

State park now has 'log cabin' for rent

Prairie Dog State Park now has a cabin available for rent. The new facility is an alternative to tent or recreational vehicle camping and is available year-round.

During the winter, the park staff, with assistance of a crew from the Norton Correctional Facility, enclosed one of the mushroom shelters just south of the park's adobe house creating the rental cabin.

The 22-foot-square cabin has a heating/air conditioning unit, electrical outlets, a cedar table and countertop and two bedrooms, one

with two sets of bunk beds and one with a double bed and bunks for three additional guests. The cabin is designed to sleep up to nine and is handicap accessible. The beds are fitted with vinyl covered foam mattresses. Campers must provide their own bedding and cooking utensils.

The interior walls of the kitchen/living room are rough-sawn cottonwood from the Sebelius Reservoir shoreline, and the windows are trimmed with rough-sawn cedar cut out of a nearby shelter belt. The front side is

covered with log cabin siding, and there is a 9-foot-by-22-foot porch.

The cabin can be rented for \$45 per day for up to two adults and children, and \$5 per day for each additional adult. There will also be a \$45 damage deposit.

Like the park's reservable campsites, the cabin can be reserved by paying a \$10 reservation fee plus the first night's rental. For information, contact the Prairie Dog State Park Office at 785-877-2953.



Hunting program pays landowners for public access

The Walk-in Hunting Access Program is a statewide program that pays landowners for public hunting access.

Payments vary by the amount of acres enrolled and length of contract period. Contract dates can be established from Nov. 1 - Jan. 31, Sept. 1 - Jan. 31, or Sept. 1 - March 31.

A spring turkey walk-in hunting program is also available April 1 through May 31 of each year.

Land enrolled can be in CRP, native rangeland, wheat or milo stubble and riparian or wetland areas. The area is posted, regularly patrolled, and safety zones clearly marked. Liability is waived from private individuals who lease land to the state for recreational purposes. State law provides immunity from damages or injuries resulting ordinary negligence.

For more information go to www.kdwp.state.ks.us

FISHING REPORT:

Sebelius Reservoir Fishing Report — Temperature: 71 degrees
Lake Elevation: 16.88 feet below conservation pool

Channel Catfish — Good (wide range) Are picking up a few in Leota Cove and at the mouth of Schoen's Cove using shad and worms on the bottom. Also, starting to pick up some offset lines around the sandpit area.
Crappie — Fair (10-14 inches) Catching fish off the public fishing dock, Marina Dock and in Schoen's Cove using jigs and jigs tipped with minnows.

Wipers — Good (3-8 pounds) Have been catching some nice fish off the east side of Leota Cove and at the public fishing dock using night crawlers. Also catching some off the old swim beach and north shore area casting bucktail jigs into the wind. Most of the fish are running in the 18- to 22 -inch range.

Black Bass — Fair (10-16 inches) Are

starting to catch fish along the dam and cove areas throwing spinner baits. Most of the fish are under 15 inches.

Saugeye /Walleye — Fair (18-22 inches) Have had reports of some fish being caught on jigs and worms scattered around the lake off the points. Also starting to pick up a few trolling Hot-n-Tots. Remember the 18-inch length limit because a lot of short fish will be caught.

General Comments — The water level is 0.44 foot lower than it was a year ago. We will be running a creel census at Sebelius this year so if approached by our creel clerk Larry Johnson please take a few minutes to answer questions. We stocked 30,000 saugeye fingerling and got the fish feeder going on May 19.

SEBELIUS RESERVOIR RESOURCES:

Trails and scenic views

A prime place to experience the short-grass prairies of western Kansas, Prairie Dog State Park, occupies 1,150 acres on the shores of Keith Sebelius Reservoir in Norton County.

The park is home to a prairie dog colony and is the site of the last adobe house in Kansas. The renovated house was built on the site in the early 1890s.

Campsites include a reservable cabin, 40 electric/water sites, 18 electric-only sites, and more than 130 primitive sites. Reservable sites are available. A group campground is available in the Branded Cedar area. Shower and restroom facilities are convenient, as are two recreational vehicle dump stations. A 1.4-mile nature trail complete with interpretive signage is a great way to explore the park and observe wildlife.

Two vintage 19th century buildings are preserved in the park, including a one-room school and the adobe house.

Sebelius Reservoir has excellent fishing. In recent years, anglers have found plenty of black bass, walleye, wiper, crappie, catfish and saugeye.

The 6,400-acre Norton Wildlife Area offers good prospects for pheasant, waterfowl and rabbits. Both whitetailed and mule deer can be found, as well as a variety of fur bearers.

Office and restrooms

The park office is usually open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. However, you may want to call before making a special trip. Wear a personal floatation device when boating. The reservoir is low.

The water is on in the park, and there are new vault restrooms at the public fishing dock.

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.