy in the fields. A responsible hunter is also willing to share his bounty with the landowner.

He respects himself, and the rights of other hunters. He also respects the non-hunters he encounters such as hikers, bikers, fishermen, trappers and photographers. He understands everyone has the right and privilege to enjoy the woods and waters to their own liking, on public lands especially.

The responsible hunter believes in the concept of fair chase. Safe and ethical choices are never compromised. He respects, reads and obeys all hunting laws and chooses to follow a hunter's code of ethics.

"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that a hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever he does, is dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact." From A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold.

More volunteer hunter education instructors are always needed. It is exciting and very gratifying to watch as young people and whole families are welcomed to the time honored tradition of hunting. Watch as a light shines on the trail of ethics and responsibility leading them toward a life of enjoyment and appreciation of the Great Outdoors. And watch as each student finds an understanding of the unknown.

After all, isn't that what education is all about?

# Archery participation helps heal wounded warriors

**By Lance Cpl. Suzanna Knotts**

Sports offer more than competition. Multiple activities can provide a chance for healing, especially for Marines with Wounded Warrior Battalion West-Detachment Hawaii.

Several Marines with Wounded Warriors participate in the Marine Corps Trials, an eight-sport competition specifically created for wounded, ill and injured Marines. The sports offered are archery, shooting, cycling, track, field, swimming, sit down volleyball and wheelchair basketball. The annual competition is in its fourth year.

During archery practice, Capt. Chris McGleinnais discussed the positive impact the Marine Corps Trials have had on his life and his healing process.

"I have been struggling with Meniere's disease and traumatic brain injury since June 2011," said McGleinnais, a native of Orinda, Calif. "Meniere's disease is an inner ear disorder that affects my balance and hearing. This compiled with multiple concussions results in many side effects, like vertigo and trouble reading and focusing."

McGleinnais moved to the detachment in June 2012 from the base's Legal Services Center as a senior defense counsel. He began archery a month later,

having never picked up a bow before.

"Archery was my first choice because I'm limited to stationary sports due to my illness," McGleinnais said. "I participated in this year's trials and I think it's one of the best opportunities we have for wounded warriors. Archery develops mental discipline, which can help calm the body. I've learned to refine my coping skills. The therapeutic benefit to shooting is it helps clear my mind and gives me something positive to latch onto everyday."

Rachel Barbieto, the program manager of the Wounded Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program, said about five athletes participate in archery at the trials from the Hawaii detachment.

"They train about four times a week for between one to three hours," said Barbieto, a native of Rockingham, N.C. "Competing in the Marine Corps Trials is challenging, mentally and physically. The 10 days of the trials are intense. Each Marine must participate in two sports, but some of them choose to do three or more. The 12-hour days are demanding, but the Marines prevail."

Barbieto said at the 2013 trials one Marine from the Hawaii detachment, former Sgt. Clayton McDaniel, won the gold medal and went on to compete at the Warrior Games in May. She said

there were more than 100 competitors this year at the Marine Corps Trials.

"The top 50 at the trials are chosen by the coaching staff to be on the all Marine team that competes against the Army, Navy, Air Force, special forces and allies at the Warrior Games," Barbieto said. "The Warrior Games are held at the United States Olympic Training Center and it's quite an honor to be chosen."

McGleinnais said the Hawaii Marine athletes are a force not to be overlooked.

"We train with less equipment than the other wounded warrior detachments receive," McGleinnais said. "So our achievements are a good testament to our spirit."

The Marine Corps Trials will be held in March at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. McGleinnais is practicing and hopes to participate.

With the snap of a bowstring, McGleinnais discussed the drive that helps him to heal.

"I've been told to never feel comfortable in life so that you progress and constantly push," McGleinnais said. "It's hard to live by this when you feel like your whole world has fallen apart. But through therapy, you can turn 'I can't' into 'what can I do?'"

## Importance of waters, wetlands documented in new EPA report

A recently released report by the Environmental Protection Agency fairly and accurately documents the connectivity of wetlands and streams to downstream waters, according to a panel of prominent aquatic scientists who discussed the report's findings in a conference call Thursday. These wetlands and streams support a range of fish and wildlife species as well as sportsmen's ability to access high-quality hunting and fishing opportunities.

Titled "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters," the EPA report will guide development of

a soon-to-be-release rule clarifying the federal Clean Water Act's role in safeguarding the so-called "waters of the United States." According to the EPA, the report represents the state of the science on the connectivity of waters in the United States. According to sportsmen, the report and related rulemaking play a key role in conserving the streams and wetlands important to all Americans, especially hunters and anglers.

"The report is a very good synthesis of the science that riparian and floodplain wetlands are, as a category, physically, chemically and biologically

connected with rivers," said Scott Yaich, director of conservation programs with Ducks Unlimited and a participant in today's call.

"However, with respect to what the EPA calls 'unidirectional wetlands,' which includes wetlands as diverse as the prairie potholes of the Dakotas, the Carolina bays of the East Coast and the playa lakes of Texas and the southern Great Plains, their scientists were - not surprisingly - unable to draw a broadly applicable conclusion," Yaich contin-

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## 2013 NWTF Kansas State JAKES Camp

157 people, including 80 JAKES members attended the 2013 NWTF Kansas State JAKES Camp at beautiful White Memorial Camp just north of Council Grove, KS, on September 14th & 15th.

Saturday's activities included "Deer Hunting 101" with Synthia Wilson; "Fishing" with instructors Mark Osmundson & George Dille; "Turkey Calling" with Ray Eye; "Trap & Still Shooting" instructed by Kirk Hammond, Rick Hammond Jr., Dan Drake, and Andy Blaylock; "The World of Sporting Dogs" with Phil Taunton, Logan Fuller, and Dalton Meyer; "Quail in Kansas" presented by the Council Grove Chapter of Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation members Chris Grant, Terry Adams, C.L. Henton, and Don True; "Archery" instructed by Gary Keehn, Tim Sparks, and Daryl Blaylock; "Arts & Crafts" taught by Jancy Pettit, Tami Cushenbery, and Theresa McFarland; and "Canoeing" with certified lifeguard Kat Colburn,

with the assistance of Justin Sharples, and Doug Cushenbery.

The JAKES Take Aim range was set-up so the youth could test their BB gun shooting skills.

Saturday evening the 4th Annual Kansas State JAKES Turkey Calling contest was held. 26 JAKES and Xtreme JAKES members entered the contest. In the JAKES Division, the winners were: 1st place Kansas State Champion: Mary Paige Bramlett, 2nd place: Isaac Cushenbery, 3rd place Chandler Brake. In the Xtreme JAKES Division, the winners were: 1st place Kansas State Champion: Matthew Bacon. 2nd place: Kohl Prose, 3rd place: Audri Turner. Judges included Ray Eye, John Adams, Vance Ralstin, and Brian Lewellen. After the Kansas State Turkey Calling contest, turkey hunting legend Ray Eye entertained the packed house with a variety of turkey hunting and personal stories. The evening concluded with S'mores being made around the camp fire.

Sunday's activities began with a well-attended Sunrise Service with Pastor Gary Cargill. After a breakfast of the famous White Memorial Camp pancakes, the activities included "Turkey Biology & Management" presented by Brandon Houck; "Predator Calling" with Mick Bowman; and the Milford Nature Center staff presented a program on birds of prey with live birds. After lunch, a drawing was held where all JAKES members received a prize.

White Memorial Camp proved to be a beautiful location with wonderful facilities. Camp Director, Jancy Pettit went out of her way to make sure all needs were taken care of! Everyone attending had nothing but good things to say about the event and facilities. Kansas State JAKES Coordinators Brian Lewellen and Gib Rhodes are already looking forward to the 2014 NWTF Kansas State JAKES Camp at White Memorial on September 13th & 14th. There's bound to be some surprises and some new and exciting activities!

## Avoid fall plowing — Leave food and cover for wildlife

Fall tillage practices, even reduced tillage techniques such as disking and chisel plowing, can eliminate waste grains and crop residue that provides important food and cover for species such as pheasants, quail, partridge, turkey, and deer.

Studies of harvested untilled crop fields show wildlife consume 55-85 percent of the waste corn and soybeans between fall harvest and the following

spring.

The corn stubble and stalks remaining in untilled cornfields also provide concealment cover for pheasants, quail, and partridge, so the birds are not so exposed to predators when feeding in the winter, said Todd Bogenschutz, wildlife research biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Research shows even reduced tillage methods, such as disking and chisel

plowing, reduce waste grains available to wildlife by 80 percent and reduce crop stubble by 50 percent or more.

Farmers and landowners can leave a free food plot for wildlife by simply not fall plowing their fields, said Bogenschutz.

"No till farming is a great way to leave food and cover for wildlife. Leaving stubble is also a great way to capture soil moisture for next year," he said.





**Michael Meyer, Lawrence, addresses a Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues in Prairie Village sponsored by the Kansas Natural Resources Council and Prairie Village Environmental Committee.**

## Whats in your drinking water?

**By Cindy Higgins**  
**KWF Board Member**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the amount of contaminants such as pesticides, bacteria and metals in drinking water provided by public water systems. But in the last decade increasing attention has been paid to pharmaceuticals and personal care product contamination in water, which was the subject of the Oct. 3 Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues in Prairie Village sponsored by the Kansas Natural Resources Council and Prairie Village Environmental Committee.

At the event, Michael Meyer, Lawrence, who heads the USGS Kansas Water Science Center Organic Geochemistry Research Laboratory,

told of a Colorado study involving a dam and experimental study of white suckers who could get over a dam but not return upstream. The upstream sucker population had a 50-50, male-female population. Downstream, Meyer said, the population was “90-95 percent female – a big skew in fish exposed to wastewater effluent.”

A colleague, Meyer said, followed up on that study by looking at fat-head minnows in varying levels of wastewater effluence. After seven days in the concentrated wastewater mix, aggressive fish behavior ceased and nuptial tubercle bumps, a sign of masculine sexual virility, decreased. Citing the estrogen levels in the water, Meyer said, “These things indicate that wastewater effluence caused skewed sex population in the fish.”

Later, Meyer mentioned that atrazine in streams at first was thought not to affect frogs, but now studies show even very low concentrations might be disrupting frog populations. For example, University of California, Berkeley, researchers found atrazine exposure emasculate lab frogs and turn one out of every ten into females. Earlier studies established that atrazine and other pesticides compromised the immune systems of frogs in Midwestern streams, making them more susceptible to bacterial disease. (See Pesticide Atrazine Can Turn Male Frogs Into Females [<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100301151927.htm>] and Frogs Feminized, but Atrazine’s Effects on People Uncertain [<http://>

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# Mercury pollution impacting recreational fishing

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. address to Concert for the Climate Group

Environmentalism has emerged as our nation's most important civil rights issue, says Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Natural Resources Defense Council senior attorney and Water-keeper Alliance president-at-large. Government's role is to protect the commons, he maintains, because natural resources are the nation's social safety net.

During his Sept. 29 keynote speech at Concert for the Climate ([www.concertfortheclimate.org](http://www.concertfortheclimate.org)) overlooking the confluence of the Missouri and Kaw Rivers in Kansas City, Kan., Kennedy addressed fishing, a pastime he claims is victimized by powerful political entities, and focused on rising mercury levels in American waterway-caught fish.

"Last August the National Academy of Sciences released a 10-year study saying that every freshwater fish now has dangerous levels of mercury in its flesh. This mercury is coming from those coal plants. We are now living a science fiction nightmare where my children, every child in Kansas, and most of the children in United States of America can no longer engage in the seminal activity of youth, which is going fishing with their father and mother at the local fishing hole and coming home

to safely eat the fish because of the political power of these coal plant.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control, one out of every six women has dangerous levels of mercury in her womb. I fish a lot. I eat the fish. My levels were 10 times what EPA considers safe. I was told by Dr. David Carpenter, the national authority on mercury contamination, that a woman with my levels would have children with permanent brain damage. I said, 'you mean she might have.' He said, 'no, science is certain.' At my level, a child would be born with a permanent IQ loss of 5 to 7 points.

"So, today, according to CDC, there are 640,000 children born in this county every day exposed to dangerous levels of mercury in their mothers' wombs that would cause them to lose an IQ point or have a grim inventory of other diseases including autism; blindness; mental retardation; or heart, liver, kidney disease. These are costs of coal imposed on us. They are telling us coal costs 11 cents a kilowatt hour. They are not telling us about these other costs we are paying because we are dependent on coal."

Mercury contamination isn't a new topic for Kennedy. But it's one that

has gained additional importance to him after this year's international treaty negotiations regarding global emissions of mercury. In addition, a recent report by the Biodiversity Research Institute and IPEN, the network of 700 public interest organizations in 116 countries, documented mercury levels exceeding health advisory levels linked to pollution from coal-burning power plants, small scale mining, and other industrial sources.

In his weekly blog, Kennedy wrote: "The United States is only now starting to see progress in reducing mercury emissions. In America, citizen action forced EPA to adopt the first ever mercury and air toxics rule in 2012. This rule will prevent 90% of the mercury in coal burned at power plants from being emitted into the air."

Read more from this blog entry ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-f-kennedy-jr/we-need-a-mercury-treaty-\\_b\\_2457376.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-f-kennedy-jr/we-need-a-mercury-treaty-_b_2457376.html)) and also Kansas' 2013 revised fish consumption advisories ([http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web\\_archives/2013/01082013a.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/news/web_archives/2013/01082013a.htm)) set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

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## SPECIES

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[www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2013/atrazine-health](http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2013/atrazine-health).)

Ultimately, "The things we use every day in our lives make their way

into surface water and groundwater," Meyer said. "They are in different media and distributed differently at the sources, so they are applied differently in the environment."

Note: Johnson County has a permanent drop-off for prescriptions and over-the-counter medicine at the county sheriff's office and also hosts

collection sites on national take-back events. If these options aren't available, dispose of medicine by mixing it with an unpalatable substance such as used coffee grounds and then put the mix in a sealed container such as a plastic bag before placing in household trash.



# Nature's benefits for seniors

Regular contact with natural world can help provide health, happiness and a longer life

**By John Carey**  
**Freelance Writer**

It's been a few years since Alida Struze last marveled at the canyons of Zion National Park, the glaciers of Alaska or the fjords of Norway. But at age 92, she still regularly ventures down to the Lake Erie waterfront from her Cleveland home to watch the sun set over the lake. "If you wait a few minutes you'll see a beautiful afterglow, the clouds lined with gold," she says. And along with memories of her far-flung trips and the perennial beauty and fragrance of roses and daffodils, those sunsets bring Struze, a long-time NWF supporter, a joy and appreciation for the natural world that's helped sustain her through a long and productive life. Until three years ago, she was still serving as a social worker for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, which provides legal help to low-income residents. "Loving people and loving nature are the only talents I have," she says.

Now Struze worries that too many people—especially the nation's elderly—are losing that essential connection to nature. "It's killing us," she says.

Struze's fear may be literally true. In a study published in 2002, Japanese researchers asked a simple question: In a group of seniors who otherwise seem similar, why do some live longer than others? To find out, the researchers rounded up the records of more than 3,000 Tokyo residents between 74 and 89 years old in 1992, charted how many of those seniors were alive five years later and tried to explain variations in longevity. Two differences jumped out. People who lived near parks and green spaces where they could walk and those who spent more time in sunlight were far more likely to be alive after five years than those who had neither. The researchers concluded that providing more walkable green spaces in cities would boost the health of senior citizens.

The Japanese study and Struze's life raise more questions about the role of the outdoors and nature than they answer. Perhaps those who amble through parks,

climb mountains, tend gardens or cast for trout are just healthier to begin with. Perhaps working out in a gym or power walking through shopping malls, both proven methods for enhancing seniors' health, are just as beneficial as tromping through the woods or watching birds. To figure this out, Jacqueline Kerr, assistant professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of California—San Diego (UCSD), is trying to get support for a randomized clinical trial that would divide similar seniors into groups that are physically active or not, inside or outside. Until such a study is done, "we don't have definitive answers," she says.

Like many other researchers, though, Kerr believes that being outside, especially in a natural setting, offers something extra, whether it's an additive beneficial effect from the body making more Vitamin D when out in the sun or something more ineffable. One of her own studies, for instance, shows that elderly people engage in more physical activity when they do it outside. And improved health from contact with nature just makes sense. "We're Cro-Magnons—no different from the guy with a spear chasing the woolly mammoth," says Andrew Duxbury, associate professor of medicine in the University of Alabama—Birmingham's Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics and Palliative Care. "We are designed to be outdoor creatures. We need to be outside, not huddled around the TV set."

You certainly won't find Ken Kurtz glued to the couch. Three times a week, the 82-year-old Santa Fe, New Mexico, architect meets with members of an informal group he founded, the Over the Arroyo Gang, to hike along a rushing mountain stream or to snowshoe on trails above 10,000 feet. Kurtz even gave up designing houses a few years ago to have more time for hiking and for the special camaraderie that comes from sharing the experience of the natural world. Sometimes, a companion may wonder if getting a workout on a treadmill might be easier. Kurtz's reply: "No way. What you

are thinking about is different when you are outside. Rather than going to a gym because you think you ought to, hiking in all that beauty is something you can't resist doing. The fact that it is healthy is an added plus."

Plenty of benefits can be acquired from a close connection to nature without scaling peaks or taking other strenuous actions. In fact, many studies have shown that patients whose hospital rooms look out over parks or green spaces recuperate faster after surgery than do those without a view, says UCSD's Kerr. That's why there's a nascent movement, called the Eden Alternative or the Green Alternative, to get nursing homes to put elderly residents in touch with nature. The elderly "need connectiveness to the world," Duxbury explains. "They need to be out among green, growing things, around animals and around children—all things usually banned from nursing homes." Gardens can be especially important. "One of the chief needs of a human being is to be needed," Duxbury says. Meeting that need for the old and infirm is a challenge, but "one way to do it is gardening and taking care of plants."

For those fortunate not to require nursing-home care, connecting to nature and to wild things also brings rich rewards. After moving to Orinda, California, in 1976, Chuck and Jane Rubey joined NWF, put up a bird feeder and created a habitat for wildlife. "It has sort of grown on us," Chuck says. After retiring from IBM in 1992, Chuck took up wildlife photography, and the couple began to travel, often on NWF trips. They watched wolves in Yellowstone, polar bears in Norway, tortoises in the Galápagos and whales in Maui. When Jane, now 75, was recovering from cancer, being able to sit by the kitchen window and watch the birds in her NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat® site "was immensely important," recalls husband Chuck.

"The older I get, the more this starts to be spiritually connected," he says. "You start to see that your life isn't unlimited

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Jason Lugo/Getty

## If you hate hunting, you are a hypocrite (probably)

The anti-hunting sentiment within the green community needs rethinking

**By Linda Sharps**  
**TakePart.com**

Offended yet? Well, it's true, especially for environmentalists: If you're anti hunting, you're a hypocrite.

You get a free pass on this stance if you're a vegan. If you truly abhor the commodity status of animals and you avoid any and all animal products, then you can hate hunting all you want. I don't share your ethical objections, but I respect them and I salute your devotion to a plant-based diet and its tragic absence of cheese.

Instead of being a word the green community shuns, "hunting" should be a term associated closely with the conscious living movement. However, if you eat meat and you still think hunting is

morally wrong ... well, I don't get it. Why is a steak that's all nicely packaged and available for purchase at the grocery store considered perfectly acceptable, while heading out into the woods to claim your own venison is barbaric? Oh, "Hunting for food instead of sport is OK," you say? Then why the angry knee-jerk reaction to the word "hunting" in the first place?

I definitely understand how a person can have no personal interest in becoming a hunter. I've never hunted an animal and I likely never will, for plenty of reasons including the ungodly hour hunters often rise in the morning and an overall lack of skill when it comes to aiming a weapon.

I wasn't raised as a hunter, but my husband was. He takes great pleasure in tromping through freezing rain-sodden

woods in the hopes of filling his deer tag, spending time with his crew and, I suspect, holding ongoing competitions to see who can blast off the biggest gorp-fueled farts as they push the timber together.

He enjoys his hunting outings, but the end result isn't about taking an animal's life for kicks. What he kills, we eat. It seems to me that eating venison or elk meat is a much better ethical alternative than eating what's produced from the current industrial agricultural system. You want an organic, sustainably harvested meal? You fancy yourself a locavore? Let us cast our collective gaze to the woods: nature's original farmer's market.

Wild animals aren't kept in tiny pens or dosed with chemicals. They aren't fat-

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## EPA

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ued. “Nevertheless, the science that was compiled demonstrates that a great many of these wetlands are connected to and have significant impacts on downstream waters.”

With the September release of this report and the rulemaking, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers opened a new chapter - and in the view of sportsmen a welcome chapter - on the issue of wetlands and streams management. This includes the opportunity to resolve inconsistencies resulting from conflicting Supreme Court decisions concerning what constitutes the “waters of the United States” - and therefore which wetlands and streams the federal government has jurisdiction to regulate - and subsequent agency guidance.

“Overall I was pleased with the depth and breadth of the report in its review of the physical, chemical, and biological connections between headwater streams and downstream water bodies,” said Helen Neville, Ph.D., a

research scientist for Trout Unlimited who spoke during the teleconference. “Working primarily in the arid West, I can’t over-emphasize the importance of small, connected and healthy headwater streams for a unique, iconic Western native trout species like the Lahontan cutthroat trout, and I commend the report authors for thorough science review of stream connectivity.”

“The report is correct in saying that the effects of small water bodies in a watershed need to be considered in aggregate,” said Joy Zedler, Aldo Leopold professor of restoration ecology, Botany Department and Arboretum, University of Wisconsin-Madison, who also participated in the scientist forum. “Wetlands are essential to the physical, chemical and biological integrity of watersheds precisely because they work together to cleanse the water, abate the floods, recharge water supplies and store carbon. And we should not forget the ways in which aggregated wetlands serve biodiversity. This is especially true throughout the Prairie Pothole Region.”

Ducks Unlimited, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Wild-

life Federation, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and Trout Unlimited convened the forum to illustrate the importance of the new report in the Clean Water Act’s ability to maintain and restore the integrity of the nation’s waters and wetlands.

“Simply put, the Clean Water Act cannot work well if there is confusion about which waters are protected by its provisions and which are not,” said moderator Steve Moyer, vice president for government affairs at Trout Unlimited. “Key to answering this central water policy question is the science documenting the roles played by headwater streams and wetlands - resources that are central to fish, wildlife and our nation’s invaluable sporting traditions - in the health of rivers, lakes and bays downstream.”

*In a late action, U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said on October 30 her agency pulled a Clean Water Act guidance aimed at clarifying federal oversight of wetlands and isolated streams because the issue merited a public rulemaking process. The guidance was yanked the same day that the agency sent a draft regulation to the White House for review.*

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## HUNTING

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tened up on grains that consume massive amounts of water, land, and synthetic fertilizer. They aren’t causing deforestation from clustered grazing, eroding soil, releasing intensive greenhouse gas emissions, or draining non-renewable resources.

Plus, hunting can be an effective population management tool. For instance, across most of the U.S., man has become the only useful deer predator. Thanks to our own habits of developing over animal habitats, we don’t have enough wolves and cougars any more to keep deer in check. Conservation efforts aren’t just about keeping deer from overrunning our own crops and groundcovers; they’re about ensuring the wellbeing of the species.

Instead of being a word the green

community shuns, “hunting” should be a term associated closely with the conscious living movement, similar to the way we think about farmers with free-range or free-roaming flocks or fisherman committed to sustainability.

The bottom line, of course, is that plenty of people are always going to be disgusted by hunting. Here’s a comment I received on my introductory post here at TakePart, in which I described our devotion to the outdoors and my husband’s love for hunting:

A healthy attitude includes not only to consider garbage reduction but also stop killing animals for fun. Please, try to teach to be friendly with nature in all its aspects.

Right. Well, again, that’s an understandable point of view—if you’re a vegan. But a lot of people saying this kind of thing are not. The belief that buying meat at Safeway is normal but hunting is not would only be a “healthy attitude” if you were some kind of scavenger. Because

however neatly that ribeye has been wrapped in plastic, the truth is someone else took and processed a live animal for your dinner. And honestly, odds are that it lived a shitty life, and died a pretty terrible death.

Our boys are being raised as my husband was, with hunting a deeply familiar part of our family life. But already my eight-year-old has the understanding that many people believe hunting is bad. He was recently reluctant to write about hunting on a homework assignment in which he was asked to describe his interests. “I don’t want my teacher to get upset,” he told us, worried.

Whatever choices my kids make regarding hunting when they’re older, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt they will cherish the memories of being in the woods with their dad. I also hope they eventually understand that other people may disagree with our choices ... but that doesn’t mean they should ever be ashamed.



# Kansas red fall colors

## Bleeding Kansas

by Elby Anderson  
KWF Board Member

The phrase bleeding Kansas usually refers to the violent period in the 1850s prior to the Civil War when Kansas was already a battleground between pro-slavery and free state forces. But those who love the outdoors can easily find a metaphor for bleeding Kansas as the fall foliage offers a definite sanguine appearance.

Garlands of blood red Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) wrap around golden cottonwoods and ash trees and even an occasional red cedar.

Swaths of crimson paint the flanks of the Flint Hills where smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) displays the color of blood in the autumn sun.

Woody vines and shrubs aren't the only artists putting red in the landscape. Species such as pigweed (*Amaranthus palmeri*), smartweed (*Polygonum hydro-piper*) and pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) offer fall colors with their scarlet stems and, in the case of the pokeweed, its purple-red berries as well.

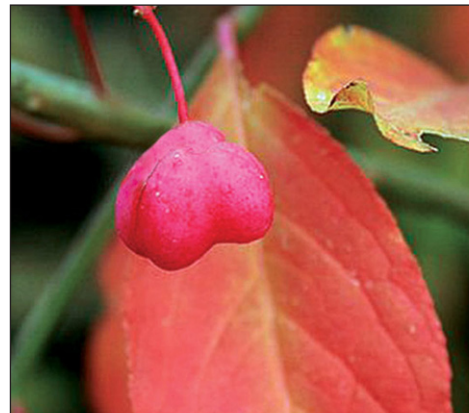
The gooseberry (*Ribes* spp.) has leaves that stand out as bright red patches in riparian areas and the coral berry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) adds tiny bits of purple and red as its berries dot the fall landscape.

Many other plants ranging from rough-leaved dogwood to both big and little bluestem grasses offer tints and hints of purples and reds as well.

Late in the fall eastern wahoo (*Eu-*



Smooth Sumac photo by Ted Beringer



Eastern Wahoo photo courtesy of the Kansas Native Plant Society

*onymus atropurpureus*) brings a bright red in both foliage and bright three-part berries described as fuchsia colored. But sometimes this plant is startling red to those who find it along rocky outcroppings and as an understory shrub or small tree. The color is another welcome relief as fall moves toward the drab grey of November.

While the original term bleeding Kansas evokes memories of violence and tragedy, the fall colors of many Kansas plants and trees simply remind us of the beauty of our states' natural wonders.

## SENIORS

*Continued from Page 12*

anymore, and to be able to see all these magnificent creatures and witness the wonders of wildlife become more important. It brings a feeling of goodness," he says.

Out at the University of California—Los Angeles, geriatric psychiatrist Dr. Helen Lavretsky makes good use of

that feeling in her patients. She finds that walks in the woods or the outdoor yoga classes she leads can be very effective in reducing stress and improving health. "I haven't seen a single patient who attributes joy to shoe shopping," she says. "But just being outside is a major pleasure, and being in nature is a powerful thing. It's in our roots. It's essential for our sleep, our mood, our health. It's the ultimate pleasure of being connected to the Earth."

Even without definitive studies

unequivocally proving the benefits of this connection, say experts like Kerr and Lavretsky, the policy prescription is clear: To improve the well-being and health of the nation's elderly, the country should figure out how to bring the great outdoors and the natural world into the lives of more of its seniors so that more people can experience the joy of a Lake Erie sunset, a hike along a rushing mountain stream or the howl of a wolf in the wild.

# Oh, Deer! Whitetails Unlimited urges caution while driving this fall

## By Whitetails Unlimited

Collisions between cars and white-tailed deer are common in the fall, and drivers need to be alert to the danger, according to Whitetails Unlimited Executive Director Pete Gerl. “Drivers need to be aware that deer are more active in the fall as the breeding season approaches,” Gerl said. “There are hundreds of thousands of accidents with deer nationwide, and the only effective way to prevent them is for drivers to be alert to the danger.”

Car-deer accidents peak during the fall for several reasons. As the weather cools in the fall deer start to move toward their wintering areas. As the fall breeding season approaches both does and bucks become more active. In addition, deer feed even more in the fall to build up reserves for the cold winter months, and much of this feeding activity takes place during the dusk and dawn hours. During all of this activity more deer are crossing more roads as they move across the countryside.

There are a number of things a driver can do to avoid deer collisions this time of year:

- Be more cautious while driving at all times. Deer are normally more active between dusk and dawn and are crossing roads during the night when visibility

for drivers is at the lowest.

- Reduce your speed and watch the edges of the road, as well as ditches and tree lines along the highway. At night, drive within the limits of your headlights and use your high beams when you are able to. Headlights will pick up reflections from a deer’s eyes long before you will be able to see the entire deer. Slow down when you see these reflections.

- Deer often travel in groups. If you see one deer, assume there are others around.

- Deer crossing signs along the highway are there for a reason – deer are known to cross the road in that area. Be extra cautious whenever you see a deer crossing sign.

- If a collision with a deer is inevitable, avoid violent swerving to miss the deer – do not cross the centerline into oncoming traffic. Most experts advise hitting the deer instead of swerving sharply into the side of the road and possibly losing control of the vehicle, hitting a roadside object, or rolling the vehicle.

- Always wear seatbelts – driver and passengers.

- If you do hit a deer, call 911 if there are injuries or if your vehicle is disabled. Insurance companies normally require a police report if there is

damage that needs to be repaired. Do not approach a deer that is injured but still alive. It will be scared and want to flee, and you can be injured by hooves or antlers. Police officers and game wardens are permitted to destroy injured animals, but it is usually not legal for individuals to kill a deer out of season or without a license.

Seeing a deer in the woods is a wonderful treat, but it’s scary when you see one near the road. Be careful out there. November, the heart of the deer hunting and mating season, is the month during which deer-vehicle encounters are most likely. October is the second most likely month for a crash involving a deer.

On October 27, three Kansas were killed in deer-related accidents. The Kansas Highway Patrol offered the following guidance on what to do before and after hitting a deer:

- ♦ It is better to hit a deer than to swerve, which can lead to overcorrecting and going off the road;

- ♦ Drivers of vehicles disabled by collision by collision or otherwise should move them off the road if possible;

- ♦ It is better to remain inside until help arrives, and

- ♦ Anyone who must get out should keep hazard lights activated and be alert for other traffic.

## Safe cold-weather boating

Boating during the winter requires added precautions to ensure safety

Following basic safe boating rules is necessary whenever you’re on the water, but it takes on a new level of importance when the water is cold. As a rule of thumb, if the sum of the air and water temperatures added together equals less than 100 degrees and you fall into the water, you could be looking at a hypothermic situation.

Hypothermia occurs when your body loses heat faster than it can produce it, and cold water robs the body of heat 25 times faster than cold air. When your core body temperature drops below

normal (98.6 degrees F), you become hypothermic. Your preparation and how you handle yourself following a fall into cold water will determine your odds of survival.

Remember the “1-10-1” rule. If you fall overboard, you usually have one minute to get your breathing under control. An involuntary gasp occurs when your body encounters the cold water, and this can cause you to breathe in a large amount of water, which can lead to drowning. After the initial shock, you will experience about one minute of

deep and uncontrolled breathing. Calming yourself will be easier if you’re wearing a life jacket because it will keep your head above the water line and help you avoid breathing in mouthfuls of water.

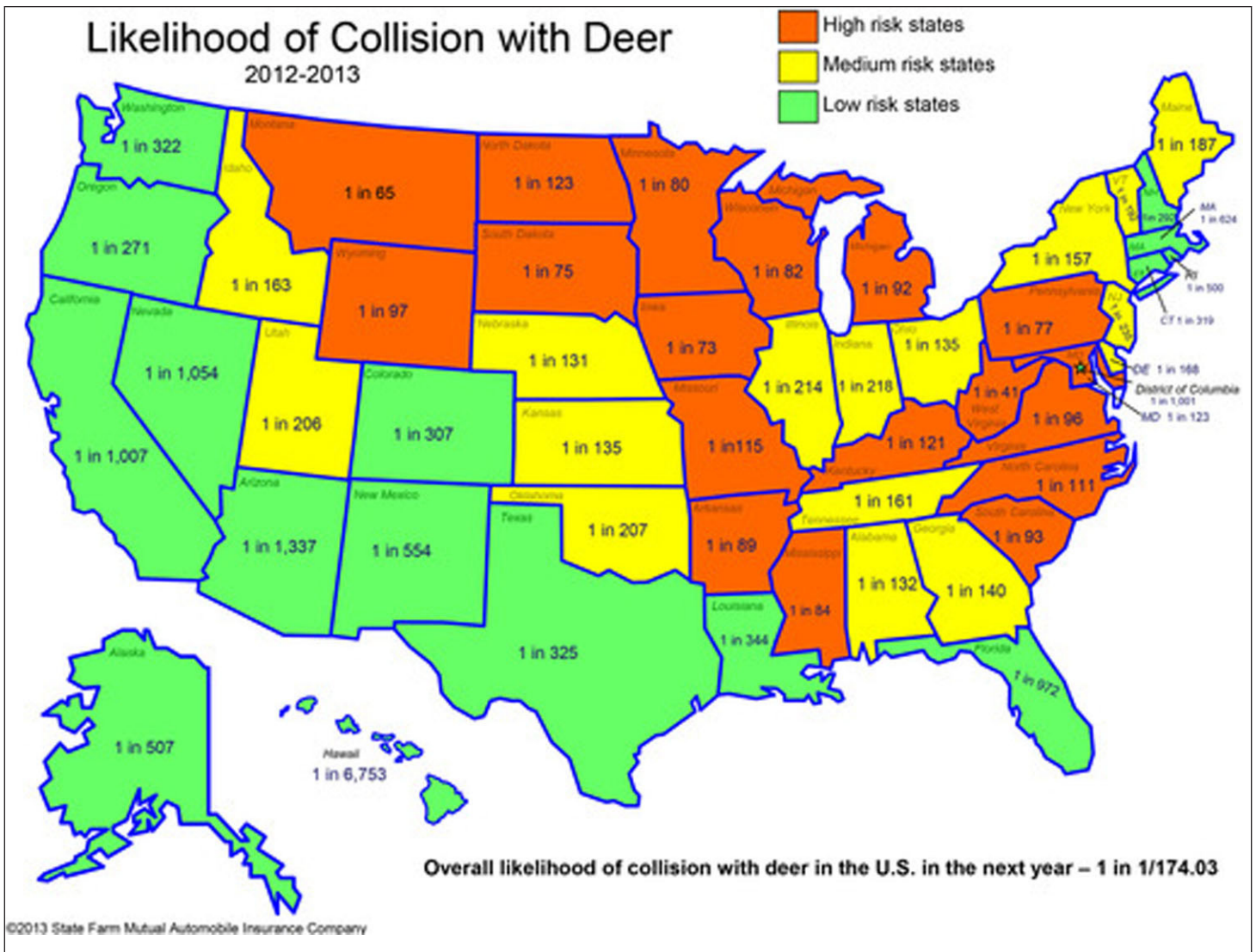
Over the next ten minutes, your blood flow will start to move away from your hands and feet in order to keep your body’s core warm. The body instinctively attempts to keep vital organs warm and functioning. This af-

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# West Virginia still No. 1, with a bumper



**State Farm chart listing projected number of deer-vehicle collisions by state, likelihood of deer-vehicle collisions for each state, and state rankings based on the likelihood ratios.**

**By J.R. Absher**  
**The Archery Wire**

An indication that deer numbers are leveling off and perhaps decreasing in some portions of the whitetail-rich states from the Great Plains to the East comes from an unlikely source, and one not connected with any state or federal game agency, biology-based institute or professional organization of wildlife scientists.

Right around the first of October for the better part of the past couple decades, (deliberately coinciding with hunting seasons and increased deer activity, we're certain), the nation's largest car insurer, State Farm Insurance, has issued its annual report on deer/vehicular collisions.

sions.

And, for four of the past five years, the overall number of deer-related accidents on America's roadways has been declining, according to the Bloomington, Illinois-based company. Frankly, we'd say its data is probably just as indicative of the country's deer population as any state game agency survey results.

Not that we doubt state agency deer-herd data, of course.

State Farm estimates 1.22 million collisions caused by the presence of deer between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, a 3.5 percent decrease from a year earlier, when an estimated 1.23 million collisions occurred between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

A year earlier, the nation's leading auto insurer estimated 1.09 million collisions involving deer in the U.S. between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, which was 9 percent less than three years earlier and 7 percent less than the previous year.

And while the number of deer-related collisions in the U.S. over the last five years has increased by 2.0 percent, when taking into account the increase in the number of vehicles on the nation's roadways over that period, the likelihood of any one of those drivers being the victim of a deer-vehicle confrontation has

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# BOATING

*Continued from Page 16*

fects nerves and muscles farther away from your core, limiting their ability to function. It is during this crucial time that any attempt at self rescue should be made. Get out of the water. Even if your boat is capsized and upside down, crawling onto the part of the boat that is still above water will increase your odds of survival. If you are not wearing a life jacket and can't get out of the water, you will eventually lose the ability to tread water or swim due to the lack of response from your arms and legs.

Keeping your core protected can help

keep you conscious longer, and using the Heat Escape Lessening Position (HELP) will keep your core warmer longer. Wearing a life jacket makes the HELP position easier; you just pull your legs up to your chest and hug your knees. This keeps your body compact and surrounds your chest with protection. If you are in the water with other people, you can huddle together and share warmth. Most people will lose consciousness in one hour, but if you are wearing a life jacket, your face will be above the water and you will still be able to breathe even if you start to fade.

Always dress for the weather by wearing layers that can be removed if the weather warms, and avoid cotton clothing. Cotton will keep the water

trapped by your body instead of wicking it away, and it takes a long time to dry. But if you do end up soaking wet, never remove your clothing and shoes unless you have a dry set to change into. Even though the clothes are cold and wet, they provide insulation to your body and will actually keep you warmer. By understanding how hypothermia affects your body and the 1-10-1 rule -- one minute to control your breathing, 10 minutes to rescue yourself and one hour before you lose consciousness -- you can increase your chance for survival if you run into problems while boating in cold water. Of course, wearing life jacket is always the smart choice while boating during any time of the year.

# DEER

*Continued from Page 17*

dropped 2.5 percent during that period.

What hasn't changed over the past several years is the state with the greatest odds for a driver to have a venison-related fender bender.

For the seventh year in a row, deer-vehicle confrontations are most probable in West Virginia. The chances of any single licensed driver in The Mountain State hitting a deer between now and a year from now are 1 in 41, but reflect an 8.3 percent decrease from a year earlier. Montana, (1 in 65) remained second on the likelihood list. Iowa (1 in 73) moved up one spot to third. South Dakota (1 in 75) drops from third to fourth and

Pennsylvania (1 in 77) remained fifth. In each of the top five states, the probability of a deer-related collision for any given vehicle is less than it was a year ago.

Among the 41 states where deer-related were most likely, this year's decline in likelihood was particularly notable in North Dakota (24.8 percent) and Nebraska (22.0 percent). The probability of deer-vehicle collisions dropped by 12.6 percent in South Dakota. Michigan had the fourth largest decline (11.4 percent). Kansas (11.3 percent decline) rounded out the top five.

In case you're wondering, the state where deer-vehicle mishaps are least likely is Hawaii (1 in 6,787).

Not surprisingly, State Farm's data shows that November, at the heart of the deer hunting seasons and rut, is the

month when deer/car encounters are most likely. Approximately 18 percent of all accidents take place during the 30 days of November.

Deer-vehicle collisions are three times more likely to occur on a day in November than they are on any day between February 1 and August 31. October is the second most likely month for a crash involving a deer and a vehicle. December is third.

The average property damage cost of these incidents during the final half of 2012 and the first half of 2013 was \$3,414, up 3.3 percent from the year before.

For state-by-state maps and data from State Farm, go to: <http://www.multivu.com/mnr/56800-state-farm-survey-show-u-s-deer-vehicle-collisions-decline>

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# New research shows hunters increasingly motivated by the meat

Reasons include the recession, the locavore movement and more women hunting

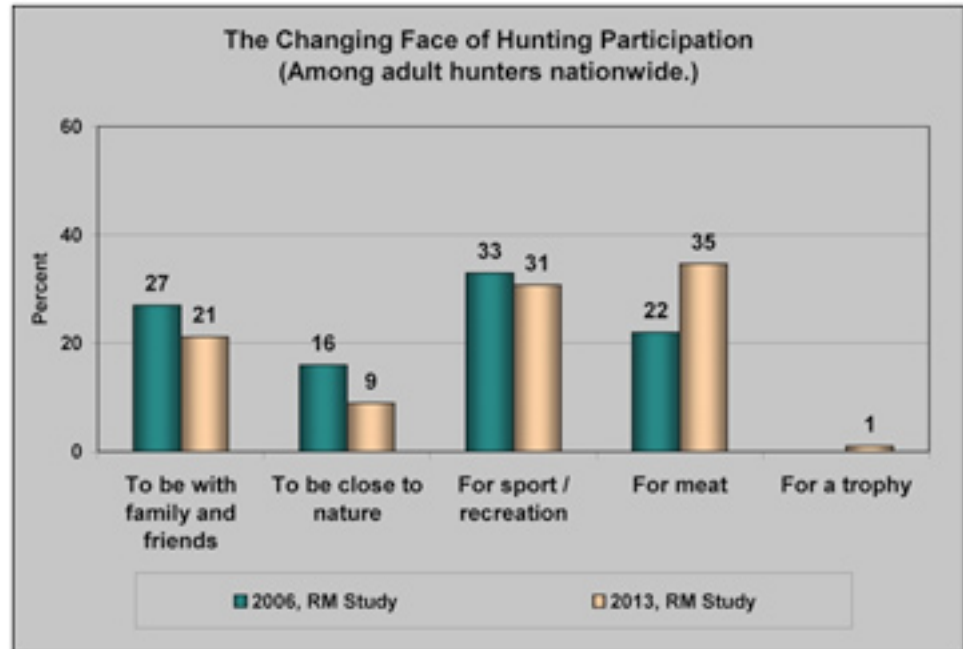
**By Mark Damian Duda**  
**Responsive Management**

Recent national and state-level research conducted by Responsive Management reveals that obtaining meat is an increasingly important motivation among American hunters to go afield. While there are several reasons for this growth in the segment of hunters who engage in hunting for utilitarian reasons, several of Responsive Management's new studies make clear that the trend is widespread and unmistakable.

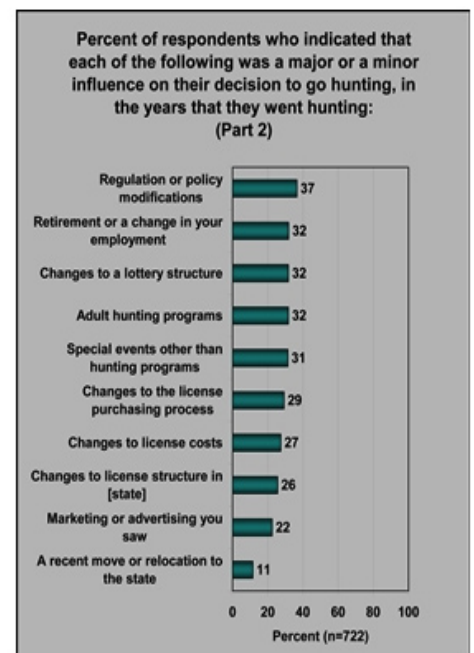
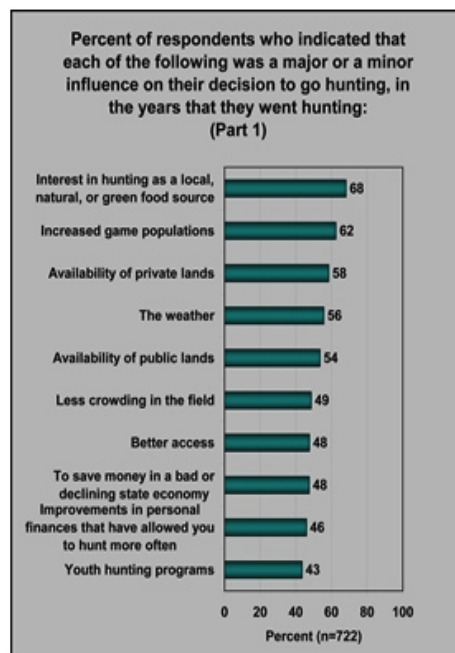
## The Evidence

In a 2013 nationwide scientific telephone survey measuring hunting participation among Americans ages 18 years old and older, a question asked hunters about their single most important reason for hunting in the year prior to the survey. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of potential reasons, including being with family and friends, being close to nature, for the sport/recreation, for the meat, or for a trophy. In response, more than a third of hunters (35%) chose "for the meat" as the most important reason for their recent hunting participation. However, what is most noteworthy is the substantial increase in the percentage of hunters giving this answer since the last time the question was asked: in a similar nationwide survey conducted in 2006, just 22% of American adult hunters named "for the meat" as their most important reason for going hunting. While the percentages of hunters naming one of the other reasons either remained stable or declined between 2006 and 2013, those who named the meat as the most important reason for their hunting participation increased by 13 percentage points.

Other recent Responsive Management research confirms the overrid-



**Source: Responsive Management. 2013. Nationwide survey of hunters regarding participation in and motivations for hunting. Harrisonburg, VA. Responsive Management. Data collected in 2006, published in 2008. The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports. Harrisonburg, VA.**



**Source (for graphs above and next page): Responsive Management/ American Sportfishing Association/Southwick Associates/ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2013. Exploring Recent Increases in Hunting and Fishing Participation. Produced for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Multi-State Conservation Grant F12AP00142. Harrisonburg, VA.**

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# RESEARCH

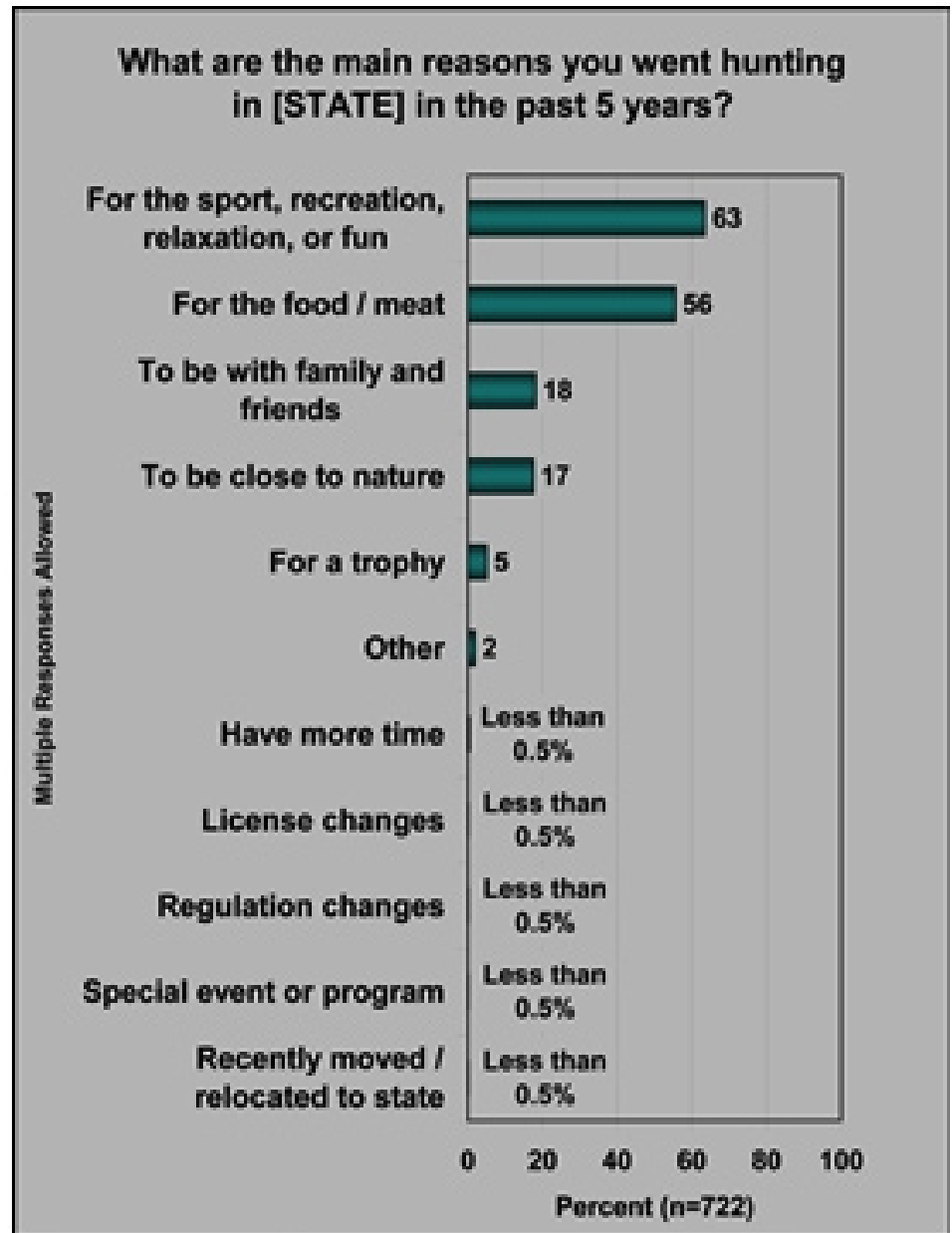
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ing importance of meat as a primary motivator for American hunters today. With the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation indicating a 9% increase in national hunting participation between 2006 to 2011, Responsive Management initiated and coordinated a study with the American Sportfishing Association, Southwick Associates, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to better understand the factors correlated with the increase in hunting participation and determine how these factors may have contributed to the uptick in participation. One of the key components of the study was a Responsive Management telephone survey of hunters in seven of the top states that experienced an increase in resident hunting participation between 2006 and 2011, according to the National Survey. These states were Alabama, Alaska, Indiana, Idaho, Mississippi, New York, and South Dakota.

Results from this survey highlight the degree to which hunters today are focusing on meat as a primary reason for their participation. When hunters were read a list of factors that potentially influenced them to go hunting, the top factor rated as a major or minor influence was interest in hunting as a source of local, natural, or “green” food, with 68% of hunters saying this was an influence (see graphs below).

Additionally, in an open-ended question (where no answer set was read, but respondents could simply name anything that came to mind), 56% of hunters across the seven states that the National Survey reported as having among the largest increases in hunter numbers said that they hunted for food or meat (see graph left).

The growing importance of meat as hunters’ foremost reason for hunting has been observed on the state level as well. One of the most dramatic examples can be seen in Georgia, where Responsive Management recently completed a trend survey of deer hunters as part of an overall project exam-



ining opinions on deer management and deer hunting regulations. A similar version of the survey was last conducted in Georgia in 2004. In response to the question asking respondents about their single most important reason for hunting deer in the state in the two years prior to the survey, 51% of Georgia deer hunters named the meat, a remarkable increase of 25 percentage points over the 26% of respondents who gave the same answer in 2004.

As with the survey discussed earlier, all other reasons in the list either remained stable or declined, just as the percentage of hunters naming meat as their primary motivation virtually doubled.

## The Potential Reasons

Several factors appear to have contributed to this pronounced motivational shift in favor of meat among American hunters. Perhaps the single most important factor is the global recession that began at the end of 2008 and, by some estimations, continues to affect the economy of the United States to this day. As households throughout the country started to feel the effects of significant financial pressures several years ago (including frozen or reduced salaries and/or prolonged unemployment), more Americans likely turned

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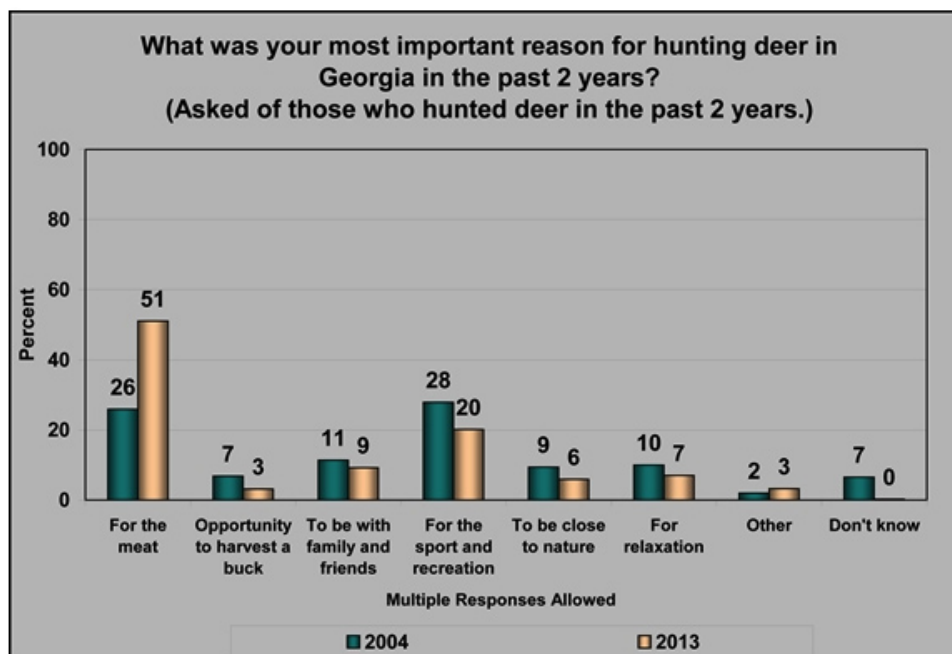


# RESEARCH

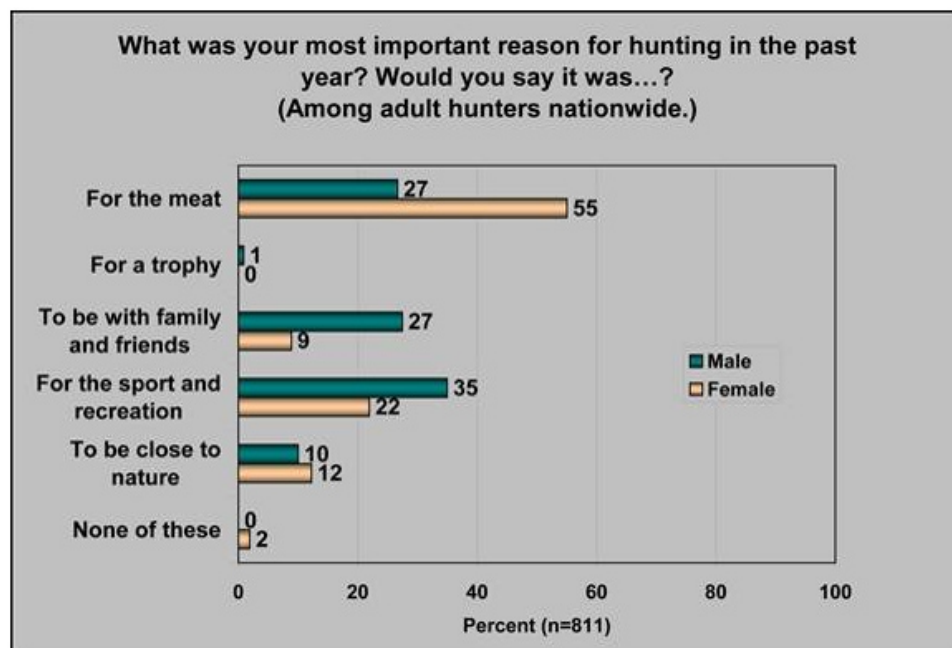
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to hunting as a way of obtaining relatively inexpensive venison and other meat to put food on the family table. A 2010 USA Today article described hunting as “recession-proof” and “a bulletproof industry” during the recession. The article also included comments from several fish and wildlife agency directors; a spokesman for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (the agency in one of the states that saw a notable increase in hunting participation between 2006 and 2011) noted that “hunting helps on the grocery bills” and “allows [hunters] to put meat in the freezer.”<sup>1</sup> It is also important to note that nearly half of the hunters surveyed in the seven states that had increased hunting participation between 2006 and 2011 (48%) said that hunting to save money in a bad or declining state economy was either a major or minor reason for their decision to go hunting during that time period.

Another factor contributing to an emphasis on hunting for utilitarian reasons appears to be the natural, “green,” or locavore food movement. This movement has been gaining adherents over the past few years, and hunting is certainly a key source of such foods. A 2009 New York Times article discusses “Deer Hunting for Locavores,” an instructional class offered in Charlottesville, Virginia, to novice hunters interested in learning how to hunt for their own deer meat.<sup>2</sup> In addition to Charlottesville, locavore hunting activity exists across the United States in a growing number of areas, including Boston, Massachusetts; Denver and Boulder, Colorado; Burlington, Vermont; and Portland, Oregon, where the Portland Meat Collective and the Art Institute of Portland host events at which participants learn from chefs how to butcher whole animals.<sup>3</sup> The locavore hunter movement even includes Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg, who stated in a Field & Stream blog entry his intention to start hunting



**Source: Responsive Management. 2004; 2013. Opinions and Attitudes of Georgia Residents, Hunters, and Landowners Toward Deer Management in Georgia. Produced for the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division. Harrisonburg, VA.**



**Source: Responsive Management. 2013. Nationwide survey of hunters regarding participation in and motivations for hunting. Harrisonburg, VA.**

for his own meat.<sup>4</sup> Such growing interest seems to be helping to reinforce the motivation of hunting for the meat.

A final factor that provides insight into the recent emphasis on hunting for meat relates to the gender of hunters and draws on additional findings from

two of the studies mentioned earlier. The aforementioned 2013 study to explore recent increases in hunting and fishing participation between 2006 and 2011 categorized all hunters in the seven-state survey as either estab-

*Continued on Page 22*

# Women in the outdoors: Numbers on the rise

By Southwick Associates

The traditional image of men escaping for the weekend to experience the thrill and challenge of outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and shooting may be as antiquated as the gender make-up in the boardroom in scenes from television's *Mad Men*. Annie it seems has definitely got her gun, and hunting license and fishing rod and reel. In fact, according to *Women in the Outdoors in 2012*, an in-depth report on women's participation in outdoor recreation compiled by Southwick Associates, women now make up more than a quarter of all anglers and represent the fastest growing segment within the hunting and shooting communities making up as much as nearly

11 percent of all hunters.

"Many people may be surprised to learn the traditional view of the outdoors person is changing, but to anybody who hunts, fishes and shoots, the presence of women on the water, in the woods and at the range is anything but new, and certainly not surprising," says Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates.

The *Women in the Outdoors in 2012* report is a comprehensive snapshot of women's participation in outdoor sports ever published. It examines the level and rate of participation of females in freshwater and saltwater fishing, hunting and shooting and compares women and men's purchasing habits for hunting, shooting and fishing equipment. It also offers a

unique glimpse at their outdoor media consumption, providing invaluable insight to advertisers, manufacturers and retailers into where today's outdoors-woman gets most of the information that affects her purchasing decisions.

Southwick Associates utilizes proprietary market data from their own research combined with the most recent and reliable data from key government sources to compile the report.

While the decision-guiding data found in most Southwick Associates market reports are available for sale, the company is making the *Women in the Outdoors in 2012* report available at <http://www.southwickassociates.com/portfolio-view/women-in-the-outdoors-in-2012/>

## RESEARCH

*Continued from Page 21*

lished hunters (those who first hunted in 2006 or earlier and did not take a break that included 2006) or new/returning hunters (those who first hunted in 2007 or later as well as those who first hunted prior to 2006 but who took a break from hunting that included 2006). It is this latter group that may have contributed to the difference in hunter numbers between 2006 and 2011. By cross-tabulating these groups by demographic questions, the analysis revealed a small but notable difference in the gender breakdown of the two groups: among established hunters, 9% are female; among new/returning hunters, 14% are female.

Furthermore, a cross-tabulation by gender of the data from the previously discussed 2013 nationwide study of hunting participation among adult Americans reveals that female hunters appear to be substantially more likely to choose "for the meat" as their most important reason for hunting in the year prior to the survey: 55% of female hunters chose "for the meat," compared to just 27% of male hunters.

Together, these cross-tabulations

suggest that gender may play a role in the shift toward hunting for the meat. With more new women hunters in the field and the greater emphasis women place on the importance of hunting for the meat, it can be deduced that this is also an additional explanation for more hunters hunting for the meat.

Responsive Management is planning new research to continue examining this important shift in motivations regarding hunting participation, including an upcoming study with the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Technical Committee on Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Recreation Participation and the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Recruitment and Retention Committee to develop and evaluate an introductory hunting and fishing curriculum targeting the recruitment and retention of young adults in urban/suburban settings who are interested in locally grown or organic foods. The research comes as momentum regarding the locavore movement continues to increase within the fish and wildlife community: the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently partnered with Michigan State University on "Food for Thought: Hunting as a Connection to Nature Through the Food We Eat," a symposium at the

recent 20th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society in Milwaukee. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recently joined with the Association of Fish and Wildlife's (AFWA) Outreach Subcommittee on "Sourcing Proteins: A Panel Discussion on Hunting, Fishing, and Foodies," at AFWA's 103rd Annual Meeting in Portland.

1 Roney, Marty. "Even During Recession, Hunting Remains Bulletproof Industry." *USA Today*, 19 September 2010, [http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/economy/2010-09-19-hunting-recession-proof\\_N.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/economy/2010-09-19-hunting-recession-proof_N.htm).

2 "The Urban Deerslayer," *New York Times*, 25 November 2009, [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/25/dining/25hunt.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/25/dining/25hunt.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&).

3 "Conscious Carnivores, Ethical Butchers Are Changing Food Culture," *The Oregonian*, 26 January 2010, [www.oregonlive.com/foodday/index.ssf/2010/01/the\\_conscious\\_carnivore.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/foodday/index.ssf/2010/01/the_conscious_carnivore.html).

4 "Mark Zuckerberg Kills His Own Meat, Wants to Hunt," *Field & Stream Field Notes* blog, 27 May 2011, [www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/field-notes/2011/05/mark-zuckerberg-kills-his-own-meat-wants-hunt](http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/field-notes/2011/05/mark-zuckerberg-kills-his-own-meat-wants-hunt).



# Urban wildlife management concerns

**By Cindy Higgins**  
**KWF Board Member**

Managing wildlife in urban areas often focuses more on people than animals, explained Andy Friesen, wildlife biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, at the Sept. 29 presentation “What Is Living in my Backyard,” sponsored by Wyandotte County Conservation District in Kansas City, KS.

A lot of his job is educating others on what people can and cannot do. For example, urban dwellers may call about removal possibilities regarding a growing family of raccoons or foxes that a year earlier they found endearing. An individual may also leave out pet food that foxes, coyotes, and raccoons take advantage of to the ire of adjacent landowners or allow seeds to spill out of a bird feeder that attracts mice and voles, which attract larger predators.

“A lot of people want to catch and release,” Friesen said, which is really just “moving the problem around. To do that, you have to have permission from property owners, and also there have been studies showing that raccoons taken 15-17 miles from place they were caught will return. So, taking them around the corner and dumping them at the park isn’t going to be the option for a variety of reasons. You’ll get an elevated number of raccoons at park. Adjacent landowners don’t want them in their backyards. The animals already have been acclimated to human activities.”

Friesen added that animals caught in traps get stressed and when released to a foreign environment have to compete with dominant animals already existing there and often experience a prolonged death. If the released animal was diseased, it then introduces disease to a healthy population.

A lot of his calls concern eliminating coyotes, foxes, and bobcats. “There’s not a lot you can do for



**Andy Friesen talking to Wyandotte County residents. Contact him at [andy.friesen@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:andy.friesen@ksoutdoors.com).**

them,” Friesen said. “We loan out traps and those don’t lend themselves to be caught in traps.” As for other elimination means, he said that ties back to what a city will allow and not allow regarding nuisance animals.

“The main way we regulate numbers is through hunting seasons. If you get in the city, where they don’t allow hunting and trapping, you get those elevated numbers because no one is removing them like we are doing in the rural setting. Nothing is working on them in the city. They have plenty of food. Everyone’s treating them nice or afraid of them. It’s a good set up.”

With its two river systems, home association reservoirs, and lakes, “Wyandotte County is a Canada goose refuge till March,” Friesen said because of the lack of hunting and geese build up that “serve as live decoys for migrating geese.”

One aspect of his job that has changed in the last decade is his attitude toward mountain lion spotting calls. Initially, he questioned the spottings’ validity. However, confirmed spottings in Nemaha, Mar-

shall, Republic, and Atchison counties along with radio-collared cats monitored by satellite transmissions in Kansas changed his call reaction. “There’s viable populations in all the states around us so it’s ignorant on our part to say they don’t come in Kansas. They travel the river corridors, and it’s hypothesized a lot coming through are juvenile males trying to establish a home range. They can travel large distances in a short amount of time. It’s not unlikely for them to travel 40, 50, 60 miles a night--a “here-today-and-gone tomorrow” deal. These reoccurring sightings could be valid because they may be a captive-bred cat that someone has as a pet illegally kept in basement or garage turned loose or got accidentally released. There’s 105 counties in Kansas and you can assume there’s one captive bred cat in each county; that’s a hundred mountain lions in Kansas. So they are potentially out there.”

Besides Wyandotte, Friesen covers the Johnson, Leavenworth, and Miami counties from his office in Shawnee.

# MSU's Deer Lab concludes Midwest whitetail antlers are largest

**By Dave Stormont**  
**MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center**

Research conducted by Mississippi State University Deer Lab scientists has determined northern deer may have bigger bodies but they don't necessarily have bigger antlers.

The discovery, made by scientists in the university's Deer Lab, a unit of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, shows that antler size depends more on diet than latitude.

"In whitetail deer, large antlers are generally found on deer with large bodies. However, the largest antler measurements were found in the Midwestern states and not the far north, as commonly believed," said Bronson Strickland, associate Extension professor and researcher in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

The ecological theory known as Bergmann's rule predicts animals found in northern latitudes require larger body size to maintain body temperature in cold weather. This relationship holds true for body size of whitetail deer, but Mississippi State

deer biologists Strickland and Steve Demarais decided to see if a similar relationship existed for antler size. To find out, they used data from Florida to Maine and as far west as the Rocky Mountains.

Scientists have long hypothesized that nutrition contributes more to antler size than latitude. To test the hypothesis, the duo surveyed state agencies for the antler beam diameter of yearling bucks.

The researchers found that the statistical relationship between latitude and antler size is weak. Geographic location explains only 7 percent of the variation in antler size. The research found that variation in antler size is more closely related to soil quality and land use.

"Antler size is known to be highly correlated with body size," said Demarais, who is also a Dale H. Arner professor of wildlife ecology in the Forest and Wildlife Research Center. "However, our research further proves that agricultural areas with rich soil provide more food for deer, leading to deer with larger bodies, independent of their latitude."

That means good soil and agricultural crops lead to larger deer with bigger antlers.

Places with rich soil, such as the Mississippi Delta and the breadbasket states, produce deer with big bodies and big antlers.

Strickland said soybean crops contribute the most to deer size. Whitetail deer eat only the seed of grain crops like corn, but they eat all parts of soybean plants, which are grown on rich soil. This gives them the nutrients required to grow larger bodies.

The research results may be good news for landowners looking to increase antler size on their property.

"Landowners can provide an ample diet through habitat management and supplemental wildlife plantings, which can have a big impact on antler and body size," Strickland said.

This study is one of many in the MSU Deer Lab, a research program more than 40 years old. The MSU Deer Lab is one of the premier deer management research units in the nation. Learn more at <http://www.msudeerlab.com>.

## Union Pacific reminds hunters not to be drawn to railroad property

Union Pacific Railroad urges hunters to resist the temptation to hunt on railroad property this season. Wildlife will migrate and feed along the edges of freshly harvested fields, making these areas prime hunting spots. With many fields adjacent to Union Pacific tracks, hunters find it very tempting to hunt on or near the tracks.

"Too many people have been injured or killed trespassing on railroad property over the years. As part of our UP CARES public safety initiative, we want to remind hunters that walking on or near railroad tracks is extremely dangerous because you never know when a train will come along," said

Robert Morrison, Union Pacific Chief of Police.

"It can take a mile or more to stop a train, and, by the time a locomotive engineer sees you on the track, it is too late to stop," said Dale Bray, Union Pacific director - public safety.

"Locomotives and rail cars overhang the tracks by at least three feet on either side of the rail. If you are too close to the tracks, you can be hit by the locomotive or a rail car," added Bray.

In an effort to educate the public about grade crossing and pedestrian safety, UP established the Union Pacific Crossing Accident Reduction Education and Safety (UP CARES) program,

which brings together communities in a collaborative and caring effort to promote railroad grade crossing and pedestrian safety. Union Pacific is committed to fostering public safety through various outreach channels, such as community events, paid advertising and media outreach, education and enforcement activities and coordination with Operation Lifesaver.

UP CARES activities include:

- Grade crossing enforcement with local, county and state law enforcement agencies;
- Safety trains that provide local of-

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*Continued on Page 25*



# Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation and charitable giving

If you are like many people, you began this year with a number of resolutions. And like the rest of us, you found some of these resolutions difficult to keep. Why not consider a gift to the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation (KWFF) this year? The good news is you still have time to make a charitable gift that will lower your taxable income, preserving more cash for you and your family.

What is Planned Giving? How can it Benefit You?

Planned giving is a way for you to

make a gift to your favorite charitable causes. The right planned gift can provide you and your loved ones with tax and income benefits.

There are many reasons why a planned gift to KWFF might make sense for you:

- \* Are you looking for a way to avoid capital gains tax on the sale of your home or investments?
- \* Are you thinking about how to build your income for retirement?
- \* Would you like to create an inheritance for your children and also

help the Kansas Wildlife Federation Foundation?

\* Do you need a tax-efficient way to sell your business this year?

\* Would you like to receive high fixed payments for life and even some tax-free income?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, a planned gift can help you achieve your goals. To learn more about the benefits of planned giving, please visit our website <http://www.gnwkc.org/giving.html>.

## Birdhouse maintenance: Spring or fall?

Many people clean out and repair their nest boxes each fall so they're ready for birds to use as winter shelters. However, some people say you should postpone birdhouse maintenance until spring. When is the best

time?

According to George from Birds and Blooms, if you plan to leave the houses up all winter, then it's best to clean them in spring, when you can remove insects and old nesting materials

from both birds and mice. Mice tend to use birdhouses in winter and supplement the birds' nesting materials with their own. Birds also welcome the old nesting materials, as they may roost in the houses on cold winter nights.

## Plan for bird festivals in 2014

**By Paul J. Baicich**  
**Great Birding Projects**

As we have previously noted in the E-bulletin, birding festivals have become THE gateway to new birding experiences for many birders. They are usually welcoming, family-friendly, and often geared to introducing new bird watchers to skills, travel, and the basics of cooperative birding.

December is often a time to plan your next year's vacations and a perfect time to blend those vacation plans with a birding festival away from

home. Why festivals? Birding festivals provide a great introduction to an area – and an area's birds – that may otherwise be unfamiliar to you.

Because there are so many promising birding festivals these days, we never have the space in the E-bulletin to give them individual attention. Nonetheless, there are some wonderful-looking festivals coming up in 2013, festivals which you may want to consider. We encourage you to do some searching through the Internet, pick out some potential favorites at birding hotspots of interest to you,

and ask friends about which ones they've liked the best.

If you decide to attend a birding festival, we also recommend that you build in an extra day or two of visitation after the festival ends. Allow yourself the time to visit a special place you may have missed during the event, or the opportunity to revisit a site you only got a taste of during a birding festival field trip. It's always worthwhile, and it always pays to get to know a new site and new birds ever better after the initial festival introduction.

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## RAILROAD

*Continued from Page 24*

ficials a firsthand look at what locomotive engineers see daily while they operate trains through communities and

- Communication blitzes that educate the community at events, or via media

outreach and paid advertising.

Hunters are not the only ones drawn to railroad tracks - hikers, bikers, fishermen and snowmobilers are, as well.

Anyone choosing to walk on or near railroad tracks could face a tragic consequence. Last year, 433 people died and 411 were injured while trespassing on railroad property throughout the

United States according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

People who enter railroad property can be arrested for violating trespassing laws. They could serve jail time and/or have to pay a fine. Do not become a statistic; stay away from railroad tracks during this hunting season.

# Where are migratory monarchs this fall?



Nearly all Mexico-bound monarchs pass through Texas during fall, where Dave Hawkins took this photo several years ago in Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.

## By Laura Tangley Wildlife Promise

Each fall at about this time, I try to spend a weekend at the Black Walnut Point Inn on Maryland's Tilghman Island in the Chesapeake Bay. Located on the southern tip of the island, the inn is a perfect place to spot large numbers of monarch butterflies stopping to feed and rest before heading across open water on their journey south to Mexico—some traveling thousands of miles from the northern United States and Canada. I time the trip according to a chart produced by Monarch Watch showing the insects' predicted arrival dates by latitude—and I've not been disappointed.

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Until this year, that is. Rather than the dozens of monarchs I typically see feeding by day on the inn's asters, goldenrods and other fall-blooming plants—and the hundreds clustering for warmth on yew, holly and hackberry branches once the sun starts to go down—I spotted just a handful of monarchs in total and never more than one individual at a time.

### Numbers "Below Normal"

Like all migratory animals, monarchs, of course, are influenced by weather, and one cannot draw conclusions from a two-day visit to a single spot. Yet according to the citizen-science-fueled monitoring organization Journey North, the number of over-

night monarch roosts recorded east of the Rockies this fall has been low, and roosts host fewer butterflies than in previous years. "Overall the monarch numbers in this migration are far below normal, and they are late," says Monarch Watch founder and director Chip Taylor. "The migration in the Midwest this fall has been the lowest we have seen since the start of Monarch Watch in 1992."

Anecdotal reports suggest fewer monarchs were breeding in North America this summer as well. On NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat Facebook page, for instance, we

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# PETA slams Duck Dynasty stars for popularizing hunting

**By Sportsmen's Weekly  
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance**

The popular TV series, *Duck Dynasty*, has captured the attention of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), with the animal rights group criticizing the show for promoting hunting.

*Duck Dynasty*, a popular show on A&E, follows the lives of the Robertson family, owners of the Duck Commander duck call brand. Family members are seen sporting camouflage, building duck blinds, and often times follows the family into the field while hunting.

PETA's Vice President Dan Mathews is speaking out against the show, claim-

ing that hunting encourages would-be criminals.

"Unfortunately hunting programs teach kids that violence is somehow acceptable," Mathews told *radaronline.com*. "according to law-enforcement agencies, violent and aggressive criminals often start out as kids who were encouraged to disrespect and harm animals rather than understanding and being in awe of them." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Hunting has proved to be the number one conservation program in the fight to preserve and expand our nation's wildlife populations. Young hunters are taught the importance of safety, and more importantly why we hunt and their importance in conserva-

tion efforts.

Mathews also claims that hunting licenses have plummeted in the past two decades and that "most people have a reverence for animals."

If Mathews would have done his research, he would actually find that hunting license purchases have remained consistent over the last two decades while the public's acceptance of hunting is over 70 percent.

PETA is the number three group on the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance's 'Dirty Dozen' list (<http://www.ussportsmen.org/hunting/the-dirty-dozen-2/>). PETA encourages its members to break established hunter harassment laws and to interfere with hunts by protesting, blowing horns, and other unlawful acts.

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## MONARCHS

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received messages from hundreds of worried wildlife gardeners who were seeing few, if any, monarchs on the milkweeds they grow for the butterflies. Their reports came from throughout the East and Midwest, from Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut to Ohio, Missouri and Minnesota to Georgia, North Carolina and Texas.

In fact, scientists expected to see fewer monarchs this summer. Last March, researchers who conduct annual surveys of the Mexican overwintering population—the majority of monarchs east of the Rockies—reported that the total area occupied by the butterflies during winter 2012 was just 2.94 acres, a 59 percent decrease from the previous year's results and the lowest figure tallied in two decades.

### Extreme-Weather Challenges

One trigger for the low numbers was a severe heat wave and drought that afflicted much of the continent during summer 2012, leading to decreased butterfly reproduction. This year's weather has not treated monarchs much better: An unusually cold

spring and early summer delayed the arrival in northern breeding grounds of first-generation butterflies that hatched in Texas. "To recover from a bad year, the conditions for development of the population the following year have to be favorable," Taylor says. "Unfortunately, those conditions were not favorable at all."

Beyond extreme weather—expected to worsen as a consequence of climate change—several stresses have been hammering monarchs for years, leading to a decline in their numbers over the past two decades. In Mexico, illegal logging and poorly regulated tourism in and around the butterflies' overwintering sites are taking a toll. And throughout the insects' North American breeding grounds, declines in milkweed plants—which monarchs need in order to reproduce—also are knocking down the butterfly's numbers.

### Milkweeds Decline

The latter problem is particularly acute in the U.S. Midwest, where genetically engineered, herbicide-tolerant corn and soybeans now allow farmers to apply the chemicals broadly, wiping out milkweed that once thrived between crop rows and

in fallow fields on millions of acres of agricultural land. "That loss is significant," Taylor says, "since row crops have been shown to produce more monarchs than any other habitat. Overall more than 20 percent of the monarch breeding habitat has been lost since the late 1990s, mostly in the Midwest."

"Monarch numbers will continue to decline unless the collective efforts of citizens, communities and governments are large enough to offset the annual loss of habitat," Taylor adds. Asked if he thinks monarchs will bounce back from their current historic lows, Taylor responded: "Monarchs will rebound, but the big populations of the 1990s are a thing of the past."

### Help Monarchs at Home

As wildlife gardeners, we can all support struggling monarchs in our own yards by planting milkweeds that caterpillars need to survive and by cultivating fall-blooming native plants that fuel the butterflies' journey south to Mexican wintering grounds. If you need a source of milkweeds appropriate for your region, check out Monarch Watch's Milkweed Market (<http://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/>).

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

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

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