



March 2015

# LOVEWELL SPRING NEWSLETTER

## Permit Fees Unchanged for 2015!!

We hope you are enjoying the ease of the online link to our newsletter! The postcard that you received was less expensive to print and mail than the entire newsletter, as was done in the past. This is also more user-friendly, since it can be saved to your computer for future reference. There have been no changes to permit fees for 2015. All annual vehicle permits are still \$25.00 (\$13.75 for Kansas Seniors or Disabled) regardless of the time of year it is purchased. ***There is still an early discount on the purchase of the Annual Camp and 14 Day Camp permits!!*** Purchase the Annual Camp permit before April 1st and save \$50.00! Or the 14 Day Camp permit savings is \$15.00! Annual Vehicle and Annual Camp permits can also be purchased online at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com) (License/Permits). Print the temporary permit at home and bring it to the park office to exchange for a permit sticker. The 14-Day Camp permit is not available online.

### STATE PARK FEES FOR 2015

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Annual Vehicle                       | \$25.00                            |
| Kansas SR/Disabled Annual            | \$13.75                            |
| Daily Vehicle                        | \$ 5.00                            |
| Kansas SR/Disabled Daily             | \$ 3.25                            |
| Annual Camp                          | \$152.50 (\$202.50 after March 31) |
| 14 Day Camp                          | \$ 87.50 (\$101.50 after March 31) |
| Daily Camp                           | \$ 8.00                            |
| Prime Site                           | \$ 2.00                            |
| Electricity                          | \$ 9.00                            |
| Elect/Water                          | \$11.00                            |
| Elect/Water/Sewer                    | \$12.00                            |
| Long Term Campsite Elect             | \$271.50                           |
| Long Term Campsite Elect/Water       | \$331.50                           |
| Long Term Campsite Elect/Water/Sewer | \$391.50                           |

\* Transaction Fee of \$3.00 will be added to each campsite transaction TOTAL.

OFFICE HOURS THRU APRIL ARE 8AM TO 4:30PM MONDAY–FRIDAY.

WEEKEND HOURS WILL BEGIN IN MAY.

## Kansas Residents ~ Don't Forget About The State Park Passport!

The Kansas State Park Passport is an annual vehicle permit that will allow ***Kansas residents*** access into any state park throughout the state. The Passport will make enjoying our state parks more affordable and much more convenient for Kansas residents. With a passport, Kansas families can enjoy a year full of adventure and outdoor activities!



***Kansas residents*** can purchase their passport during their motor vehicle registration (license plate renewal) process, and it can be renewed every year during this process.

***Be sure to mention to your County Treasurer, your intent to purchase the Passport BEFORE the transaction is complete!*** Passports will cost \$15.00, plus a \$.50 transaction fee. This is \$10.00 less than purchasing your permit through a KDWPPT office or website!

For more information about park passports, contact:  
Pratt Operations  
Office Parks Division  
(620) 672-5911

Scan for Kansas State Park Passport Information →



**Wish You Could Camp At The Lake All Summer Long?  
Contact Lovewell State Park About Becoming A Camp Host!!!**

### Inside this issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Lovewell's 2015 Special Events                   | 2 |
| Lovewell Marina Update                           | 2 |
| Reservation and Facility Info At Your Fingertips | 3 |
| AmeriCorps Program Benefits Kansas State Parks   | 3 |
| Cottonwood and Cedar Point Utility Upgrades      | 3 |
| Regulation Reminders                             | 4 |
| Lovewell State Park Welcomes New Park Ranger     | 4 |
| SMART Technologies For Your Camping Experience   | 5 |
| Southwinds Cabin Renovation is Complete          | 5 |
| Park Ranger Mobile App                           | 5 |
| 2015 Fishing Forecast                            | 6 |
| New Blue Catfish Regulation for 2015             | 7 |
| Creel Survey for Lovewell Reservoir              | 7 |
| Matt Farmer Named Wetland Manager of the Year    | 7 |
| iSportsman Replaces Hunter Survey Cards          | 8 |
| Central Flyway Migration Corridor Grant Received | 8 |

### Advice from a Squirrel:

- Plan Ahead
- Stay Active
- Spend Time in the Woods
- Go Out on a Limb
- Look Both Ways When Crossing the Road
- Its OK to be a little nuts!



## LOVEWELL'S 2015 SPECIAL EVENTS!!

Don't miss this year's line-up of Lovewell State Park special events! April 25th will be a very busy day! Lovewell State Park's Open House is the first of two Free Park Entrance Days, fishing forecast programs will be given and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated Cottonwood Campground is scheduled. In addition, KS Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is teaming with KS Dept of Health and Environment and Westar Energy for Earth Day events statewide, and Lovewell State Park was chosen as a site this year! **Volunteer groups from our area are asked to contact the state park office if they would like to participate.** Several cleanup projects are planned. Free Fishing Weekend will be June 6th and 7th. The Kids Fishing Clinic will be held on the 7th. **Registration will be limited to 50 kids, age 7-16.** Participants will learn fish identification, rules and regulations, receive fishing technique instruction, and learn how to clean a fish!

In compliance with Bureau of Reclamation regulations, for the July 4th holiday no fireworks will be allowed in Lovewell State Park or Lovewell Wildlife Area. The Sand Castle/Sculpture Contest will be held on Sunday, July 19th, with a new event added the same day, a "Float Your Boat" Contest. Participants must design and build a cardboard boat (specifications will be available in early July), and bring it to the Southwinds Beach for the contest to see whose boat can float through the designated course without sinking! The boat's "captain" must be aboard to qualify. Lovewell Fun Day on August 1st will feature the 5K and 2 mile Run/Walk, Co-Ed Mud Volleyball tournament, Kids Sand Treasure Hunt, and Rock/Paper/Scissors Tournament. Campground Christmas will be held August 15th, with lots of campsite decorations and holiday fun. The final events of the season will be held Sept 13th, with the 3D Archery Tournament, and our final Free Park Entrance Day.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Free Park Entrance      | April 25 |
| Open House              | April 25 |
| Earth Day Park Projects | April 25 |
| Free Fishing Weekend    | June 6/7 |
| Kids Fishing Clinic     | June 7   |
| Sand Castle Contest     | July 19  |
| Float Your Boat Contest | July 19  |
| Lovewell Fun Day        | Aug 1    |
| Campground Christmas    | Aug 15   |
| 3D Archery Shoot        | Sept 13  |
| Free Park Entrance      | Sept 13  |

### Kids Fishing Clinic 2014

Participants learned knot tying (left) and fishing techniques. Most everyone caught a fish! (right)



*Lovewell State Park is a popular destination for family reunions, alumni reunions, weddings and company picnics. Reserving a shelter is very economical, at only \$34.00 for the day. Contact us to schedule your own special event today!*

Two on-going projects at the State Park are currently in the works. The Cedar Point Boat Ramp Breakwater was damaged last year by ice movement and has been removed for this season, until a suitable replacement structure can be designed and constructed. Also, trees have been removed from the Bluebird area of the State Park, in the drainage area between Cottonwood and Cedar Point Campgrounds. The tree removal is in preparation for a possible Youth Fishing Pond. The area has been surveyed in preparation for this exciting improvement, should funding earmarked for this designated project become available. Once constructed, the fishing pond would be stocked with various sunfish and other easily catchable fish species for youth to develop their fishing skills! The pond will be catch and release.



## Lovewell Marina Will Continue To Serve Customers!

essentials: bait, ice, drinks and licenses. We have our inventory of other items from last year, but we will only operate with what we have and no food service will be available. We don't plan to have a credit card terminal, so please carry either cash or checks when you come! Saying all this, it will be our pleasure to see you all! We always love the beginning of the year to see everyone and renew friendships. We will always have a pot of hot coffee on. We plan to be open at 7AM starting the last week in March, but our hours may vary so if you plan to come out early spring, please call first. I will try to have a phone message when we can't be there. We want to thank you all for the past ten years! We always say we have the best clientele anywhere and our experience has been the best because of you. Our health and stamina have been a little compromised the last couple of years, so it is time to turn it over to someone else, but we will always cherish the memories and the experience.

Yes, the marina is still for sale, and Yes, we do plan to open this spring. However, it will only be with the

*Gary and Lyndell Charbonneau*





## RESERVATIONS AND FACILITY INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Since its launch in April of 2012, the Outdoor Recreation Management System (ORMS) has been a big success, drawing favorable reviews from our constituents and staff. It allows park users and park staff to quickly view available campsites and facilities, and make reservations with a few clicks of the computer mouse! All campsites in the Wall-eye Point, Cottonwood, and North Willow Utility Campgrounds, and each of Lovewell's camping cabins, are part of the online reservable system. In addition, park staff uses the ORMS system to manage and complete walk-in campsites sales for the Cedar Point and South Willow Utility campsites, primitive camping areas, long term campsites, and group shelter reservations. Staff members have an instant visual of campsites that are occupied, reserved, or available. Campsites reserved for the upcoming weekend are marked by Wednesday of each week, to assist walk-in customers with choosing their campsite. Park visitors can utilize the [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com) website to view campsite information and photos, availability, and make their reservations from home. Those without internet access can still call the state park office during business hours for assistance with their reservations. Advanced reservations for camping cabins can be made 364 days in advance; however utility campsite reservations can only be made during the current calendar year, beginning mid-December of each year. Very few problems have been encountered, as staff and constituents become more comfortable with utilizing the system. It has been a welcome addition to our state park operations. **Reserve a campsite TODAY at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)!!**



### AMERICORPS PROGRAM BENEFITS KANSAS STATE PARKS



Join the AmeriCorps Team! KDWPT has Minimum-Time Member positions available (300 hours). What is AmeriCorps? AmeriCorps is a national service program which allows team members to gain service experience and knowledge through hands-on participation in a variety of projects. The grant is designed for long-term benefits to natural resources, recreational opportunities, and public awareness of the outdoors. Team members must be 17 years of age, have a high school diploma, GED, or willing to obtain one; and be a citizen of the United States. Potential members must pass a background check and have a strong desire for community service. For the Minimum-Time Member position, members must complete 300 hours of service during a specified 16-week period from now through September. The member will receive a living stipend of \$263 bi-weekly during the 16-week period. Once the contracted 300 hours are fulfilled, the Member receives a \$1,195.00 education award which can be used at any accredited college, university or trade school. The education award can be used to pay existing student loans or for future enrollments up to 7 years!

### Cottonwood and Cedar Point Utility Upgrades!

Lovewell State Park received matching grant funds last year from the Bureau of



Cottonwood & Cedar Pt Utilities Upgraded to 50 amp service.

Reclamation, earmarked for facility upgrades. Two aging utility campgrounds were targeted for the project. Cottonwood and Cedar Point Utility Campgrounds were built in the mid-1970's and mid-1980's respectively. At that time, 30/20 amp electricity was more than enough to accommodate any camping unit. Times have changed, and most newer campers are requiring 50 amp electricity, and a majority of the camping public desires a site with a water hookup. Work began in November in the Cottonwood Utility Campground, with the trenching of new wire and waterlines to each of the 30 campsites. The work was completed in October, with each site now having 50 amp electrical and water hookups. The upgrade project for the Cedar Point Utility Campground began in February and should be completed by the end of April. We may lose 1 campsite due to overcrowding, but when the project is complete Cedar Point Utility Campground will have 21 sites with water and 50 amp electric hookups; 9 sites with 50 amp electric only; and 2 sites with 50 amp and electric, water, sewer. One permit fee change should be noted, however. It has been mandated that all new 50 amp service will be designated as prime sites, so all sites in the newly upgraded Cottonwood and Cedar Point Utility Campgrounds will have an additional \$2.00 per night fee.



## REGULATION REMINDERS

Our state park regulations are not new, but do warrant a reminder to all of our visitors as we begin looking forward to the new park season. **VEHICLE AND CAMPING PERMIT EXPIRATION TIMES** — All daily vehicle, camping and utility permits expire at 2 pm following the last day purchased. If your vehicle is still in the state park or your camping unit is still in a primitive or utility campsite after 2 pm, another day permit **MUST** be purchased. **24 HOUR VISITATION** — is required for all campsites in Kansas State Parks. You must tend to your camping unit at least once every 24 hours, with the exception of designated Seasonal Campsites. **14 DAY STAY LIMIT** — A camping unit is limited to 14 consecutive days in a campsite, **utility and primitive**. Following the 14th day of your stay, you must move your camping unit to another campground, or remove it from the state park area, for at least 5 days. **GREY WATER DUMPING** — all waste water from camping units (GREY and BLACK tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only. **SPEED LIMIT** — there is a **25 mph speed limit** throughout the entire park. Speed should be reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. Please watch for pedestrians! **PETS** — are allowed at Lovewell State Park, however must be kept on a 10ft or shorter leash or chain **at all times**. Pets are **not allowed** in any of the facilities, unless for assistance purposes. This includes all shower and restroom facilities, park office, group shelters, and **state park camping cabins**. Cabin renters must keep pets outside on a chain/leash, or in a kennel. *However*, Pioneer Camping Cabin has been designated as “pet friendly,” with payment of the Pet Friendly Fee of \$50 per stay. With everyone abiding by state park regulations, we can continue to provide a safe and family-oriented park and enjoyable visits for all!! Thank You!

## Lovewell State Park Welcomes New Park Ranger!!



Jared Mocaby was hired as the Lovewell State Park Natural Resource Officer/Ranger in mid-February. Jared is originally from Smith Center, KS and attended Kansas State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in Park Management and Conservation. During his time in Manhattan, he worked for Wildcat Services as a maintenance technician and was also employed as a Maintenance Worker and Park Ranger for the US Army Corps of Engineers at Milford Reservoir. Jared enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, being in the outdoors, and spending time with family. He and his fiancé Amanda will be married this September. Jared will be attending certification at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center later this year. He replaces Travis Schulte, who transferred in October of 2014 to the KDWPT Law Enforcement Division for Riley and Pottowatomie counties.

Jared Mocaby begins work as the Lovewell State Park Ranger in March.

Our Staff wishes to welcome Jared to the Lovewell team!



**Like Us On Facebook!!** *Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism—Lovewell State Park*

“Like” us, and you will find the latest information on upcoming events, past events, information on facilities and lake status, great park photos, anything you want to know! With lake level and water quality issues that have occurred in the past, we know that it can be frustrating when you have made plans to visit Lovewell and hear a *rumor*, that the “LAKE IS CLOSED!” Now you have the *inside track* on the most up to date information, no need to worry about unsubstantiated rumors! Status updates can also be found at *ksoutdoors.com* (click on *State Parks*, then *Lovewell*, and *Park News*); or simply call our office during business hours. We will be happy to give you the most accurate, up-to-date information to help with your planning!



## “SMART” TECHNOLOGIES FOR YOUR CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Have you ever heard of a QR Code? Quick Response (QR) codes are readable barcodes that when scanned, can translate the code into a URL, telephone number, text, or other data. QR code readers can be downloaded in the app store of your smart phone. Most QR code apps are available at no charge. Lovewell State Park has installed QR code signage on the reservation posts at campsites and on the park’s camping cabins. By scanning the barcode with your smart phone, it will take you directly to that site or facility on the ReserveAmerica website. From there you will be able to check the availability of the campsite or cabin, find out the cost and amenities for that site or cabin, and can complete a reservation if you choose to do so ~ all from your smart phone! Changes to reservation guidelines are currently being discussed for the future, which could allow a walk-up purchase of the site using your SMART phone, eliminating the need to utilize the self pay station for after hours campsite purchases!



(Scan me !)

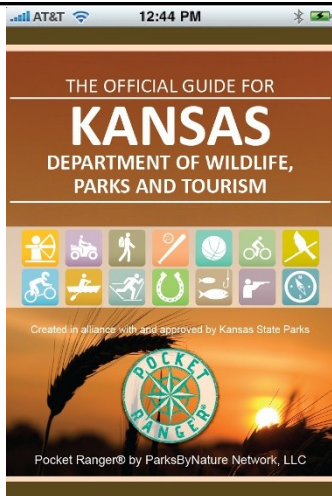
## Southwinds Camping Cabin Renovation is Complete!!



Southwinds Camping Cabin’s New Roomier Interior!

The interior renovation of the Southwinds rustic camping cabin is now complete! In the past, the Southwinds East and West cabins were two separate rentable cabins, separated by an interior wall. Each cabin had only beds and mattresses inside, with the dining area outside under a covered porch. The renovation project consisted of transforming the two separate camping cabins into one larger cabin, much like the Sunrise and Pine Ridge rustic camping cabins that have been so popular. The newly remodeled Southwinds Camping Cabin has two separate bedrooms, each with a full size bed and three single bunks, to sleep a total of 10 persons. It has a large eating area inside, with plenty of counter space and electrical outlets for food preparation. A great stone feature is being built in the living area, and a futon has been added for extra seating. One unique feature is that this cabin now has TWO covered porches, one facing the east and the other facing the west. Future plans are to partially enclose and screen one of the porches for an added feature. The cabin still has a picnic table for outdoor dining, charcoal bbq grill, separate firering, and a water hydrant located outside. With its location next to the water, close proximity to the swimming area and beach, and new roomier interior, the Southwinds Camping Cabin has quickly become one of our most popular! ***Available weekend dates are already thin, but why not consider a ‘staycation’ during the week? Make your reservations now!***

## Pocket Ranger® Smart Phone App



The Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app developed by the ParksbyNature Network serves as an interactive State Parks tour guide accessible through today's leading mobile devices. It is built with the most up-to-date visitor information, and designed for both the novice outdoorsmen and the more seasoned park-goer. The interactive guide along with the advanced GPS mapping technology provides park goers with valuable information for planning that perfect trip to any state park, making it easy for anyone to choose an adventure of their choice. The app allows users to keep abreast of weather conditions, search for activities of interest on-the-go, locate sites by park or state, view and save detailed maps of park facilities, access up-to-date park information, get directions to each site, view a park’s calendar of events, and access online reservations —directly from their mobile device!

Scan for Kansas State Parks Pocket Ranger® mobile app!





## 2015 FISHING FORECAST!!

**LOVEWELL RESERVOIR** - approx. 1 ft. below conservation pool, as of February 2015.

*The fish barrier will be in operation again this year beginning in April so keep an eye out for it near the outlet. Please stay away from the barrier and don't fish next to it!*

**CATFISH - Good.** The catfish population will remain good again in 2015 with all sizes of channel cats and flatheads available to anglers. The fall 2014 channel catfish catch rate was down 50% from the previous year while the number of fish over 24 inches was down 59%, and the number over 28 inches was similar. Fifty-two percent of the fish were between 19 and 23 inches, 29% were 14-18 inches, and 19% were between 25 and 28 inches. Flathead catfish sampled using summertime electrofishing varied from 7 to 45 inches with the biggest fish collected weighing 52 pounds. Channels and flatheads will be vulnerable in all arms of the reservoir, including Montana, Windmill, and Prairie Dog Creek, as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During peak irrigation releases, catfish can be readily caught close to the inlet and outlet structures, and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn. Over one hundred blue catfish were collected during summer electrofishing as this population appears to be growing quickly. These fish ranged from 10-24 inches and up to 5 pounds. Blue catfish have been part of an annual stocking program at Lovewell Reservoir since 2010. **Remember, there is a new minimum length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell of 35 inches. All blue catfish less than 35 inches must be released!**

**CRAPPIE - Fair.** The crappie population will be down in 2015 as the number of fish sampled was much less this past fall than in previous years. The catch rate of crappie over 8 inches declined from 30 per net in 2013 to 4.5 in 2014. While part of this can be attributed to higher water during the 2014 sample, anglers should expect lowered catch rates of crappie in 2015. Of the adults, 73% were 10 to 12 inches and 27% were 7 to 9 inches. There was a nice year class of white crappie produced in 2014 with an average catch of 29 3-5 inch crappie per net which can hopefully recruit into the fishery. A handful of black crappie were also collected with most of these fish between 9 and 12 inches. They will offer some additional opportunities along with the white crappie. These fish all appear to be very healthy with excellent body condition measured. Several brush piles are maintained to help concentrate fish for anglers, and decent success can be found fishing around the flooded vegetation in Montana Creek and other coves during late April and May when the fish are spawning. We added another 280 trees to the fish attractors recently and will likely add more this year.

**WALLEYE - Fair.** Walleye numbers remained steady compared with the 2013 sample, but are well below the previous 5 year average due to poor recruitment in recent years. The total catch rate of 1.83 is also nearly identical to the 2010 and 2011 catch rates, but is 64% less than the high catch rate in 2012. Recruitment has been lacking each year since 2009 except for 2011, thus the adult numbers have suffered. Anglers harvested good numbers of large walleye in 2013 which may have led, in part, to the reduction in total numbers, but the lack of good recruitment in four of the past five years has also played a major role. Overall, 13% of the catch consisted of age-0 fish (9-11 inches) and 13% were of age-1 fish (13-14 inch) indicating there is some recent walleye production, although less than desired. Fish condition remains very good, similar to last year. Fish up to 28 inches and over 7 pounds were collected during fall netting indicating the presence of some nice trophies. Fishing continues to be best from late April through mid-June, with drifting jig/nightcrawler combos having the best success especially along 2-mile road. Anglers are encouraged to carefully measure any questionable fish and handle sublegal fish with care. Nearly 3 million walleye fry were stocked in 2014. **18 inch minimum length limit in effect.**

**WHITE BASS - Fair.** White bass numbers declined for the third consecutive year after a strong rise in 2011. Total numbers declined 65% compared with the 2013 sample and are 89% lower than the 2011 catch. This was actually the lowest recorded catch in the past 10 years. Lack of adequate reproduction over the past couple of years is evident with very few fish less than 12 inches in the sample. Anglers will again notice reduced catch rates, but there should still be enough quality fish to provide fair angling. A large fish kill occurred in May 2013 and resulted in approximately 3,500 dead white bass, mostly large adults. This, combined with good 2013 harvest and low recruitment that past 2 years led to the decline in numbers. On a positive note, a fair year class was produced in 2014 as evidenced by fish between 5 and 7 inches. The biggest fish sampled weighed 1.7 pounds and the fish were in excellent body condition. Overall, 74% of the sample was between 13 and 15 inches, 9% were 9-12 inches, and 17% were 5-7 inches. As in the past, the best time to fish for Lovewell whites will be in the summer, during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can also be productive. Night fishing using floating lights was fair in 2014, and drifting or slabbing over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

**WIPERS - Fair.** Wiper numbers increased for the third consecutive year with a 26% increase compared with the fall 2013 sample. Wipers have been stocked every year since 2010 after stocking on alternate years for a short period. A strong year class was produced in 2012 with fish between 12 and 14 inches accounting for 60% of the catch. This year class is now 16 to 17 inches and still dominates the population. Only five older fish were collected, however, illustrating the poor wiper production between 2007 and 2011. Fish between 5 and 7 inches accounted for 17% of the catch, one year old fish between 13 and 15 inches were 16%, the 2012 year class represented 59%, and fish between 19 and 24 inches accounted for 8% with the biggest fish weighing 5.9 pounds. Fish condition was good to very good for the smaller fish, but only fair for the larger fish. Anglers will have limited success this year targeting large wipers, but good numbers of 2-3 pound fish should be available. Approximately 15,000 fingerling and 3,000 intermediate wipers were stocked in 2014, but there will not be a stocking in 2015 due to improved numbers of wipers in the reservoir. Similar to white bass, decent numbers of wipers can be caught during the irrigation season as the fish migrate to the inlet and outlet areas. Other anglers report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deep-diving rapalas along the north shore and the dam. **Be sure to identify your catch carefully as those young wipers look very similar to white bass. The daily creel limit on wipers is 2 fish!**

**GET THE LATEST WEEKLY FISHING REPORTS FOR ALL AREA RESERVOIRS AT**  
**[www.ksoutdoors.com/news/Fishing/Fishing-Reports](http://www.ksoutdoors.com/news/Fishing/Fishing-Reports)**

*Kansas Resident Fishing \$20.50*

*Non-Resident Fishing \$42.50*

*24 Hour Fishing \$5.50*



## New Blue Catfish Regulation in 2015

By Scott Waters, Fisheries Biologist

Anglers should be aware that there is now a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell Reservoir. All blue catfish less than 35 inches should be released immediately. This regulation will remain in place until a naturally-reproducing population is developed. Anglers may also notice yellow tags on blue catfish that are attached near the dorsal fin. These tags are being used to evaluate movement and growth rates of this species and are very important to the study. If a tagged blue catfish is caught, we ask anglers to record the tag number and location caught, measure the fish carefully, and release the fish. This will help us determine how well these fish are growing in Lovewell Reservoir. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE TAG!

## CREEL SURVEY AT LOVEWELL RESERVOIR IN 2015.....Scott Waters, Fisheries Biologist

Anglers fishing at Lovewell Reservoir this year are likely to be asked to provide some information about their fishing trip. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism has hired a creel clerk at this reservoir in 2015 to collect angler information from March to October. The last creel at Lovewell took place in 2011. Each summer, selected lakes are surveyed to collect information on angler use, fish harvest, fish released, and angler preference. The surveys are run for four hour periods randomly scheduled from daylight to dark on various days of the week. Creel census clerks, dressed in uniform shirts and Department hats, ask anglers to supply information concerning the numbers and species of fish caught, the length of their trip, the satisfaction of their trip, and their place of residence. These interviews will only take a minute or two for a few simple questions. The clerk will ask to see your fish and will take length measurements. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and will certainly help us make better management decisions for improving fishing in the future. Another example of your fishing license dollars at work!



## Matt Farmer Named Wetland Manager of the Year

by Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager



Rob Unruh (left) and Matt Farmer (right)

Matt Farmer was recently named the Ducks Unlimited/KDWPT *Wetland Manager of the Year* at the Kansas Ducks Unlimited Convention in Overland Park Kansas. Matt is the Assistant Manager of Jamestown Wildlife Area, working with Manager Rob Unruh to create the best habitat for waterfowl, migratory birds, upland game and other game and non-game wildlife. His passion for wetlands management and especially hunting waterfowl is evident to everyone he meets. Jamestown Wildlife Area encompasses approximately 5,000 acres with 1,200 acres of wetlands. Matt develops annual water level plans for each pool and then opens and closes the control structures to match the plan. Matt supervised installation of the first pump station on Marsh Creek. The result of the construction was the ability to flood nearly 200 acres in Buffalo Creek North and South Marshes and create perfect habitat with easy access for hunters. The

Jamestown wetland complex continues to grow and improve with land acquisition totaling nearly 900 acres at nearby Talmo Marsh. Working with Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Matt and Rob are planning several wetland construction projects on the new parcels that are enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program. Ducks Unlimited was recently notified that a NAWCA III request was approved that includes more land acquisition and wetland enhancements at Talmo. The property hosts special hunts for waterfowl, upland birds and deer. Matt actively participates in youth education and hunting programs. In August 2014, one hundred Canada geese were banded and released at Jamestown in conjunction with a Ducks Unlimited sponsored *Greenwing* event. Matt is willing to give special attention to anyone who calls or stops by the area for information. In addition to many special projects at Jamestown and Talmo, Matt Farmer is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance, agricultural permitting, and habitat management. This includes administration of the daily hunt permit program and data collection, prescribed burns, water structure and dike maintenance, food plots, invasive tree and noxious weed control, cleaning restrooms and maintaining campgrounds. Matt is very knowledgeable on wetland plants, animals and their systems which results in good habitat and a good hunter harvest. Anyone who knows Matt, appreciates the fact that he is an *AVID* participant in the sport that he manages the property for. He is willing to provide insight and techniques to hunters and maybe even take a beginner on the best hunt of his or her life.

***Congratulations Matt ! You deserve to be recognized for all of your hard work and accomplishments!***

### Visit the Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife Area News Pages

Visit [www.ksoutdoors.com/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-1/Jamestown/](http://www.ksoutdoors.com/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-1/Jamestown/)

OR [www.ksoutdoors.com/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-1/Lovewell/](http://www.ksoutdoors.com/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-1/Lovewell/)

throughout the spring and summer for updates on area management progress, upcoming events, waterfowl migrations and special projects.

Remember to sign up for special youth/novice hunts at Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife areas by visiting the KDWPT special hunt page: [www.ksoutdoors.com/news/Hunting/Special-Hunts](http://www.ksoutdoors.com/news/Hunting/Special-Hunts)



## iSportsman Program Replaces Hunter Survey Cards

Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

Wildlife Area Managers are biologists, and biologists collect data to determine the condition of wildlife and the habitat where it lives and how to improve those numbers. They look at population trends, analyze factors that may have influence, and form an idea or hypothesis of how to proceed to make the situation better. iSportsman is the newest and best tool used to collect data from hunters. Managers have collected numbers on hunters using our areas and what they harvested since they were open to the public. In the early days, seasons were short and most efforts were focused on opening weekends only, which gave us good information for those few days. As seasons were lengthened based on the data collected, it became apparent that we could not assume numbers collected on opening weekends could give us true harvest for the rest of the season as more hunters were out more days. Starting in 1991, postcards were placed on windshields of hunters' vehicles on opening weekends and then on two weekdays and another weekend per month. This gave better data but was getting costly and return rates were not that good. In 1997, before the Department embarked on the renovation of the wetlands at Jamestown Wildlife Area, efforts to survey hunters were increased. Some very important information was collected, as it was shown that Jamestown WA was used not only by local hunters but hunters had come from 29 other states, and that was before the renovation! Hunters were doing well but not as well as earlier times. In 2003 at Jamestown, data collection methods were again improved by surveying hunters using a two-part card. The survey required all hunters to obtain a free, two-part survey card from any of several stations around the area. The stations were referred to as "iron-rangers." The hunter filled out the top half and deposited it into the iron ranger before the hunt started, and kept the bottom half with them to be completed and returned to the ranger at the end of the hunt. This same system was used in 2008 through 2011 at Cedar Bluff, Lovewell and Webster Wildlife areas in conjunction with a wild turkey mortality study. Managers would collect the cards, match tops to bottoms, then record and analyze data. Managers received great data but costs and manpower were significant. Since 2012, Jamestown and Lovewell have been transitioning to the iSportsman system as a better way of collecting data. The fact is the hunter survey card system, as valuable as it was, is too costly and takes a significant amount of time out of the manager's day that could be spent on habitat projects. A weekend of card data sometimes took up to 10 hours to collect and resupply rangers, sort cards, record data, and send to the Research Section to analyze and archive. The process takes only 10 minutes with iSportsman, and is real time data accessible by the manager at any time. Fort Riley Military Reservation plus fourteen KDWP properties statewide are currently using iSportsman with more coming on board in 2015. Haven't signed up for iSportsman yet? Go to <https://isportsman.net> and follow the directions to register and obtain a General Access Permit and assign a password and PIN number. You must sign up the first time from a computer, but from then on you can check-in using the phone number, (844) 500-0825; or download the iSportsman app for your SMART phone or mobile device. It's that easy and you can check-in or check-out from home, the motel or your vehicle. Just be sure and check out the same day as you hunt, since the system will not let you check in again if you have not checked out. For questions, call our Public Lands Section at (620) 672-5911.

**FREE DAILY HUNT PERMIT REQUIRED OF ALL HUNTERS**

PERMIT CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT Available On-line at <https://kdwpt.isportsman.net>

Or dial 1-844-500-0825

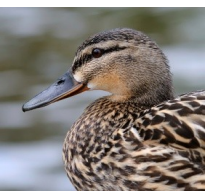
HUNTERS MUST REGISTER ON-LINE FOR AN ACCOUNT BEFORE FIRST CHECK-IN



## Central Flyway Migration Corridor Grant Awarded for Jamestown and Talmo Wildlife Areas

Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

Habitat and wetland renovation work will continue at Jamestown Wildlife Area and begin at Talmo Wildlife Area in 2015. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act Council recently announced that these two wildlife areas, along with projects in the Rainwater Basin in Nebraska, have been chosen for wetland conservation activities to begin this spring and summer. Funding for these projects in part result from the 2010 BP Gulf of



Mexico Oil spill. Twenty-two species affected by this spill migrate through the Central Flyway migration corridor. Renovations will specifically benefit three species: the Piping Plover, Northern Pintail and Mallard. The work at Jamestown will be targeted at buffers surrounding the marshes and 300 acres of wetlands will be renovated at Talmo. The wetlands at Talmo, or *Seapo* as the early native inhabitants called it, was one of the earliest wetlands identified in Kansas. It is one of the thirteen "School Marshes" that were deeded, along with Jamestown, to the State of Kansas by President Abraham Lincoln's administration. The state used the funds from the sale of these marshes to fund what is now Emporia State University. Designs for work are progressing and actual contracts and work should begin early this summer.

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### Lovewell Staff:

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| <b>Dennis Swanson</b> | <b>Maintenance Supervisor</b>    |
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