

KEITH SEBELIUS Reservoir News

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FISHING — HUNTING
CAMPING — RECREATION

THE NORTON
TELEGRAM

THE HOSTS WITH THE MOST

Longtime camp hosts return for ninth season at Sebelius Reservoir

By VERONICA MONIER

The coming of April brought the beginning of Ray and Leta Koel's ninth season as camp hosts for the Prairie Dog State Park.

As the park's camp hosts, one of the Koel's main duties is keeping the campers apprised of weather conditions and, in the event of high winds or a tornado, direct them to shelter in the bath house.

They also give directions and answer questions, clean the park area and near-by bath house, and care for the lawn, flowers and trees in the campground area.

Some of the flowers that they planted in barrels around the area were donated by Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse, which the Koels really appreciate. The barrels were painted this year by an inmate crew from the Norton Correctional Facility.

Another big duty is to assist campers in any way they can. They have Kansas maps and travel and event guides on hand for visitors, as well as recent issues of the Reservoir News.

Occasionally, the Koels can be seen giving a camper a lift in their golf cart to another campsite or to the park office to use the phone. They work closely with the park rangers as well as other park personnel.

Another one of their major duties is to keep a log of who is out at the campsite and where they are located. Leta said they do this in case of an emergency and the office needs to contact someone who was at their campsite. She said it's happened a couple of times since they've been the camp hosts.

Leta said in the past people have been able to buy park permits from them. But, she said, they are trying not to do that anymore because the park has computerized the permit system.

She said when the office is closed, if people really need them, they can get them from her and Ray. But, when the office is open, campers need to get permits there.

The Koels are still selling ice to keep the campers and their beverages cool, and if some-

one wants to take a tour of the inside of the Adobe House, Ray will be happy to take them.

Also, campers who would like to know about boat and camper storage can talk to the Koels to get details on where they can do that.

Ray and Leta would like to remind everyone to put out their fires before leaving. With the high winds, fire can spread very easily.

With spacious camper pads, colorful flowers, beautiful scenery and nice bathrooms, the

Prairie Dog State Park is a good place to spend the summer.

Ray and Leta, and their dog Jasmine, will reside at campsite number eight until Oct. 15.



Camp hosts Ray and Leta Koel and their dog Jasmine will be at their campsite near the Keith Sebelius Reservoir for the next five months to welcome campers and lake-goers alike.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier