

Fall colors, wildlife abundant at Bonnie State Park

By Darby Shanks

Bonnie Lake State Park

Welcome to the Bonny Corner! Would you like to see the beauty of fall at Bonny State Park? Take a drive to Bonny and see the spectacular view of all the cottonwoods, with all the shades of autumn brighten up your day.

Hunting

Needing a Small Game Hunting License or an over-the-counter/left-over Big Game License for the season? What you need to provide to purchase a Big Game Hunting License are the following: your Driver's License or Conservation Certificate or CID, Social Security Card, your Hunter's Safety Card, and the Huntcode you wish to purchase. Don't forget we have the State Duck and Federal Duck stamps.

With the hunting season in its early stage, a general hunting reminder to stay at least a 100 yards away from any campground, picnic site, boat ramp, nature trail, and cabins. Also be aware of your surroundings with the water being low, there could be muddy conditions along the shorelines.

Before heading to hunt small game, make sure you have registered with Harvest Information Program (HIP). You can do this by calling 1-866-COLO-HIP or logging onto the Internet at www.wildlife.state.co.us.

Small Game Seasons

Throughout the fall season, there are various small game seasons that open and close.

Beaver: Open Oct. 1 through April 30. Chukar: Open Sept. 1 through Nov. 27. Cottontails, Snowshoe Hare, White-Tailed & Black Tailed Jackrabbits: Open Oct. 1 through Feb. 28. Coyotes: Year-round. Crow: Oct. 1 through Jan. 31. Fox & Pine Squirrels Dates: Open Oct. 1 through Feb. 28. Greater Prairie Chickens: Open Oct. 1-15. Marmot: Open Aug. 10 through Oct. 15. Mourning Dove: Open Sept. 1 through Oct. 30. Sandhill Crane: Oct. 1 through Nov. 27. Snapping Turtle: Open April 1 through Oct. 31. Sora and Virginia Rail: Open Sept. 1 through Nov. 9. Wilson's Snipe: Open Sept. 1 through Dec. 16. White-Tailed & Gunnison's Prairie Dogs; Wyoming (Richardson's) Ground Squirrels; European Starlings; English or House Sparrows: Year-round

There are certain possession limits, areas, and restrictions regarding the

different species, so be sure you are up-to-date on what you are hunting.

Duck Season-Central Flyway: the first split of duck season officially opened Oct. 1, and continues until Oct. 23. Recent counts are approximately 300 ducks.

Archery Deer Season: Oct. 1 marked the opening day of the first split of Archery Deer Season and continues through Oct. 21. Twenty-five licenses were allotted for this season in Unit 103. For additional information on hunting seasons, you can call our office at (970) 354-7306 or the Division of Wildlife office at (970) 354-7317.

Muzzleloading Deer Season: Oct. 8 marked the opening day of Muzzleloading Deer Season and continues until Oct. 16. Five doe licenses and five buck licenses were allotted for this season in Unit 103.

Off-Highway Vehicle/Snowmobile Registration

Gearing up for the fall season to use your off-highway vehicle or snowmobile for hunting but need to get it registered. We can help you out on your dilemma. We can register it at our headquarters for both residents and non-residents. What you need to bring us is the following: Make, Model, Serial Number, Year, and CC Disp (Engine Size).

Camping

It is a great time to come camping with the crowds gone. Essentially you would have your choice of about anywhere to camp except for a few spots in Wagon Wheel Campground because we accept reservations throughout the year. The other three campgrounds (East Beach, Foster Grove, North Cove) are all on a first come, first serve basis throughout the fall and winter months until April 1. Campgrounds are open year round except for North Cove Campground, which will close on Nov. 1.

Boating

Bonnie lake is open to boating. The Marina boat ramp, which is located on the west side of the jetty, is the only ramp usable in the park. There is a courtesy dock installed. Most of the buoys have been removed from the lake. The lake is 18.69 feet below normal.

Hh have your boat or Jet Ski registered for the current year, if not you are able to get a temporary license from our park office. Any child under 13 must wear a personal flotation device while on the water.

No person under 16 shall operate a motorboat unless they have completed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Parks & Outdoor Recreation and have that certificate in their possession.

Fishing

Bonny's overall fishing action has continued to be good this past week. Several fishermen have been trolling the face of the dam with crank baits and have caught several large walleye and wipers. With the cooler weather, fish seem to be biting better. Catfish are still biting well on typical baits from the north shore. The water temperature is approximately 60 degrees.

Watchable Wildlife

With fall season underway what a great time to view the various wildlife throughout the park. Lots of American White Pelicans, Canada Geese, and Great Blue Herons are active on the lake. Many raptors and turkey vultures are soaring in the sky above.

Bookstore

Need maps for your hunting or fishing expeditions? We can help you on a few choices of each. For hunting, we have the Guide to Colorado State Wildlife Areas, topographic maps of the Bonny Lake Region, and the Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer. For fishing, we have the Colorado Fishing Guide & Atlas, Colorado Lakes & Reservoir Guide, and a Fishing Map of the reservoir, which includes two other lakes. We have many books for the whole family. We offer T-shirts, postcards, magnets, puppets, plus many more items. Now is the perfect time to get ahead start on your holiday shopping. Bookstore hours are 8a.m. to 4:30p.m., Monday through Saturday and 10a.m. to 2p.m., on Sunday.

Book special for the month of October is 'Whitetail Country.' It is written by John J. Ozoga, and is an acclaimed research biologist and author who spent part of his career studying the physiology, nutrition, habitat, and behavior of whitetail deer. Within the book are remarkable photographs done by Daniel J. Cox, wildlife and nature photographer. This book is the culmination of much of John's groundbreaking research of whitetail natural history and includes Daniel's up-close photos perfectly illustrate the seasonal behaviors of whitetail throughout North America.



Canada Geese are coming into Bonnie State Lake north of Burlington, and a lone Snow Goose decided to join this group last week.

Photo by Darby Shanks/Bonnie Lake State Park

Getting ready for a cold winter

The forecast is clear: we're in for a long, cold winter. With frigid days and rising energy prices, it's time for all Kansans to work together to make the best of a challenging situation.



kathleen sebelius

• governor

The facts are truly sobering. For example, in 2002, the wholesale price of natural gas was \$2 per thousand cubic feet (MCF). Today, the price is a bit less than \$14, and it could reach \$20. Even more than the rise in gasoline prices, the cost of natural gas has the potential to impose severe hardships on Kansans in every corner of the state.

So what are we to do? Above all, we can build on our past actions. The Kansas Corporation Commission held a "natural gas summit" two years ago, and implementing some key recommendations has placed the state in a better position to weather the rising prices this winter.

We've also improved the energy efficiency of many state buildings. Over the past two years, aggressive energy improvements at Regents institutions, correctional facilities, and state hospitals have retrofitted nearly 25 million square feet of space to make them more energy-efficient.

As a result, Kansas will save over \$7.5 million annually in utility costs. And this initiative is being offered through the Kansas Energy Office to community and technical colleges, cities and counties, and K-12 public schools.

Kansas was the first state to adopt the 2003 international energy standards for new commercial and residential construction, and this policy has already begun to pay dividends for business owners and families in the form of lower energy bills. Without question, investing in conservation measures makes good financial sense.

As individuals, we can reduce the impact of high heating costs, by weatherizing our homes, turning down the thermostat, and purchasing high-efficiency furnaces and appliances. I have worked closely with Kansas utility companies on a statewide campaign that, beginning next week, urges all Kansans to cut

down on energy use and to provide assistance to those in need.

With winter approaching, as individual Kansans we can all help reduce the impact of high energy prices — by tightening up our houses, replacing our furnace filters, and buying an extra sweater or two. Checking the Kansas Energy Office website for energy saving tips http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/energy/energy_savings.htm can help too.

As we face a new era in energy costs, we all need to do more — the state government, our utilities, and each of us as consumers. Energy prices may decline some in the future, but the days of inexpensive natural gas are gone. We simply cannot return to our old, wasteful ways. Rather, we must build on past planning and experience, make the necessary investments, and take full advantage of the opportunities that will be ours to grasp.

Classifieds work!
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Tests give police statistics for accident investigation

SKIDS, from Page 1

applied the brakes near the Methodist Church parking lot.

Smoke came off the tires at the end of the skid and Cpl. Bill Fulcher, Officer Gillespie, Sheriff Townsend and the instructors measured the skid marks and checked the information from inside the car. At 32 mph, the police car skid 54 feet on the dry brick surface.

The next series of skid tests were done after Fire Chief Dean Jensen used the airport fire truck to spray

water on the bricks.

This time, the skid at the same speed was nearly twice as long as when it was dry.

Smee said in his experience, the wet bricks are nearly as slippery as ice.

"Most experienced drivers adjust to the slick bricks," he said, "but it is something the younger drivers need to learn about."

Other skid tests on dry and wet surfaces were done on one of the streets that had been chip sealed this summer and then fog coated this

fall. Smee said the two men from Colorado were interested in the new surface.

"When the new streets are dry, the skids are shorter than on the brick," he said, "but when the new surface is wet, it is very close to being as slick as the wet bricks. We thought having the rock surface would make it a harder surface, but when it gets wet, that is not the case. People will have to be careful driving on these streets when they are wet and expect it to take a longer distance to stop."

Kansas' 'Fleagle Gang'

Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

We watch Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) shows on television about using fingerprints to find criminals. "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," is a true crime story that begins with a brazen daylight robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers have escaped.

Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Five-star reviews at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble say the book is a must read for true crime buffs of all ages.

This would make a great Christmas gift - order now.

Betz will be at the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley 2-4 p.m. (CT) on Saturday, Oct. 29.

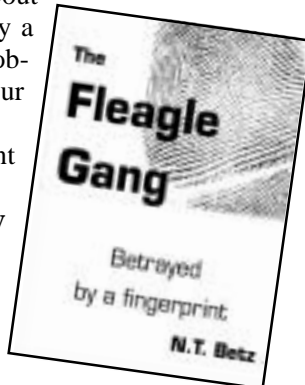
"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint — precursor to today's CSI shows — found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The book includes over 100 photos and maps taken from court files and places where the gang robbed banks. The Fleagle family lived near Friend, Kan. in Finney County.

A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper (1920-1989) *The Lamar Daily News* in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager. He has won awards in Colorado, Kansas and the National Newspaper Association for writing and photography.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the **Big Timbers Museum** in Lamar, Colo., the **Lane County Museum** in Dighton, Kan., the **Fick Fossil and History Museum** in Oakley, Kan., the **Finney County Museum** and **Hastings** in Garden City, Kan., the **High Plains Museum** in Goodland, Kan. and the **Keystone Gallery** north of Scott City. It is available on-line from the publisher **Authorhouse.com**. Linda Knott's new web bookstore **knottjustbooks.com**, **spreadtheword.com**, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.



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