

# Father developing hunting tradition

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Hoxie resident Rex Storer is developing a family tradition he hopes will continue for generations to come.

"I grew up in Tasco, Hoxie and south of Selden, and my dad, Uncle Harley "Ding" Storer and cousins taught me to hunt," he said. "I want my children to know how to hunt and to hunt safely."

Teaching his son Tristen, 10, is one of Storer's priorities for the 2007 season.

"Dove season started Sept. 1," Tristen said, "and we hunted that weekend and this past weekend. I got one, but we didn't stay out long."

Storer said while he would one day like to hunt big game such as bear or elk, his full-time job as a tire repair man for Spreser Tire of Hoxie, along with helping his friend, Joe Moss, also an avid hunter, with farm duties after hours keeps him busy. In addition, Storer is a volunteer with the Sheridan County Rural Fire District, which is the reason he and Tristen did not get to hunt very long the weekend of Sept. 8.

"We were out hunting and I got called to a fire," Storer said.

Tristen said he is not concerned about a shortened weekend of dove hunting because Kansas has two seasons for dove. The first runs Sept. 1 through Oct. 14, and the second Nov. 1 to 16. The daily bag limit is 15, with a total possession limit of 30.

Using skills his dad, Rex Storer Sr., of Hoxie started teaching him at age 10; Storer said he has concentrated on teaching Tristen safety.

"It's about hunting the proper way," Storer said. "It's about managing the population of animals. You know, you don't have to hunt them to the point they are extinct like the buffalo..."

Using a 12 gauge shotgun for himself, Storer is teaching Tristen to shoot with a smaller 20 gauge.

"Basically, I'm teaching him just like Dad taught me," Storer said. "I'm teaching him to hold the gun, aiming right and treating the gun like it's always loaded. That's the last thing a hunter wants, to shoot one of his own and have that to live with all his life."

Besides Tristen, Storer said his younger son, Jayce, 6, and daughter, Zoey, 3, are interested in the outdoors.

"They are all wanting to hunt," Storer said. "Zoey carries around a little pellet gun and it makes her feel part of our hunting family."

Storer's wife Tanya accompanies her husband and children on hunting outings.

"Mom comes along, but she just watches," Tristen said.

One of Storer's first steps in teaching Tristen to hunt was teaching him to hit a target.

"Dad would set cans out and give me the .22 rifle and let me shoot," Tristen said. "I shot one or two months like that and then went to my .20 gauge shotgun and started shooting clay pigeons."

"He actually broke a few right at first," Storer said about having Moss work along side him. "We'd throw them up and let him take the first shot and we'd pick them up if he missed."

Besides hunting, Tristen said his hobbies include football and baseball. Since he is a member of the Hoxie Cougars, a youth football team, Tristen and his dad are making time to include all his interests.

"I like hunting because it's fun," Tristen said. Following dove seasons, Tristen said he and his dad will hunt pheasant.

"That starts in November," he added.

In Kansas, pheasant season opens Nov. 3 and runs through Jan. 31. A youth season will offer kids a chance to hunt early for two days the weekend before the regular season, Oct. 27 and 28. The daily bag limit is four cocks in the regular season and two cocks in the youth season. As in the past, pheasants in possession for transporting must retain an intact foot, plumage or some part to distinguish its sex.

Another aspect of hunting Storer is teaching Tristen is to pick just the right spot to watch for birds, particularly doves.

"We usually try and find a small pond and some brush for cover and just wait for them to come in to drink," he said.

Picking a spot with small bushes alongside a tree row, Storer helped Tristen get into position for an evening hunt.

"Let's go over here," Storer said. "We'll wait



Rex Storer of Hoxie pointed at a dove for his 10-year-old son, Tristen, to shoot at. The two are spending time together enjoying a hobby they both love, but more importantly developing a family tradition they hope lasts for generations yet to come.

right beside these bushes."

Crouching down behind a small bush, Storer had Tristen crouch down slightly in front and to the right of him. Putting his gun in a position which would make it comfortable to pick it up and aim it, Tristen laid is across his knees and waited.

With the sun was setting behind them, the father and son had something more than hunting: time doing something they both love.



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