

Hunter education class is a must have

Hunter education is a program teaching hunters to be safe, knowledgeable and responsible. By law, the course must be at least 10 hours in length, with most courses lasting 12 hours or longer. The courses are organized and conducted by volunteer instructors in many communities across the state. These dedicated men and women believe that hunter education holds the key to the future of hunting. The

course consists of subjects covering hunter responsibility and ethics, history of firearms, firearms basics, ammunition, basic gun safety, alcohol and drugs, bowhunting, conservation and wildlife management, wildlife of Kansas, first aid, survival and boating safety for hunters. Course times and location of classes vary from instructor to instructor. Where possible, students may live fire or go through simulated hunting situations.

Kansas law requires that all hunters born on or after July 1, 1957, must successfully complete a certified hunter education course in order to purchase a hunting license or to hunt (except for those hunting on land that they own). This applies to both resident and non-resident hunters. Kansas does honor certificates of completion from other state-approved courses.

There is no minimum age in order to attend a course. There are no required fees. Kansas hunter education is recognized in all states requiring hunter education certification.

Instructors advertise their classes in local newspapers, over radio, and on television, post fliers at sporting goods shops, or announce them at schools. A list of hunter education scheduled classes is also on this website

You may also contact a Conservation Officer or Wildlife and Parks offices for information about classes in your area. Pre-registration is required for many courses. Student manuals and other training materials are provided free of charge. Upon successful completion of the course you will receive a certification card. Replacements for lost cards may be obtained for a fee from Wildlife and Parks offices and most state parks.

License not needed to fish this weekend

This weekend, June 5-6, NO fishing license will be required to fish in the State of Kansas. Each year one weekend is set aside to allow everybody the chance to experience the joy of fishing without having to purchase a license. This will be an excellent opportunity to take a child or friend to the lake in hopes of landing the big one. Take advantage of this weekend and try your hand at fishing.

Saugeye/walleye stocked in reservoirs

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks recently stocked 20,400 saugeye fingerlings in Sebelius Reservoir and 45,000 fingerling walleye into Kirwin Reservoir.

The saugeye, which is a sauger crossed with a walleye were produced and reared at the Department's Pratt Fish Hatchery. The walleye, were produced and reared at the department's Meade Fish Hatchery and were approximately one inch in length.

Survival rates for stocked fish are dependent upon a number of environmental factors and are highly variable. Hybrids, such as saugeye, typically experience higher rates of survival after stocking than purebred species. For saugeye, if 25 to 50 percent of the fish stocked as fingerlings survive to age 1, this is generally considered very good.

Black Bass — Fair. (10 inch) Seen quite a few bass (largemouth and spotted) during our Spring electrofishing sample. Fish are spread all over the lake with most being along the dam and in Leota Cove.

Bluegill — Fair. (5-9 inches) Are starting to pick up a few off the public fishing dock and in Schoen's cove using worms.

Catfish — Fair. (wide range) Catching some along the north side of dam, off the point south of the office and the mouth of Schoen's Cove using worms, shad and cut or prepared baits.

Crappie — Fair. (wide range) A few crappie being caught using jigs and minnows off the public fishing dock, up into Leota Cove and in Shoen's cove.

Saugeye/Walleye — Good. (wide range) Catching these fish around the dam and on the east side of Leota cove

and up west by the marsh dike using jig and worms and also twister tails. Also catching some off of the east side of Monkey Island in about 5 to 10 feet of water.

Wipers — Good. (wide range) Are starting to pick up some in the north corner of the dam on the east side of Leota cove and concrete cove using jigs, shad and worms.

General Comments — Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Irrigation District have signed a two year minimum pool agreement. Under the minimum pool agreement, water will not be released for irrigation unless surface elevation reaches elevation 2290 or higher, and releases will stop at 2288. Currently the elevation is just below 2288, so unless the lake receives inflow soon, water will not be released for irrigation this year.

FISHING REPORT:

Sebelius Reservoir — Temperature: 75
Lake Elevation: 16.54' below Conservation Pool

SEBELIUS RESERVOIR RESOURCES:

Trails and scenic views

In the center of the park, the Prairie Dog Nature Trail is 1.4 miles long and ambles through native prairie and wildlife food plots. It is a great area for wildlife viewing. Two vintage 19th century buildings are preserved in the park. A one-room schoolhouse (just south of the park office) and the recently renovated adobe house (north of Prairie Dog Campground) are snapshots of Kansas history. Food plots and a waterfowl refuge have been established to enhance wildlife watching. In addition to the park's namesake, pheasant, canada geese, wild turkey, badger and mule and white-tailed deer can be observed.

Office and restrooms

The park office is now open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. However, you may want to call before making a special trip — 877-2953. Wear a personal floatation device when boating. The reservoir is low.

Please continue to use caution with campfires because of the extremely dry conditions.

Boating and fishing

Relax and enjoy the historic sites, picnic shelters and small swimming beach. Fishing is excellent in the Sebelius Reservoir. Saugeye, wiper, largemouth bass, channel catfish and crappie give anglers a variety to test their skills. There is a two-lane boat ramp on the east end of the park with parking available for over 100 units.

Charles E. Worden

~ Attorney at Law ~

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