

Kids ride safer with 4-H ATV Program

(NAPSA)—ATVs—all terrain vehicles—are fun and popular, especially among young people. Yet, ATVs can also be deadly if riders don't take proper precautions.

West Virginia 4-H member Joe Wells wanted to make sure that other teenagers, like himself, and adults who ride ATVs in his state were protected. So, he organized a rally of 4-H members and adults who took their concerns over ATV safety to the state capital in Charleston. They urged state legislators to enact a law requiring kids to take ATV safety classes and wear protective gear when they ride. It worked.

Comprehensive ATV safety legislation was passed in West Virginia. It was quite an accomplishment for Joe, a 16-year-old high school sophomore.

Joe said he has been riding ATVs with his dad since he was "a little kid." He got involved in the ATV safety issue when both kids and adults in his community were hurt or killed in ATV accidents. West Virginia had 27 ATV deaths in 2003, one of the highest death rates in the nation.

Nationwide, the 4-H Community ATV Safety Program helps keep kids safe by bringing together youth and adults at local 4-H ATV workshops on proper gear, rules and riding techniques.

Joe has been part of the program and his best advice is "make sure to always wear a helmet when you ride an ATV."

And follow these tips for ATV safety:

- Protect yourself. As Joe recommends, wear a helmet and other protective clothing and gear.

- Stay single. Never drive an ATV with a passenger or hitch a ride. Most ATVs are designed for one person.

- Never ride on a paved road. Operate the ATV on dirt trails or other appropriate unpaved surfaces, not on highways.

- Don't ride alongside or on the shoulder of a road. There is risk of ditches, drop-offs and other hazards.

- Make sure the ATV fits. Riders must be fitted with the proper ATV in order to have proper control. Find the right fit of rider size, strength and age with the right model ATV.

- Finally, take an approved ATV safety course from a certified instructor.

Find out more about a 4-H Community ATV Safety Program at www.atv-youth.org. 4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. To become part of the 4-H adventure, check out www.4husa.org.

FISHING REPORT:

Sebelius Reservoir — Water Temperature: 76
Lake Elevation: 16.94' below Conservation Pool

Black Bass — Fair (10-17 inches) Quite a few bass (largemouth and spotted) were seen during our Spring electrofishing sample. Fish are spread all over the lake with most of the fish being caught along the dam and in Leota Cove using spinner baits, crank baits and plastics.

Bluegill — Fair (5-9 inches) Anglers are starting to catch a few off the public fishing dock and in Schoen's cove using worms.

Catfish — Good (wide range) Fishermen are catching some along the north side of dam, off the point south of the office and the mouth of Schoen's Cove using worms, shad and cut or prepared baits. Anglers are also catching them off the public fishing dock since the fish feeder is up and running. It is going off at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Crappie — Fair (wide range) Anglers are catching a few crappie using jigs and minnows off the public fishing dock, up into Leota Cove and in Shoen's cove. New trees have been placed around the public fishing dock and main lake fish attractors.

Saugeye/Walleye — Good (wide range)

Anglers are catching fish around the dam and on the east side of Leota cove and up west by the marsh dike using jig and worms and also twister tails. Anglers are also catching a few off the east side of Monkey Island in about 5 to 10 feet of water. A lot of throw backs so remember the 18 inch length limit.

Wipers — Good (wide range) Anglers picking up a few wipers on the north corner of the dam, on the east side of Leota cove and concrete cove using jigs, shad and worms. Also catching them trolling hot-n-tots along the south road bed.

General Comments — The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Irrigation District have signed a two year minimum pool agreement. Under the minimum pool agreement, water will not be released for irrigation unless surface elevation reaches elevation 2,290 or higher, and releases will stop at 2,288. Currently the elevation is just below 2,288, so unless the lake receives inflow soon, water will not be released for irrigation this year.

SEBELIUS RESERVOIR RESOURCES:

Trails and scenic views

In the center of the park, the Prairie Dog Nature Trail is 1.4 miles long and ambles through native prairie and wildlife food plots. It is a great area for wildlife viewing. Two vintage 19th century buildings are preserved in the park. A one-room schoolhouse and the recently renovated adobe house are snapshots of Kansas history. Wildlife observation is outstanding at Prairie Dog this time of year. The park currently hosts approximately 20 whitetail deer, quail, pheasant, and waterfowl.

Office and restrooms

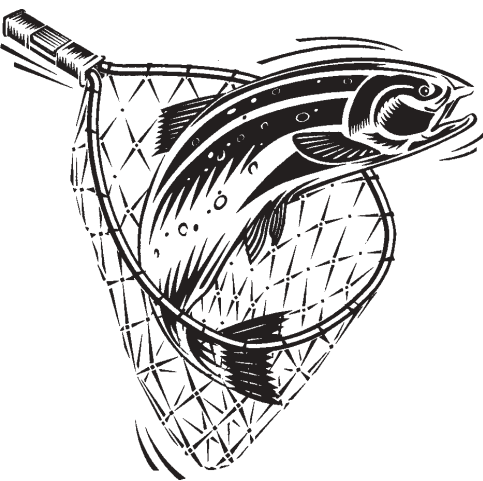
The park office is now open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. However, you may want to call before making a special trip — 877-2953. Wear a personal flotation device when boating. The reservoir is low.

Come join us for the 4th of July Fireworks display on Sunday, July 4, 2004! We have no more reservable campsites available for the 4th of July weekend, the rest are first come, first serve!

Please continue to use caution with campfires because of the extremely dry conditions.

Boating and fishing

Relax and enjoy the historic sites, picnic shelters and small swimming beach. Fishing is excellent in the Sebelius Reservoir. Saugeye, wiper, largemouth bass, channel catfish and crappie give anglers a variety to test their skills. There is a two-lane boat ramp on the east end of the park with parking available for over 100 units.



Charles E. Worden

~ Attorney at Law ~

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