

The pride of sportsmanship matters

Hunters have a long and distinguished history with a conservation record in which they can take great pride in promoting and preserving wildlife in Kansas. Even if you do nothing more than buy your hunting licenses, stamps and tags each year, you will help to finance the many wildlife conservation and restoration programs. This is not something that the politicians pushed off on hunters. Early sportsmen sought to start licensing themselves so the states would have money to pay for wildlife conservation and restoration. Our hunting fees have contributed many millions of dollars to state wildlife programs. Beyond that, the 11 percent excise tax on our guns, ammo, etc. under the Pittman-Robertson Act has

provided millions more to improve wildlife. Sportsmen should take great pride in all they have done to promote ethical and responsible hunting. Unfortunately, a small percentage of hunters give all of us a bad name.

Wildlife laws and hunting regulations protect both game and sportsmen. Illegal or unethical hunting can hurt hunters by reducing our chances to hunt or undercutting the progress made in wildlife management. While some laws and regulations ensure fair chase, others give everyone a chance to hunt and make hunting safer. It is your responsibility to know and follow all game laws and, to make sure your hunting partners do too. The saying, "I didn't know" is no

Prairie Dog State Park News

Toby Kuhn

Park Manager

excuse. Sportsmen have a duty and are bound by their code of ethics to police their own ranks. Every roadside sign full of bullet holes and every spotlighter is a problem for the ethical hunter. In Kansas, there is a program to report violations via a toll free number. Operation Game Thief is the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks program which allows citizens to turn in

poachers or other violations. You can call toll-free within Kansas at 1-877-426-3843. An online form is also available at the KDWP web site, www.kdwp.state.ks.us. This can be done anonymously without you having to appear in court to testify.

There are never enough Natural Resource Officers to cover the entire state of Kansas all day every day—so; wildlife needs your eyes and ears to report known or suspected violations. Every time a poacher illegally takes wildlife, they take something from each of

us. Legitimate sportsmen lose the chance of legally harvesting the game. Landowners, businesses and taxpayers lose revenues generated by hunting and fishing. All of us lose part of a valuable natural resource—our wildlife. In hunter education, we were all taught about hunting ethics and the pride of sportsmanship. Let's continue to protect the natural resources and take pride in continuing the rich tradition of ethical hunting in Kansas. The National Rifle Association has an excellent code of ethics for hunters.

NRA Hunter's Code of Ethics

I will consider myself an invited guest of the landowner, seeking his permission, and so conducting myself that I may be welcome in the future.

I will obey the rules of safe gun handling and will courteously but firmly insist that others who hunt with me do the same.

I will obey all game laws and regulations, and insist that my companions do likewise.

I will do my best to acquire those marksmanship and hunting skills, which insure clean, sportsmanlike kills.

I will support conservation efforts, which can assure good hunting for the future generations of Americans.

I will pass along to younger hunters the attitudes and skills essential to a true outdoor sportsman.



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. 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.

Welcome Hunters

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