

Pheasant hunter looking forward to season

By DAVE BERGLING

Most folks have said pheasant hunting hasn't been very good the last few years, but not me.

I'll admit the 2002 season was the worst I've ever seen, but what can you expect when there is absolutely next to no cover for the birds?

But the rain in the spring of 2003 brought back good cover for the birds, and they can rebound pretty darn fast. Plus, Clay Anderson and I have raised and released several hundred pheasant over the last couple of years. We should know this season if we have helped

Mother Nature or not.

Anyway, Clay and I took my dogs out the second weekend of the season. We left after lunch on Sunday, hit four nice pockets and had our limit in an hour and half. Neither one of us have done that in quite a few years.

My son Jeremy was back from Perth, Australia, for Christmas. We went out several times and had some really good times. We shot several nice birds.

The one thing I'll never forget is when we were in this pocket that ends in a pasture. There was big plum thicket close to the end.

I was on one side of the pocket when Jeremy started calling the dogs.

"Come here Avenue, come here Madison. Madison, Avenue, come here.

"Dad, the dogs are going north."

I said, "You better go with them; they know what they are doing."

I got around the thicket just in time to see both dogs locked up on point and Jeremy with his shotgun up to shoulder, taking one step at a time towards them.

I thought, "I sure hope it's a rooster."

It was, and he got it. Sure glad he did, because my dogs will look at you funny if you miss one that they point out. We had some good times, and I'm looking forward to when we can go again.



Wildlife, Parks to stock trout throughout season

It's that time of year again, when Kansas anglers get the opportunity to fish for a tasty species that isn't native to the state — rainbow trout. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks stocks rainbow in waters throughout the state, offering a special angling opportunity for both novice anglers and seasoned fly fishermen.

Anyone fishing for trout in these waters from Oct. 15 through April 15 must purchase a \$11 trout permit. In addition, all residents 16 through 64, and non-residents 16 and older, must have a valid fishing license.

Two new areas, Pratt Centennial Pond and Topeka Auburndale Park Stream, have been added to the program this year. Trout fishing

at Mined Land Wildlife Area No. 30 (Cherokee County) and Tuttle Creek Reservoir Seep Stream, where trout survive through the summer, requires a trout permit year-around. Smoky Gardens at Goodland will not receive trout until rains fill the lake. Two areas — Kanopolis State Park Pond and Glen Elder Stilling Basin — no longer stock trout.

Trout will be stocked throughout the state during this season. Check the stocking schedule under "Fishing" on the KDWP website, www.kdwp.state.ks.us stocking dates and waters.

For more information, email feedbacks@wp.state.ks.us.

WATERFOWL REPORT:

Norton — As of Nov. 9

Waterfowl numbers — 300 ducks; few geese

Water level — Reservoir is 17.5 ft low due to drought.

Hunting conditions — Similar to last year. Few shallow areas. No flooded vegetation.

Expected hunting success — Poor

Comments — High Plains Duck Season

Oct. 9-Jan. 4 & Jan. 22-Jan. 30. Refuge boundaries will be the same as last year and are in effect Nov. 1 - March 1. A small craft ramp is located at the Horse shoe camping area to provide boat access at the west end of the lake.

Pheasant Hunters' Breakfast

Biscuits and Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Ham, Pancakes, Juice, Milk, Coffee

Free Coffee in Thermos

PRICE: \$5.00 MINIMUM DONATION
Saturday, November 13

Serving 5:00-7:00 A.M.

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