

KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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pictured above: October creek bottom in the Flint Hills (photo by Stephanie Herrera)

What's New

AFFILIATE UPDATES

.....

KANSAS FALL ACTIVITIES

.....

SQUIRREL HUNTING

.....

WILDFLOWER SEED COLLECTING

.....

GET INVOLVED, STAY INFORMED

President's Message

The Kansas Wildlife Federation has been around for over 70 years and in that time we have accomplished so much—more than 30 years of Outdoor Adventure Camp, numerous testimonials and op-eds in favor of pro-outdoors legislation, years of lively annual meetings, and strong leadership in the Kansas outdoors community. When I think of the next 70 years and how our organization will do its part to inspire and mobilize coming generations of hunters, anglers, and conservationists, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWPT) new "Outdoors for All" concept is essential. We are proud to work with our partners at the state to make the Kansas outdoors more diverse, inclusive, and truly available to all. Look in the coming weeks for a first big step in this effort: the Kansas hunting regulations will be available in Spanish!

Mensaje de la Presidente

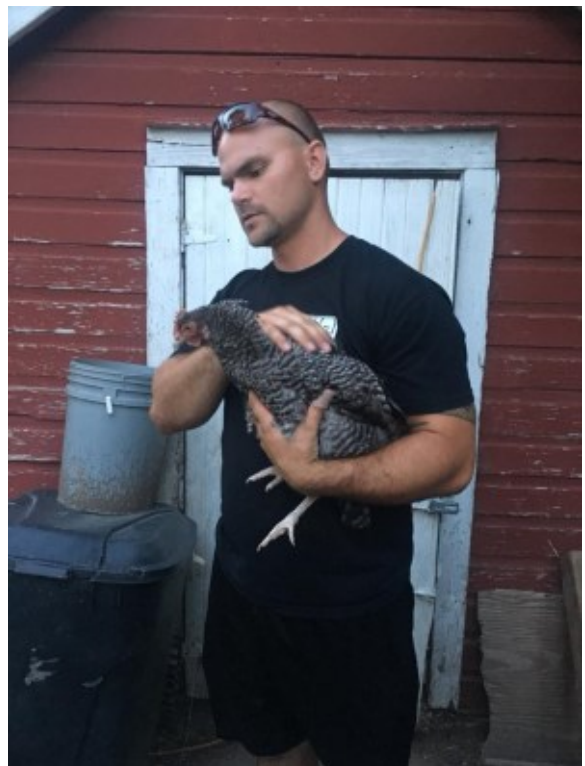
La Kansas Wildlife Federation existe desde hace más de 70 años y en ese tiempo hemos logrado mucho: más de 30 años de ["OAC" \(Campamento de Aventuras al Aire Libre\)](#) numerosos testimonios y artículos de opinión a favor de la legislación pro-actividades al aire libre, años de animadas reuniones anuales, y un fuerte liderazgo en la comunidad de actividades al aire libre de Kansas. Cuando pienso en los próximos 70 años y en cómo nuestra organización hará su parte para inspirar y movilizar a las próximas generaciones de cazadores, pescadores y conservacionistas, el nuevo concepto de "Recreación al aire libre es para todos" del Departamento de Vida Silvestre, Parques y Turismo de Kansas (KDWPT) es esencial. Estamos orgullosos de trabajar con nuestros socios en el estado para hacer que el aire libre de Kansas sea más diverso, inclusivo y verdaderamente disponible para todos. Busque en las próximas semanas un primer gran paso en este esfuerzo: ¡[las regulaciones de caza de Kansas estarán disponibles en Español!](#)



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jeffrey Seim grew up on a farm north of Grand Island, NE where he was free to explore his curiosities of the outdoor world. After completing his undergraduate (2013) and graduate (2015) degrees in biology from Fort Hays State University, Jeff began his career working with Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. There he has conducted research as a seasonal Ecological Technician, performed wildlife conservation as a Private Lands Biologist, and currently works as a Fisheries/Wildlife Biologist with the Ecological Services Section of the agency. Jeff currently lives in Pratt, KS where he enjoys gardening, beekeeping, trapping, hunting, and fishing .

Jeff will serve as the Kansas Wildlife Federation Director of Southwest Kansas. Welcome, Jeff!



“Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.”

— Wendell Berry

Affiliate Updates

- ◆ Check out the Geary County Fish and Game Association newsletter linked on their Facebook page “Geary County Fish and Game Association” and at their website.

<http://www.gearycountyfishandgame.net>
- ◆ The Riley County Fish and Game Association canceled their October meeting but please check their Facebook page for updates.
- ◆ Check out the Ford County Sportsman’s Club Facebook page for updates.
- ◆ Are you following the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism—Game Wardens page on Facebook? This is a great way to see what our wildlife officers are up to and to receive updates on safety in the outdoors around the state!

Officers and Board of Directors

The Kansas Wildlife Federation promotes hunting and fishing opportunities and associated recreation for the benefit of all hunters, anglers, and conservationists. KWF supports the sustainable use and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats through education, partnerships, outreach, and policy oversight.

2020 NWF Representative

Laura Mendenhall

2020 NWF Alternate Representative

Lyndzee Rhine

President

Laura Mendenhall

Southcentral District Director

Lyndzee Rhine

Southeast District Director

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Geary County Fish & Game Association

Junction City, KS

Riley County Fish & Game Association

Manhattan, KS

Kansas Wildlife Officers Association

Manhattan, KS



Cheyenne Bottoms in the Fall. Photo by Brent Frazee

Kansas Fall

by Brent Frazee

Fall is a time of renewal in the Kansas outdoors.

Deer are active with the cooler weather, the sky is filled with flocks of migrating waterfowl, wooded areas are alive with a splash of color, and frost-covered fields beckon quail and pheasant hunters.

Looking for things to do and places to go? Here are 10 options.

- Looking to get some early shots at doves? Try the **Melvorn Wildlife Area** in eastern Kansas. The public

hunting fields are teeming with sunflowers, a dove's idea of candy. Seven managed fields totaling 115 acres will be open to hunting.

- It has been dry at the **Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area** in the central part of the state. But that's a good thing. The weather has allowed Wildlife and Parks to work on pools, and disk under the cattails that often hinder hunters and waterfowl. Timely rains are needed, but there is water in storage pools. If hunting pools have enough water, the teal season and regular duck season hold promise.
- **Milford Reservoir** in the northeast part of the state is known for its fall fishing for wipers. The first cold front in September often activates

the fish and lures them from their deep summer haunts into the shallows to chase shad. During low-light periods, the big gamefish often tear into schools of baitfish and hit topwater lures with a vengeance.

- Head to **Wyandotte County Park** in Kansas City, Kan., if you are looking for a place to soak in the beauty of fall from the hiking trail. The woods surrounding the 300-acre lake are alive with color in mid to late October, and several hiking trails put you right in the middle of that beauty. A 10-mile loop trail circles the urban lake and provides spectacular views.

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- **Northwest Kansas** annually produces some of the best pheasant hunting in the nation. Though the region has only a sprinkling of managed wildlife areas, it is rich in WIHA (Walk-in Hunting Access) properties, where the state has leased private land from farmers and opened it to public hunting. The more-accessible land often gets hit hard, especially early in the season. But hunters who do some research and find out-of-the-way WIHA land report surprising success. Go to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism website (ksoutdoors.com) for an atlas of land enrolled in the program.
- **The north-central part of the state** offers outstanding mixed bag upland-gamebird hunting. The region, particularly around Glen Elder Reservoir, has long been known for its pheasant hunting. But the block of counties also has a healthy population of bobwhite quail. The **Glen Elder Wildlife Area** provides outstanding hunting, but be prepared to fight the crowd, especially early in the season. Again, WIHA land offers good options.
- Looking for a beautiful place to camp this fall? Try **Kanopolis State Park** in central Kansas. Located in the Smoky Hills, it was the first tract designated as a state park in the Sunflower State. It features more than 400 campsites. Campers can explore the rugged landscape on more than 30 trails open to hiking, mountain biking and horseback riders. Horsethief Canyon offers the beauty and vistas that belie Kansas' reputation as a flat, monotonous state.
- The **Milford Wildlife Area** is a great place for deer hunters looking for an abundance of land to explore. Almost 19,000 of public land surround Milford Reservoir, most of it on the west side and north end. The area's mix of timber, grasslands and bottomland supports an impressive population of whitetails, including some trophy bucks. Those who scout and often put in some work to hike to the more remote parts of the wildlife area often do best.
- The **Mined Land Wildlife Area** in southeast Kansas produces outstanding bass fishing in September and October. The wildlife area is filled with strip pits left from the coal-mining days. When fall arrives and interests turn to hunting and football, the pits get little fishing pressure. That's a great time to sneak up on a big bass feeding up in advance of winter.
- Some outdoors enthusiasts look forward to sailing into fall on **Perry Lake** in northeast Kansas. Once Labor Day passes, the water is considerably less crowded, allowing for leisurely cruises in the crisp air. The reservoir is known for sailing, with several active fleets of boats.

Brent Frazee is an award-winning writer and photographer who lives in Parkville, Mo. You can see more of his work on his blog, brentfrazee.com.



En Español: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Jardín-Silvestre>

Squirrel — It's Not For Dinner

by Lyndzee Rhine

Do you know that feeling of pure adrenaline rushing through your body when a big buck walks within sight? Or how your hands shake and your heart pounds before you take the shot on a perfectly paused tom? Well, squirrel hunting is not like that.

I went on my first squirrel hunt in mid-September, it didn't give me quite the same rush as a big game hunt does but it's still worth a trek into the woods. This was also my first hunt on public lands, so it was a big day for me.

I did [ample research to make sure I was following all the laws and regulations and felt confident enough in my knowledge to venture out alone.](#)

It was a beautiful Sunday evening; I had just found the perfect place to start my hunt. Walking through a grove of walnuts, oaks, and a handful of other trees can cause quite a racket, which is exactly what you want to do (I had read).

I could hear them barking their warning calls. Excited to have my first go, I settled on a log and



Lyndzee Rhine, new squirrel hunter

waited. The thing about hunting squirrels is that they know you're there.

They're suspicious of you, they don't like you, but eventually, if you sit still long enough, they'll assume you're not there to bother them but still keep a watchful eye. If you're lucky, like I was, you'll become one with the woods and disappear altogether.

When this happened, a beautiful, plump, fox squirrel decided to walk out onto a branch, lay down and sun itself. It was the

perfect shot.

I shouldered my great-grandfathers bolt-action .22 rifle, peered down the iron sights and pulled the trigger. My heart had been beating steady, my fingers weren't trembling. I missed. I reloaded. Missed again. I shot at 3 different squirrels, each one lived to see another day and I had run out of daylight.

Don't underestimate "tree rats," they're quick, clever, and are really good at lying flat along a tree

branch. I'm not sure why I missed. Maybe it was trusting my dad when he said, "that thing is a dead shot," and not bothering to do a few practice rounds,

maybe it was that I was using a .22 over a shotgun, or maybe it was me. Regardless, I caught the small-game bug and will be going out again. My roasted squir-

rel with a cherry glaze will have to wait for another day but I'm bound and determined to put some squirrels in my freezer this fall.

Ardilla: no es para cenar

por Lyndzee Rhine

¿Conoces esa sensación de pura adrenalina corriendo por tu cuerpo cuando un gran ciervo camina cerca? ¿O cómo te tiemblan las manos y el corazón late con fuerza antes de disparar a un pavo? Bueno, la caza de ardillas no es así.

Fui a mi primera caza de ardillas a mediados de septiembre, no me dio la misma emoción que una gran caza de animales, como ciervos, pero aún así es digno de una caminata por el bosque. Esta fue también mi primera cacería en tierras propiedad del gobierno, así que fue un gran día para mí. [Investigué para asegurarme de que estaba siguiendo todas las leyes y regulaciones](#) y me sentí lo suficientemente confiado en mis conocimientos como para aventurarme solo.

Fue una hermosa noche de do-

mingo; Acababa de encontrar el lugar perfecto para comenzar mi cacería. Caminar por una arboleda de nogales, robles y un puñado de otros árboles puede causar un gran alboroto, que es exactamente lo que quieres hacer (había leído).

Podía oírlos ladrar sus llamadas de advertencia. Emocionado por tener mi primer intento, me acomodé en un tronco y esperé. En la caza de ardillas, las ardillas saben que estás allí.

Sospechan de ti, no les agradas, pero eventualmente, si te quedas quieto el tiempo suficiente, asumirán que no estás allí para molestarlos, pero aún así mantendrán un ojo atento. Si tienes suerte, como yo, te convertirás en un árbol y desaparecerás por completo.

Cuando esto sucedió, una ardilla hermosa y regordeta decidió caminar hacia una rama, acostarse y tomar el sol. Fue el



Lyndzee Rhine, Nueva cazadora de ardillas

disparo perfecto.

Coloqué el rifle calibre 22 de cerrojo de mi bisabuelo en mi hombro, miré a través de las miras de hierro y apreté el gatillo. Mi corazón había estado latiendo con firmeza, mis dedos no temblaban. Me perdí. Recargué. Perdido de nuevo. Disparé a 3 ardillas diferentes, fallé cada una y me quedé sin luz del día.

No subestime a las "ratas de árbol", son rápidas, inteligentes y muy buenas para acostarse

sobre la rama de un árbol. No estoy seguro de por qué me perdí. Tal vez fue confiar en mi papá cuando dijo, "esa cosa es un tiro muerto", y no molestarse en hacer algunas rondas de prác-

tica, tal vez fue que estaba usando una .22 en lugar de una escopeta, o tal vez fui yo. Independientemente, volveré a salir. Mi ardilla asada con glaseado de

cereza tendrá que esperar otro día, pero estoy decidido a poner algunas ardillas en mi congelador este otoño.

Collecting native wildflower seeds for your pollinator-friendly yard

by Laura Mendenhall

It can be difficult to find native wildflower seeds and seedlings from the retailers most of us turn to when looking to add plants to our landscaping. You either cannot find a native species, you cannot trust that what you are buying is truly native to Kansas or that it is an eco-type, or the price is just too cost-prohibitive! Worry not! You can still landscape with native plants "on the cheap", you just need to be a little clever and patient.

October through November is a great time to collect wildflower seeds in Kansas. Put on your favorite sweater, grab your kiddos, and follow these tips to get going:

Step 1: Know your flowers and grasses. You can start by learning just a few. During spring, summer, and late fall, make note of a striking flower or bunch grass



you think might look fitting in your yard. Identify the plant using the "wildflowers listed by time of flowering" tool on the exceptional Kansas Wildflowers and Grasses website (<https://kswildflower.org/byTime.php>). You can narrow down the options by bloom color, too. Note: be sure the flower or grass of

interest is native to Kansas! This is important. You do not want to spread invasive plants.

Step 2: Make a mental note of the location of the plant or plants (and make sure you have access to the land—no trespassing!). Good places to look include public lands where seed collecting is permitted, roadsides in non-urban areas, or established butterfly gardens or pastures where you have permission from the caretaker. We have been known to collect seeds from rest areas planted with low-maintenance plants, college campus butterfly gardens, parking lot bioswales, the edges of golf courses, and ditches along gravel roads in rural areas.

Step 3: Check back about a month after bloom time to see if the plant has "gone to seed" and that the seeds are dry or "cooked" and fall easily from the seed head.

Step 4: Collect seedheads from a few different plants so you don't strip any one plant of all its seeds and to increase your chances of collecting viable seeds. Squish up the seed heads so the individual seeds fall out. Some seeds, like those from milkweed, need the fluffy parts removed prior to storage.

Step 5: Sort seeds into different envelopes and label with species, collection date, and location.

Step 6: Now you need to cold stratify. Our native seeds are adapted for the Kansas climate and need to experience winter prior to germination. You can either leave them in a safe spot outside all winter or place in your refrigerator until about late March/early April.

Step 7: Plant in late March/early April making sure to mark where you are planting so you can avoid mistaking seedlings for weeds! Most seeds need just a little soil coverage and depending on the type of seed you collected, be sure to plant in the proper sunlight. Note that many of our tallgrass prairie wildflow-



Label your envelope with species, location collected, and any other information before putting in your 'fridge until spring.

ers and grasses do need full sun.

Step 8: Now you wait. Give it 2 growing seasons for perennials to grow strong and start to flower. If you are worried about your flower bed's progress in the first growing season, we recommend adding a sign to let your neighbors know what you are doing is intentional. [Check out the NWF store for your signage needs](#).

Pro-tip: Hand-written native seed packets with planting instructions make great holiday gifts or party-favors, too!

If you are on Instagram, check out our story highlights @KSwildlifed for a seed collecting demonstration and more tips.

Add seed-collecting to your fall family traditions this year. Snap some photos and be sure to tag us on Facebook or Instagram so we can marvel in your success!

Upcoming Events

Process Your Deer Event

October 10, or 11th 2020

Wee Bear Lodge
Tanmangile Road, Manhattan 66502

Open to all who wish to participate

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)
Riley County Fish & Game Association

1:00 p.m. Saturday October 10th

10:00 a.m. Sunday October 11th

Deer taken by hunters during the open deer season will be processed with the public invited to observe receive instruction, and ask questions. This program is intended for all who have and interest from novice to those experience, Walton's of Wichita, a "everything but the meat" company will sponsor the instruction.

The goal of our event is to provide support for all with interest in processing their own game. experienced guides and staff for hunters prospective hunters of all ages are encouraged to attend. This is a friends and family oriented event.

Ben Jedlicka 785 256-3614, or Todd Lovin 785 410-3728

Join the Kansas Wildlife Federation

It is **free** to become a member of the Kansas Wildlife Federation. When you sign up on our website, know that you are joining a community of conservation-minded outdoors-people, hunters, anglers, gardeners, and concerned citizens.

Membership includes:

- ⇒ Subscription to our monthly digital news bulletin! This is a quick emailed overview of upcoming events, important news items, and book, documentary, lecture, and podcast recommendations from us to help you stay “in-the-know” each month.
- ⇒ Subscription to our quarterly digital newsletter, a longer collection of articles and information based on 4 themes: gardening for wildlife (spring), outdoor recreation and fishing (summer), hunting (fall), Kansas Legislative Session primer (winter)
- ⇒ Emailed action alerts for pending Kansas and National legislation relevant to the interests of our members
- ⇒ Invitation to our annual meetings
- ⇒ Invitations to scheduled events such as conservation pint nights, learning sessions, lectures, and coffee chats

How To Get Involved with KWF

Visit our new website: www.kansaswildlifefederation.org to learn about becoming a member or donor and to keep track of upcoming events in your area.

Follow us on Facebook (Kansas Wildlife Federation, Inc.), Instagram @kswildlifefed, and Twitter @KSWildlifeFed for the latest news on conservation in Kansas and to learn about upcoming events.

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

BECOME A DONOR