

FORT RILEY OUTDOORSMEN GROUP

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 9, 2009

ANNUAL BANQUET NETS ALMOST \$15,000

The annual FROG Banquet was once again a great success. The fundraiser netted more than \$15,000 for future FROG projects.

Riley's Conference Center on Fort Riley was once again the site for a night of food, fun, and friends. The event took on a special meaning as it fell on Sept 11.

The estimated crowd of 230 was our highest attendance to date. The banquet once again got off to a good start,

thanks to generous donations from Briggs Auto Group, Dick Edwards Ford of Junction City and Manhattan, J & A Manufacturing, BA Designs, Picerne Military Housing, Montgomery Communications, Ringneck Ranch, ADS Solutions, Star Lumber, Kaw Valley Archery, Concordia Tractor and many more sponsors of the FROG.

The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group thanks all of you for making this another successful event.



Banquet-goers enjoy the food catered by Riley's Conference Center

The planning is already underway for next year's banquet!



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Trout on the way*
- *FROG Board adds new members, agrees to generous contribution to conservation groups*
- *Upland Bird Hunting Forecast*
- *Zach gets his deer*

YOUTH DEER HUNT ON TAP

The Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group (FROG) will host a youth mentorship deer hunt on Saturday, November 28th, at Fort Riley.

Experienced deer hunters from the group will guide the youths, who must be 9-16 years of age (may be waived based on experience), disabled, first time hunters, or whose sponsors are deployed.

Youths must have a deer permit for Unit 8, and are

encouraged to bring their own firearms and shells. A limited number of firearms, shells, and hunter orange will be available for those who have none. No hunting experience is needed.

Guides will mentor youths by teaching safety and ethics and will assist in cleaning deer at the end of the hunt. Guides will arrange for transportation to and from the hunting area.

For more information, or to sign up, please visit the En-

vironmental Office, Building 404 or email the FROG at fortrileyoutdoorsmengroup@fortrileyoutdoorsmeny.com or mark.dombrowski@us.army.mil.

POF SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Sat 3 Oct Houston Behrens
Sun 4 Oct John Villarino
Sat 10 Oct Bob Forman
Sun 11 Oct Rodney Davis
Sat 17 Oct Range 4 not available due to Military Training
Sun 18 Oct David Williams
Sat 24 Oct not available
Sun 25 Oct not available
Sat 31 Oct Kitt Kittling

** need volunteer*

Range 9, Saturday, 17 October for long range firing, by appt only. First six need to sign up at Range 4 starting 26 Sep 09.

Administrative info:

Range will be open for use from 1000 hrs to 1500 hrs on each day, unless noted, weather permitting.

The MPs are currently manning the gate to the range area. They are inspecting for the Outdoor Recreation Vehicle Marker and that all weapons have the proper PMO registrations. The Outdoor Recreation Vehicle Marker can be picked up at the Conservation Office, the Outdoor Recreation Center or at any of the ten Hunter Check Stations. You may also register your weapon on post at the Outdoor Recreation Center. It is still best to take a list of your weapons and serial numbers that you wish to shoot at Range 4 to the PMO Physical Security Office. They will issue you the proper paper work once this process is completed.

All users of the POF Range must have in their possession a valid DOD ID card (Mil or DA CIV), and a Ft Riley weapons registration form (FR 102) for their firearm. Range Officers will validate these requirements; anyone without them will be denied use of the range. All users of the POF range must have a valid pass before driving north of Vinton School Road. **All shooters must bring their own hearing protection.** Target stands and targets are available at Range 4. There is no charge for their use.

Weather concerns. The range is usually open despite inclement weather. If the range is to be closed due to severe weather or extreme cold/heat, the Range Officer scheduled for duty will notify Range Commo, 239-4200 and Outdoor Recreation Center, 239-2363. POC is, Bob Forman; phone 238-7429 (leave a message) or email bobforman@usd475.org.

TROUT SEASON JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Rainbow trout in Kansas? It's true. The popular fish that conjures up visions of casting artificial flies into a cold mountain stream can also be found on Fort Riley. Although we don't have the mountain streams, we do have cold and we do have trout. And with a little imagination, Cameron Springs and Moon Lake can be high mountain lakes in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. OK, that might be a little bit of a stretch.

Rainbow trout are not native to the state of Kansas. They were originally found in the lakes and streams draining the Pacific slope, from Alaska to northern Baja, Mexico, as well as the Pacific coastal streams of Asia. The first stocking of rainbows in the eastern states occurred in 1880, when the U.S. Fish Commission delivered rainbows originating near McCloud River, California. The species can now be found throughout the United States as well as many countries around the world. They are best adapted to cool waters that contain higher concentrations of oxygen. Most Kansas streams and lakes can only support trout in the colder months of the year when dissolved oxygen is at its highest concentration.

Cameron Springs was one of the first places in the state of Kansas to provide trout fishing. Over the years,

it has provided enjoyment to many, including military and civilians. Fort Riley's Environmental Office purchased trout mainly from the Neosho National Fish Hatchery in Neosho, Missouri. The hatchery was established in 1888 as the first federal hatchery west of the Mississippi. It is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with its primary mission to provide fish for Lake Tanycomo and surrounding impoundments. Another part of their mission is to provide hatchery fish for reimbursement to other federal agencies, which was how we received trout for Fort Riley.

Moon Lake became Fort Riley's designated trout fishery in 2004 as construction of the new water treatment plant adjacent to Cameron Springs was taking place. Then in 2006, Fort Riley entered into an agreement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to provide trout to the installation in lieu of Fort Riley dropping its requirement for a Fort Riley Fishing Permit.

This initiative by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was an effort to promote fishing within the state. This was a great deal for us, as persons fishing on Fort Riley no longer had to buy a Fort Riley Fishing Permit and we received our fish at no charge from the state of Kansas. In 2006, we received

about 8,000 lbs of trout, which was nearly twice as many as was stocked in 2005. Since then, we have averaged about 20,000 lbs of annually stocked trout. Fort Riley continues to receive one of the highest trout stocking rates in the state.

The basis for all this good fishing news is that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks sold more trout stamps in the Fort Riley area than any other location in Kansas. The bottom line is that Fort Riley is receiving a bountiful supply of stocked fish without the additional cost of a Fort Riley Fishing Permit. The trout season begins on October 15. The first stocking in 2009 will be just prior to the start of the season

All persons between the ages of 16-64 must possess a valid Kansas Fishing License. In addition, persons actively fishing for trout must possess a valid Kansas Trout Stamp as required by the state of Kansas. Youth 15 and younger no longer must possess a trout permit to fish in designated waters, but must abide by a daily creel limit of two (unless they purchase a trout permit which allows a full daily creel limit). These and other Kansas hunting and fishing licenses are available at any state designated license vendor including the Environmental Division at building 404.



Cameron Springs

“CAMERON SPRINGS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TROUT FISHERIES IN KANSAS”



A good catch at the FROGZ Fishing Classic

Conservation Champion (\$2500)

Briggs Auto Group

Wildlife Benefactor (\$2000)

Dick Edwards (Junction City & Manhattan)

J & A Marketing

Habitat Partner (\$1000)

Ringneck Ranch

B.A. Designs, LLC

Montgomery Communications

Picerne

Chapter Patron (\$500)

Star Lumber

Kaw Valley Archery

Banquet Sponsor (\$250)

Animal Care Clinic -Dr. Mark Stenstrom

Matthew Champagne

Griffith Lumber Co.

Wahle Real Estate Inc.

FROG Contributor (\$100)

Geary County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Crites Real Estate Inc.

Pottberg, Gassman, & Hoffman, CPA

A&L Hay Farms

Rusty Taylor Auctioneering

Junghans Agency

Geary County Fish & Game Association

Mathis Lueker Real Estate

Farm Bureau Insurance (Matt Machin)

City Cycle Sales

Wildhawk LLC

GTM Sportswear

Donors

Tallgrass Brewing Company

Muzzy

Little Apple Brewing Company

Owls Nest Campground

Lyons Creek Long Bows

Double R Taxidermy

Ollie Hunter

Ogden's Best Guns & Pawn

Faulk's Game Calls

Brooks Yamaha-LIMBSAVER Bows

Champions Car & Truck Wash

Jim & Lisa Champagne

Mary Kay (Rachel Wahle)

American Family Insurance (Brian Tajchman)

Jim Walmann

Dillons

Cabela's

Ed Augustine

UPLAND BIRD HUNTING FORECAST

Farmers are saying it, and hunters who have driven country roads this summer and early September are backing them up: the 2009 Kansas upland bird season should very good. Now the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has completed its summer brood count survey, and the results of the agency's Upland Bird Hunting Forecast mirror the coffee-shop predictions.

Last year's pheasant harvest of 636,000 roosters was lower than the previous year — which had been the highest in 20 years — likely due to late milo harvest and lower numbers of hunters. After a relatively mild winter, the number of pheasants going into the 2009 nesting season was slightly higher than in the spring of 2008. A cool, wet spring this year slowed development of the wheat crop, resulting in a later-than-usual harvest. Many pheasants nest in winter wheat, and the delayed harvest gave hens more time to hatch their nests and rear young.

The timing and quantity of early summer precipitation also plays a big role in game bird productivity. Success of nests and survival of young is generally best when rain comes slowly and in near average amounts during May and June. Most of the state's primary pheasant range met that prescription. A few areas received heavy rainfall during the nesting and early brood-rearing period. Production was likely below average in these areas, which include portions of Barton, Rice, McPherson, Marion, Reno, Stafford, Republic, Washington, and

Cloud counties.

Still, because habitat and weather conditions were favorable in much of Kansas' pheasant range, the number of birds available to hunters should be better than last year in most regions. Compared to 2008, pheasant numbers will be much improved in northwest Kansas, slightly improved in southwest, northcentral, and northeast Kansas, and down in most of southcentral Kansas. The best pheasant populations will be found throughout the western two-thirds of Region 1 (northwest) and northern portions of Region 3 (southcentral) where the pheasant hunting is expected to be outstanding.

The outlook for quail is good, as well. Going into the breeding season, quail numbers were up nearly 30 percent statewide from the previous spring. The increases were the result of a mild winter with little ice and snow. Ample vegetation and mild summer weather were good for nesting and brood rearing in most locations. A few storms negatively impacted local quail numbers, but the majority of the state will have much improved quail populations from last year.

The best quail hunting will be found throughout the central part of the state from the Red Hills northward all the way to the Nebraska line and eastward to the edge of the Flint Hills. Field data and landowner reports from central and northcentral Kansas indicate that populations are higher than they have been in many years. Compared to last

fall, quail numbers will be up substantially in northcentral and northeast Kansas and slightly improved from last year across the remainder of the state.

Lesser prairie chickens are found in the westcentral and southwest regions of the state. The spring prairie chicken lek survey indicated that the lesser prairie chicken breeding population was down overall from the previous year. This decline was most likely due to poor production in 2008 because of drought that affected much of southwestern Kansas. However, nesting conditions for lesser prairie chickens were improved this summer throughout their range due to timely rainfall that occurred in southwest Kansas. It is likely that populations will be up from last year, and the best hunting will be in the central and northern portions of their range.

Greater prairie chickens are found primarily in the Flint Hills and Smoky Hills. Greater prairie chicken breeding populations were down this spring in the southern Flint Hills and up farther north and west throughout the Smoky Hills. In the Flint Hills, almost all pastures were burned again this spring, and there was little vegetative cover available during the nesting season. A few small areas within the central Flint Hills were also hit with heavy June rainfall that likely hurt local production. Conditions were good for production throughout most of the northern Flint Hills and the Smoky Hills. The best greater prairie chicken hunting should be found in the northern Flint Hills westward throughout the Smoky Hills region.



Upland bird
hunting
prospects
look very
promising for
2009

IN HIS OWN WORDS.....

By Zach Schellhase

I thought was very cool that I got to go on my very first deer hunt this year. I didn't care what I shot a doe or buck; I didn't think I would get two big doe's. There are some things you have to think about before you go hunting. First you have to prepare all your stuff. You need to get boots, gloves, jacket, warm socks, orange vest and an orange hat. I would check the gun and see if the gun is in proper working condition and enough bullets. Next tell somebody where you are going hunting so if something happens to you they can look for you. You have to go to bed and get a good night rest.

Wake up very early and get your stuff ready. You want to wake up very early so you get up before the deer do. You should watch where you step the deer have very good ears and they will run. You should always carry your gun with the muzzle up. Be careful walking down hills if you fall land softly.

When we woke up on Sunday morning I was tired, I just wanted to go back to bed. My hands were shaking and my heart was pounding. While I was sitting on that log I just wanted to close my eyes. My uncle Jimmy saw

two doe's and I started to shake, my heart was pounding so loud I could hear it. My Uncle Jimmy told me to take the shot when I did POW!!! When I shot the first one my hands were sweating, I was trying to remember everything my dad had told me about hunting, and I couldn't stop smiling. When the bullet hit her she dropped. The other doe kept walking around in circles. We then decided to use my other tag and get the other one too. I took the shot and couldn't believe I just shot two HUGE doe's. I wished my dad was with us.

I am so proud of my dad because he is fighting for our country that is a dangerous job. I have always looked up to him as my hero and wanted to be just

like him. After I go to college I want to go in the Army just like him. I think it is very cool that my dad graduated from Air Assault School at his age, it is a very hard school. I think about him all the time and miss him very very much. My mom takes good care of us while he is gone, but I miss doing things with him. I know it's his job and it is the BEST job in the world. I am glad my dad is in the ARMY. We walked up to the two does and made sure they were dead. I then helped my uncle clean the deer and he had the joy of pulling both of them up the hill. I will never forget this day, thank you for taking me hunting. I love you.



Zach Schellhase is the son of SGT Mark Schellhase who is presently deployed to Iraq with 4th IBCT in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Frog Events from 2009



THE FROG HELPS DEDICATE THE TRAP/SKEET RANGE

FORT RILEY, Kan. - A groundbreaking ceremony for the Fort Riley Skeet and Trap Complex took place Aug. 28 at Range 34. The event lasted less than 20 minutes; getting the project up to that point, however, took some time.

"The skeet and trap process has been a long one," said Melissa Kinney, marketing chief for Fort Riley's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "It took well over a year to get the contract awarded."

The Skeet and Trap Complex has been a dual effort between Fort Riley's garrison, the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group and FMWR.

Garrison and FMWR are in charge of building the range, getting the contractors, selecting the site and hiring someone to run it. FROG has more of an advisory

role, providing recommendations on what the range needs and what activities it should offer once it's built.

FROG's skeet and trap shooting committee developed many of its recommendation ideas based on the skeet and trap facilities at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Oliver "Ollie" H. Hunter IV, director of Fort Riley's Mission Support Element, is one of four members on the Skeet and Trap Complex committee. As a contractor at Fort Leavenworth, he was a member of a skeet and trap shooting team that competed in all of the post's league shoots.

That experience was part of the reason he wanted to start a skeet and trap shooting complex here, he said.

This is not the first time skeet and trap shooting

has been available at Fort Riley. A skeet and trap shooting facility existed at Fort Riley in the 1980s, said Shawn Stratton, a fish and wildlife administrator with the Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division.

"It filtered out when the 'Big Red One' left. When they came back, there was more interest in it," Stratton said.

According to Hunter, once the Skeet and Trap Complex opens, it will be the only skeet facility in a long distance. The Topeka Capital City Club is the nearest facility that offers skeet shooting.

"We just think there are a lot of skeet shooters and a lot of people who want to learn skeet that are just hungry for the skeet aspect of the range ... there are a lot of people who have just been waiting," Hunter

WE STARTED OUT THERE JUST BY PUTTING A FEW BOATS ON THE WATER, AND WE EXPANDED IT ... WE PLAN TO DO THE SAME WITH THIS, EXPAND THIS ... MAKE THIS AN OUTDOORSMAN'S DESTINATION,"

REX WILEY

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

said.

As a cadet at West Point, Hunter participated in skeet and trap shooting. There, these activities were called 'military skills sports,' he said.

This link between sports and military skills was highlighted on West Point's gymnasium wall, where a quote by Gen. Douglas MacArthur was painted, "On the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, on other days, on other fields, will bear the fruits of victory."

This quote closed FROG's eight-page proposal for the Skeet and Trap Complex. So far everything in the proposal is only a recommendation, as it has not yet been approved by FMWR.

Rex Willey, deputy director of FMWR, and the Skeet and Trap

Complex committee are scheduled to meet to go over the recommendations.

At the groundbreaking, Willey commented on FMWR's plans for the skeet and trap facility.

"It's just the beginning, we hope, of a major project to expand the ranges," he said.

He called the Skeet and Trap Complex a "foothold" and com-

pared its future growth to what happened with the Fort Riley Marina.

"We started out there just by putting a few boats on the water, and we expanded it ... we plan to do the same with this, expand this ... make this an outdoorsman's destination," he said.

The Skeet and Trap Complex is scheduled to open in November-



First Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, Commanding General Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Fort Riley Garrison Commander Col. Kevin Brown, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Mann, break ground at the new Skeet and Trap Complex Aug. 28 at Range 34. Representatives from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Fort Riley Outdoorsmen Group also attended the event.



FORT RILEY OUTDOORSMEN GROUP

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We're on the web!

fortrileyoutdoorsmengroup.com

FORT RILEY OUTDOORSMEN GROUP

Mission: Promote conservation and outdoor recreation on Fort Riley.

Vision: The FROG creates and sustains strong interest in Fort Riley's environment, wildlife, and recreational opportunities by educating the public, sponsoring conservation and recreational projects, and promoting outdoor recreation.

Key Tasks:

1. Educate and inform the public -- especially youth, beginners, and newcomers -- on outdoor safety, proper ethics, environmental stewardship, and recreational opportunities.
2. Sponsor conservation projects that interest the public and enhance the current program.
3. Sponsor recreational projects that enhance outdoor recreation skills and increase interest in recreational participation.
4. Sponsor recreational events to generate interest in outdoor re-creation.
5. Gain and sustain effective relationships with Fort Riley and community leaders to ensure adequate emphasis and resources for conservation and recreation programs.

Endstate: FROG's efforts in conservation and recreation on Fort Riley improve habitat, optimize wildlife populations, and increase ethical, informed participation in outdoor recreation.

FROG BOARD MEETS TO DISCUSS FUTURE PROJECT

The Fort Riley Outdoorsman Group met on September 22 to review proceeds from the 2009 Banquet and to discuss future projects.



The meeting kicked off by welcoming new members, Mari Mace, David Santos and John Ball to the board. A letter of resignation was also approved by longtime board member Troy Mattingly.



Thanks for your assistance over the years Troy.

The board approved a \$2000 donation to each of the supporting non-profit groups— Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

The 2009 banquet logistics were reviewed. Board members agreed that the banquet went well, but a few details needed to be fine tuned for 2010. The board members agreed to write up an after

action report.

A report from new board member John Ball was given regarding the new trap/skeet range. An update on the archery range was also given.

The board discussed the possibility of having a spring and a fall banquet. The consensus was to keep the fall banquet as our major fundraiser, but also have a smaller activity in the spring.

Board members were asked to come up with specific projects or sponsorships for the FROG. The board will



consider any type of expenditure that helps promote stewardship and recreational activities on Fort Riley. The board will meet again on October 20 at noon.

