

Park director retires after 47 years of service

It is with a degree of sadness and anticipation for the future that I announce my retirement, effective December 13, 2010 and take this important step in my life.

During my 47 year career, 17 years with KS, 7 years with Utah, 19 years with Idaho, and 4 years with Michigan--I have been blessed and extremely proud to have been part of programs truly dedicated to public service and to the preservation of what we like to call America's State Parks. I am especially proud of the many accomplishments of KDWP and of each of you for your extraordinary efforts to make Kansas state parks second to none.

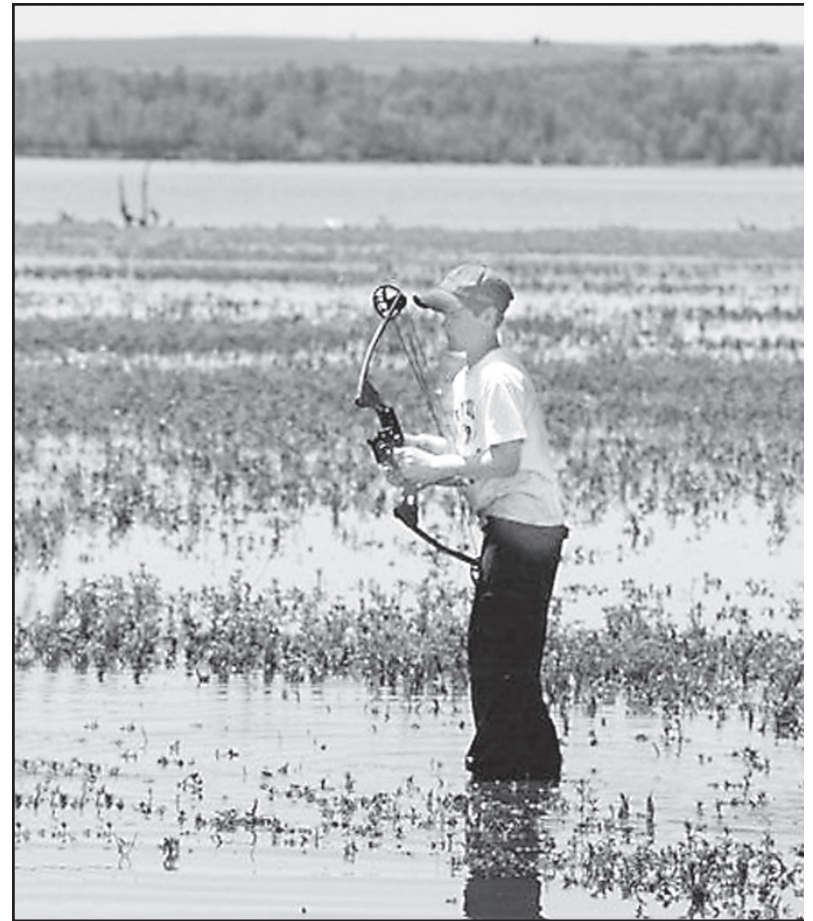
I have been afforded the opportunity to work with some of the most dedicated and caring people that truly believe in what we do. We are fortunate that Kansas has many world class natural and cultural resources, but it is every staff member and volunteer that make them special.

Because of your team work and individual efforts working closely with volunteers, Wildscape, and the Friends of KS State Parks, we are able to meet visitors' expectations of excellent customer service. Nowhere is this demonstrated better than in Kansas state parks. With customer service, resource protection and preservation included in our core value system, I am confident the KS Division of State Parks will continue to grow and move forward. Together we made a real difference in the lives of millions of people!

It is the intentions of the department to nationally advertise the position soon to all that meet or exceed the qualifications. The position will stay in Pratt. We hope that a selection can be made to allow an overlap of 4-6 weeks which will provide for a seamless transition. I encourage anyone with the qualifications to apply.

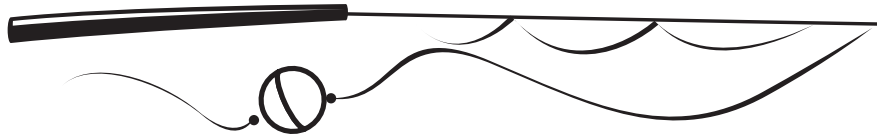
As December approaches, I know that there is still a lot to learn and many things yet to accomplish. When the day arrives that I am no longer a part of the park service team, I can truly say that the experiences I've had and the people I've had the privilege of meeting and working with are memories that will remain with me for the rest of my life. It has truly been a privilege and a humbling experience being your Director and I look forward to visiting you as I enjoy my retirement years visiting the best state parks in the nation.

Sincerely, Jerry Hover, Director



Young Riley Hager tries his hand at bow fishing. Goes to show you that is more then one way to filet a fish.

Courtesy photo





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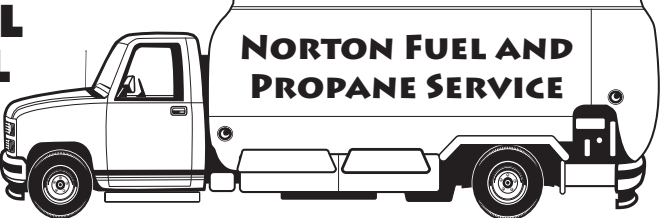
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