Remember the excitement of your first verse the declining trend in hunter numpheasant season opener — The camaraderie of family and friends? Or perhaps you can still smell the marsh as you followed your father into the predawn twilight on duck season opening day 20 years ago.

If you were fortunate enough to have been introduced to hunting at an early age, you know the magic. It rests in your memories forever, and it drives a basic desire to experience the outdoors each fall.

Hunting is a valued natural heritage — One that must be passed on from one generation to the next. But hunter numbers are decreasing, and younger generations are in danger of missing these treasured experiences. And fewer hunters reduces the financial, social and political support needed for effective wildlife management.

"Pass It On" is a program designed to re-

bers. While the program is made up of many different subprograms, such as Outdoor Mentors, Shooting Opportunities, Hunting Access, Special Hunts, and Education and Awareness, its most valuable component is you. It takes a hunter to make a hunter, and it is critical that youth learn important life lessons in the outdoors from experienced hunters.

You can become involved by simply taking a youngster hunting this fall. There are new opportunities this year to make those first hunts rewarding, quality expe-

For more information on how you can contribute to the department's hunter recruitment and retention efforts, please call (620) 672-5911 or send email to mikegm@wp.state.ks.us

### Leota Cove to get improvements in 2005

Prairie Dog State Park has been very fortuprojects in the last couple of years.

Another project, improving East Leota Cove, has been approved and should begin sometime in 2005.

This project, funded by the Federal Motor nate to receive Federal funding on several Boat Access Fund, will include construction of a road above the conservation pool level, installation of a single land boat ramp, and installation of a concrete vault restroom.



411 W. Holme, Norton — Phone 785-877-2808 OPEN DAILY 10:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.

# **DEER PROCESS**

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

THE RESERVOIR NEWS Friday, November 12, 2004

# Fire safety is an important practice

The hunting season is well underway and the Kansas State Fire Marshal, Jack Alexander, wishes every hunter a prosperous and safe hunt. He also urges all hunters and campers to practice fire safety as well as hunter safety. An accidentally ignited fire not only destroys property, but may cause injury or death. It places emergency responders at risk and also damages the wildlife habitat.

This season of the year is especially dangerous for wildland fires. The ground vegetation is void of moisture and has become very flammable. An unintentional discarding of a cigarette, spent shell, or a spark can start a fire and end in devastation.

State Fire Marshal Alexander encourages these points be observed while hunting:

- Find out any safety restrictions in the area you plan to visit.
- Be aware of ejected cartridges or shells because they may ignite dry vegetation.
- · Caution should be observed when discarding smoking materials.
- Restrict campfires to designated recreation sites or campgrounds.
- Open fires, camp fires, stoves, or charcoal grills should be used with extreme care and doused or fully extinguished. Never leave an open fire unattended.
- · Limit use of motorized vehicles to established roads or trails.
  - Keep a bucket, a shovel and a fire extin-

guisher in your vehicle and at your camp.

• Do not park vehicles over dry grass or brush - hot exhaust systems can and do start

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• Think fire prevention before you act.

What can you do to help? Talk to other hunters about fire safety and spread the word and ensure all fires are Dead Out! Be responsible and protect your hunting opportunities.

Be safe! Wear blaze orange and follow all the basic hunter safety rules.

## Correction crew helps keep up park

A crew from the Norton Correctional Facility has been very busy at the Prairie Dog State Park and Norton Wildlife Area this past spring and summer.

Some of the projects they have worked on during the last several months include removal of the old marina dock, rebuilding the steps to the boat dock, pouring concrete sidewalks around the boat ramp parking area, litter cleanup, cutting and removing timber dead falls, mowing and trimming, painting, and equipment maintenance.

Their workforce continues to be an invaluable asset for the park and wildlife area.



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