



KANSAS WILDLIFE & PARKS

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N e w s R e l e a s e

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Print or copy this release and other Wildlife and Parks information on the Internet at <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us>. Word documents now contain hyperlinks to websites mentioned in our articles.

IMPORTANT: News Distribution Change

Beginning March 1, KDWP will no longer automatically send email news to those currently on the news editor's distribution list. However, KDWP email news will still be available to those who want it. To continue receiving KDWP weekly and special news releases by email, click "KDWP Info" in the upper left-hand corner of the agency's home page, www.kdwp.state.ks.us. Then click "News Email Sign Up" in the left-hand column.

Signing up will ensure that you will be notified by email whenever news is updated on the website.

There are two categories to sign up for, and individuals and organizations may sign up for both. "Agency News Releases" are news stories that KDWP has been sending to print and broadcast media every Thursday. "All Web News" is new and updated content that the agency posts on the website throughout the week.

Current recipients who do not sign up for this service will no longer receive the weekly news release package after the March 1 release.

IN THIS PACKAGE:

FISH INFORMATION NIGHTS MARCH 7-8

HUNTER EDUCATION LASER-SHOT REMAINS POPULAR

EMPORIA TO HOST SPRING TURKEY HUNTING CLINIC

24TH ANNUAL WATER AND THE FUTURE OF KANSAS CONFERENCE

2007 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST GUN GIVEAWAY

FISH INFORMATION NIGHTS MARCH 7-8

*Fishing techniques, reservoir forecasts,
aquatic nuisance species to be covered at Hays, Salina events*

HAYS -- Catch more fish. It's likely you will if you attend one of two events hosted by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) in northcentral Kansas on March 7 and 8. Called Fishing Information Nights, the events will feature experts on fishing and focus on fishing prospects, techniques, and locations. The events will also feature presentations on how anglers can help protect Kansas waters from unwanted aquatic hitchhikers, formally known as aquatic nuisance species (ANS). Both events are free to the public.

The first event will take place on March 7 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Fort Hays Ballroom, Ft. Hays State University Memorial Union in Hays. Introductory speakers will include Steve Price, KDWP Region 1 Fisheries and Wildlife Division supervisor, and Lynn Maska of the Department of Health & Human Performance at Ft. Hays State. District fisheries biologists Tommie Berger and Mark Shaw will follow with fishing forecasts for Kanopolis, Sebelius, Webster, and Wilson reservoirs.

This will be followed by a presentation entitled "Aquatic Nuisance Species in Kansas," by Jason Goeckler, ANS coordinator, Emporia. Following Goeckler's presentation, district fisheries biologists Lynn Davignon and Scott Waters will present the fishing forecasts for Cedar Bluff, Glen Elder, and Lovewell reservoirs.

The second event will be held on March 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Little Theatre at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Center, East Iron Avenue, in Salina. Introductory remarks by Price and Brian Underwood of the Salina Parks and Recreation Commission will be followed by fishing forecasts for Glen Elder and Milford reservoirs from district fisheries biologists Scott Waters and John Reinke. Goeckler will repeat his presentation on ANS, and Berger will wrap up the session with fishing forecasts for Kanopolis and Wilson reservoirs.

Biologists will take questions from the audience at both events.

These annual events are developed by KDWP Region 1 staff. For more information, phone 785-628-8614.

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HUNTER EDUCATION LASER-SHOT REMAINS POPULAR

Hunting simulator has reached nearly 170,000 in six years

PRATT -- In 2006, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) reached nearly 26,000 people with its computerized Laser-Shot Hunting Simulator. The agency began using the system in 2001, and 2006 figures bring the total number of would-be hunters exposed to this education medium to nearly 170,000 in six years of use.

Laser-Shot systems are used throughout the state for hunter education classes and Hunter Recruitment & Retention Program events. The system gives participants challenging shooting experiences and lessons on ethical shot selections, as well as positive exposure to the agency, gun owners, and hunters.

Ed Augustine, Junction City Hunter Education Section program specialist, has compiled data on use of the agency's four Laser-Shot systems for 2006:

- 52 Hunter Education events including 1,895 students;
- 103 Hunter Recruitment & Retention events including 23,981 shooters; and
- 155 total events reaching 25,876 people.

While these figures represent a decrease in number of events from the previous year, they also reveal an increase of 3,010 participants over 2005. In addition, laser operators, assisted by other hunter education instructors, distributed more than 20,000 child safety gun locks to students and the public.

Laser system team members include Ted Billingsley, Solomon; Dennis Vincent, Leavenworth; Kent Barrett, Winona; and Augustine.

Funding for the program is provided by KDWP's Hunter Education Section and the Pass It On Program.

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EMPORIA TO HOST SPRING TURKEY HUNTING CLINIC

National Wild Turkey Federation chapter event in sixth year

EMPORIA -- The Flint Hills Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Hunter Education Program will host the 6th Annual Spring Turkey Hunting clinic on Saturday, March 31, at Camp Alexander, near Emporia. Anyone interested in learning how to become a better turkey hunter is invited, especially youngsters.

The event is free and will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All participants will be treated to calling tips and other expert turkey hunting advice, a display of the latest turkey hunting equipment, a drawing for an equipment-loaded turkey vest, lunch, and a free T-shirt.

Educational presentations will cover the following subjects:

- turkey calling and locator calling;
- scouting/roosting;

- wild turkey biology and management;
- shotgun hunting wild turkeys;
- bowhunting wild turkeys;
- turkey hunting equipment; and
- turkey hunting safety.

The clinic is limited to 100 participants. Those who wish to attend must register by March 10 and include the total number of children and adults attending, as well as their respective T-shirt sizes. For more information or for reservations, contact Gib Rhodes at 620-437-2012.

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24TH ANNUAL WATER AND THE FUTURE OF KANSAS CONFERENCE

Event to be held March 15 in Topeka

MANHATTAN -- Sedimentation in federal reservoirs will be the focus of the 24th Annual Water and the Future of Kansas Conference, Thursday, March 15, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The conference is a forum for state agency, university, and organization representatives who study, plan, regulate, or have an interest in influencing water management decisions. However, any Kansan interested in the issue may attend the conference and learn more about issues affecting the state's water supply.

The conference theme is "From Dust Bowl to Mud Bowl: The Threat of Sedimentation to Our Federal Reservoirs." Topics addressed through plenary and breakout sessions, panel discussions, and poster sessions include an overview of reservoir and watershed processes as well as sedimentation rates and future trends in federal reservoirs. Sources of sediment, economics of sediment management, and strategies for water resource protection also will be discussed.

Donnie Blanz, an award-winning singer and songwriter, will give a luncheon presentation, "The Cowboy Cattle Drive: Lessons in Teamwork."

The early registration fee is \$75. For more information, phone the Kansas State University Division of Continuing Education's conference office at 785-532-5575 or go online at www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/waterfuture. The conference is sponsored by the Kansas Water Resources Institute, the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, K-State Research and Extension, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

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2007 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST GUN GIVEAWAY

*Young essayist can win guided hunt and new shotgun;
essay deadline March 15*

EMPORIA -- The Flint Hills Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) has invited young hunters to write a story and win a guided spring turkey hunt and a new turkey shotgun. This is the fifth year of this contest, and past winners have all harvested a gobbler. The contest is co-sponsored by the Flint Hills Gobblers Chapter, the Lyon County Hunter Education Program, and Bluestem Farm and Ranch Supply of Emporia. Youth 16 years and younger from Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage, and Woodson counties are eligible to participate.

In 500 words or less, the author should describe their most memorable hunting experience and why the experience means so much to them. Participants must have completed a certified hunter education course, be available to hunt during the 2007 spring turkey season, and, if chosen, purchase a Kansas spring turkey hunting permit.

The lucky winner will receive a two-day guided spring turkey hunt during the 2007 spring turkey hunting season. The winner also will receive a turkey hunting vest and other turkey hunting items donated by Bluestem Farm and Ranch Supply of Emporia.

To enter, participants must submit an essay, including name, age, address, and phone number to Gib Rhodes, 1643 360th St., Madison, KS 66860, or Shelley Sparks, 1789 Road B5, Emporia, KS 66801, by March 15. The winner of the contest will be notified by March 26.

Lodging will be provided if the winner is not from Emporia or the surrounding area. A parent or guardian is encouraged to accompany the youth on this hunt. For more information regarding the essay contest or hunt, contact Rhodes at 620-437-2012.

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Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from department programs is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S. Kansas Ave. Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327.

If notified in advance, the department will have an interpreter available for the hearing impaired at any department-sponsored program. To request an interpreter, call the TDD Service at 1-800-766-3777. Any individual with a disability may request other accommodations by contacting Sheila Kemmis at (620) 672-5911.