

# New rules will affect 2006 hunting seasons

PRATT — Several new regulations and statutes will affect the 2006 Kansas hunting seasons. Hunters should be aware of these, as well as all other hunting regulations, which may be found in the 2006 Kansas Hunting and Furharvesting Regulations Summary, available Sept. 1.

The following is a list hunting of rules that are new in 2006:

## Big game

- After Dec. 30, deer hunters may purchase Antlerless Only Deer game tags valid during the January season without having to first purchase an antlered deer permit;
- Unlimited archery antelope permits are now available to nonresidents (firearms and muzzleloader permits still restricted to residents only); and
- The elk unit has been expanded to include the entire state of Kansas except Morton County.

## Upland birds

- Pheasant season opens the first Saturday in November;
- Quail season opens the second Saturday in November;
- Quail units have been eliminated;
- Quail season ends the third Sunday in January 2007; and
- Prairie chicken season opens the third Saturday in November, as it did last year.

## Sandhill cranes

- All sandhill crane hunters must take an online crane identification test before obtaining a sandhill crane permit. The test may be found at online at <https://secure.ksfishandwildlife.org/crane/>.

## Hogs

- A new Department of Animal Health statute states that “no person shall engage in, sponsor, instigate, assist, or profit from the release, killing, wounding or attempted kill-

ing or wounding of feral swine for the purpose of sport, pleasure, amusement, or production of a trophy”; and

- “Owners or legal occupants of land, the employees of such owners or legal occupants or persons designated by such owners or legal occupants may kill any feral swine when found on their premises or when destroying property. Such designees shall have a permit issued by the livestock commissioner in their possession at the time of the killing of the feral swine.”

## FISHING REPORT:

Sebelius Reservoir Fishing Report — Temperature: 78 degrees  
Lake Elevation: 17.26' below conservation pool  
Surface Acres: 2,300 — Maximum Depth: 42 feet

Saugeye — Fair (wide range) Reports of saugeye being caught on the main body of the lake just south of the State Park office and along the dam using jigs & night crawlers.

Wiper — Fair (wide range) Are catching a few on the East side of Leota Cove, North end of the dam and in Concrete Cove using worms, green sunfish and shad.

Catfish — Fair (wide range) Have Been catching a few around the public fishing dock and along the dam using minnows, worms and chicken liver on the bottom.

Crappie — Fair (9 to 14 inches) Catching a few crappie around the Public Fishing Dock and Marina Dock using jigs and jigs with minnows. Would also recommend try-

A prime place to experience the shortgrass 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 thriving prairie dog colony and is the site of the last remaining adobe house in Kansas. The renovated adobe house was built on the site in the early 1890s.

Campsites at Prairie Dog include one 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 conveniently located, as are two RV dump stations. A 1.4-mile nature trail complete with interpretive signage is a great way to explore the park and observe wildlife.

Historical interpretation is a hallmark of

ing the maintained fish attractors. General Comments — Currently, the water level is 0.44' lower than it was one year ago at this time. The 15 inch Length Limit on Largemouth Bass that was temporarily removed in 2003, has been **reinstated**. Therefore, there is a 15 inch Length Limit in effect for Largemouth and Spotted Bass. KDWP is conducting a creel survey again this year so if approached by our creel clerk Larry Johnson, please take a few minutes to answer a few questions. The fish feeder is up and running and feeds every three hours starting at 6:00 a.m. Stocked 28,000 saugeye fingerlings on 5/24. Stocked 8,000 Wiper fingerlings on 6/7.

this park. Two vintage 19th century buildings are preserved here, including a one room school and renovated adobe house.

Sebelius Reservoir is well known for its excellent fishing opportunities. In recent years, anglers have found productive fishing for 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 here, as well as a variety of furbearers.

The Park office is now open Sunday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Please call (785) 877-2953 before making a special trip to the park, due to our annual training requirements the office is sometimes closed during normal business hours.

We have no reservable sites available for 4th of July weekend, the rest are all first come, first serve. Don't forget that sites #31-40 are now "Prime sites" and a \$2.50 fee will be charged in addition to your regular camping fees for those sites during the prime season (April-September). Cabin #2 (Cedar Crest) is now complete and available for rent! It has heating/airconditioning, a refrigerator, and a microwave just like Cabin #1 (Cottonwood). Please remember to always wear your life jacket when you're on the water, it could save your life. Wildlife observation, including pheasant, quail, whitetailed deer, waterfowl, and of course, the prairie dogs, is excellent this time of year. The current water elevation is 2287.0, or 17.3 feet below conservation pool.

Please join us for the following special events at Prairie Dog State Park:

- July 4 — 4th of July Fireworks Display
- July 15 & 16 — Denver Bassmasters Tournament
- July 21-31 — Baker Family Reunion
- Aug. 12 — Prairie Dog Christmas
- Oct. 8 — Angling Nebraska Tournament

If you have questions pertaining to the park, call the park office at (785) 877-2953.

Questions pertaining to the Norton Wildlife Area or hunting should be directed to Cris Mulder, Public Lands Manager at (785) 877-2953.

Questions pertaining to fishing should be directed to Mark Shaw, Fisheries Biologist at (785) 425-6775.



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