

Internet resources available for Park patrons

Prairie Dog State Park News

Toby Kuhn, manager

In my last column, I discussed the various regulations concerning camping in Kansas State Parks. This month I thought I would discuss the various internet resources available to our park patrons to assist in making your stay as enjoyable as possible.

The first web site that is full of interesting information would be the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism web site. The web address is www.kdwp.state.ks.us. This web site has an abundance of information to anyone interested in the outdoors. From this site, you can access information on boating, fishing and hunting regulations, all of the individual state park web sites, make cabin reservations at any state park including Prairie Dog and purchase various permits and licenses all from the comfort of your home. It would take more space than I am allotted to discuss all of the features available on the main Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism web site. I thought I would touch on a few that have been popular with our park patrons.

One of the most highly used features is the cabin reservations link located under the State Parks tab. Once you click on the link, another page opens which shows all of the locations with cabins available. If you choose Prairie Dog, it opens a page which shows pictures of our current four cabins and lists the regulations for renting a cabin. Once a particular destination/cabin is chosen, you can then begin the reservation process by viewing available dates and then

creating a username/password. Payment for the cabin is then made by credit card and your reservation is secured. If one of our cabins is rented online, we receive a confirmation e-mail and then we contact the person to give them their key code for access to the cabin. Please remember that cabin reservations can be made online up to one year in advance. We still take reservations over the phone or in person, but having the online cabin reservation system has proved to be very popular among our park patrons. At this time, only cabins can be reserved online and not camp sites. There has been discussion for online camp site reservations, but it is still under consideration.

Another popular feature of www.kdwp.state.ks.us is the license/permits tab. Have you ever found yourself in the position of wanting to go hunting or fishing bright and early the next day, but all the vendors are closed and you haven't purchased your required license? What are your choices: risk getting caught, call Brian at home (just

kidding)...? Now, you don't have to worry because you can purchase it online by the following the links and selecting the appropriate license/permit. It does help if you have your Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism number with you. It can be found on any permit/license that you have purchased and it is your unique identifier assigned at the time you made your first transaction on the online system. If you don't have it, you can still make your purchase. After completing the transaction, you will need to be able to print your license or permit. When purchasing online, please read the license/permit carefully as some are only temporary and you must stop in the office to exchange it for a permanent. This is done free of charge and one example would be an annual vehicle permit.

The Prairie Dog State Park web site can be accessed through the main web site by clicking on the State Parks tab and then locations. It can also be found at the following web address: <http://kdwp.state.ks.us/news/>

State-Parks/Locations/Prairie-Dog. From our web site, you can view pictures taken in the park, obtain current fishing information, rent a cabin online, be updated about current events happening in the park, etc. Our web site is always a work in progress as we try to update the pictures and news as often as we can. Generally, we try to upload the pictures taken from the current season during the winter months. If you have any pictures that you would like to share, please e-mail them to us at prairiedogsp@wp.state.ks.us.

If those web sites don't keep you busy on the computer, I would like to recommend two additional sites. Patrons are usually curious about the lake level and how much water is coming down the Prairie Dog. The first site is from the US Department of Interior-Bureau of Reclamation: www.usbr.gov/gp-bin/arcweb_ksks.pl. On this site you can view current reservoir data or you can view data from the past month or year. If you want to view the data from the past year, you can click on the ARC050 link. A new screen will appear and nothing needs to be changed in the boxes; just select submit. All of the information you could possibly want and then some will be displayed. It is interesting to go back and look at the changes in reservoir elevation over the years. The next web site gives the data for streamflow for the Prairie Dog and other Kansas creeks and rivers. It can be found at: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?map_type=real&state=ks.

Hopefully, you will enjoy surfing the various web sites mentioned in this column. If you have any suggestions for future editions, please let me know. As always, thanks for keeping your park clean.



Welcome . . . to Prairie Dog State Park

A prime place to experience the shortgrass prairies of western Kansas, Prairie Dog State Park occupies 1,150 acres on the shores of Keith Sebelius Reservoir in Norton County. The park is home to a thriving prairie dog colony and is the site of the last remaining adobe house in

Kansas. The renovated adobe house was built on the site in the early 1890's. A 1.4 mile nature trail complete with interpretive signage is a great way to explore the park and observe wildlife. Historical interpretation is a hallmark of this park. Two vintage 19th century buildings

are preserved here, including a one room school and renovated adobe house. Sebelius Reservoir is well known for its excellent fishing opportunities. In recent years, anglers have found productive fishing for black bass, walleye, wiper, crappie, catfish and saugeye.

GONE FISHING

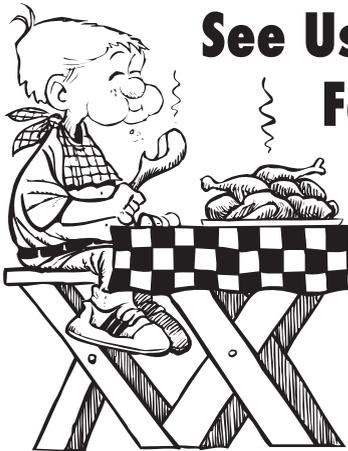
See Us for All of Your Camping Food and Drink Supplies

Beer, Ice, Pop, Chips, Lunchmeat, Chesters Chicken, Fruit and Numerous Other Snacks

Main Street

IGA

313 W. MAIN STREET, NORTON, KS — PHONE 785-877-2422



Welcome Fishermen, Campers and Tourists!

Enjoy your Visit at Prairie Dog State Park and Sebelius Reservoir

Sebelius & Griffiths,

L.L.P.

— ATTORNEYS —

105 S. NORTON - PHONE 785-877-5143 - NORTON

