

During the 2004 Kansas Park Managers meeting in El Dorado this past February, Parks Division Director Jerry Hover advised the managers that the budget concerns of the past several years will continue into the future without a dedicated funding source.

Mr. Hover told the group that the State Federal Fund percentage of the Parks Division operating budget has gone from 60 percent of the total budget approximately 20 year ago, down to 18 percent during the current year. The department has been notified that continued cuts in the general fund are planned and this funding will be eliminated by 2006.

In other words, the parks division must become nearly self-supporting in the future. This is very unfortunate since the \$1.2 million in state general funds has helped the state parks generate a \$658 million economic impact to the State of Kansas.

Several options are being researched and changes in the permit fee structure are inevi-

Water down this year

Currently, the Keith Sebelius Reservoir elevation is 2287.6, or 16.7 feet below conservation pool. Last year at this time, the elevation was 2291.7.

Compared to many of the reservoirs in southwest Nebraska and eastern Colorado, the Keith Sebelius Reservoir is in very good condition, especially if you compare it to the May 1992 elevation of 2278.6 or 25.7 feet below conservation pool.

table if the parks are to continue to operate at their current level of service. Due to funding shortages, the state parks have an estimated \$44 million backlog of facility and maintenance needs.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST AT KEITH SEBELIUS RESERVIOR:

- Free Fish Days are June 5 and 6.
- The application deadline for big game is May 31. Resident whitetail-only permits may be purchased over the counter. To hunt mule deer, residents must apply during the resident any-deer application period. Any-deer applications will be available online in late June. The resident any-deer application deadline will be mid-July. The exact date will be on the application.



Using a sassy shad, Norton's Vernon Carlton snagged this 13 3/4 inch, 1 pound, 6 ounce large mouth bass on March 17.

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