

# Pass It On™ - Outdoor Mentors

January 2003 Program Update



## Pass It On Celebrates the End of a Successful Year

As a new year begins, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters has had the opportunity to reflect on what was a successful year for the Pass It On - Outdoor Mentors program. Over the past year, Pass It On has gained national recognition and the support of major conservation and wildlife organizations. The program was the recipient of a variety of grants from entities across the state and nation (see chart at far right).

And all the while, Big Brothers Big Sisters has continued to produce quality outdoor events for youth and volunteers across the state. This year, nearly 200 Kansas Littles have been matched with an outdoor mentor in one of Pass It On's many activities.

What a year this has been for Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Pass It On - Outdoor Mentors program! Read on to learn about the high-



*In November, over 30 young hunters, including five Big Brothers Big Sisters' Littles, participated in a pheasant hunt with David Segui, first baseman for the Orioles. Other athletes, including former Cardinals linebacker Eric Williams and tight end Jerry Holloway, also attended the hunt and a trap shoot held later in the day.*

lights of 2002, and some of the plans that are already in place for 2003.

Many major organizations contributed to the Pass It On program during 2002. Big Brothers Big Sisters thanks these generous donors for the following gifts:

- ✓ The National Shooting Sports Foundation, \$35,000
- ✓ Kansas chapters of National Wild Turkey Federation, \$5,000, plus scholarships totaling \$1,000 to allow Littles to attend camps
- ✓ Ringneck Rustlers chapter of Pheasants Forever in Wichita, \$2,500
- ✓ Northfork Tailgunners Pheasants Forever Chapter in Ulysses, \$500
- ✓ Emporia Quail Unlimited, \$100
- ✓ Emporia Sportsman's Club, \$100

## Matches Learn About the Great Outdoors

### Seminars Help Littles Discover Techniques for Outdoor Safety and Fun



*Adult mentors accompany Littles during a controlled hunt at an outdoor training course in Geary County. This year, Pass It On staff collaborated with outdoors organizations from across the state to organize a variety of wildlife seminars.*

Pass It On events are more than just an opportunity for matches to enjoy the outdoors together. This year, Pass It On held several outdoor training seminars that were designed to educate Kansas Bigs and Littles.

In August, Michael Murphy & Sons hosted a dove clinic for Big Brothers Big Sisters matches. Marc Murrell, biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, taught the seminar, which covered not only the physical characteristics and migration patterns of the dove, but also safety rules for hunting. Many of the Littles that attended the clinic were also present the following week for the Pass It On Dove Hunt.

Wichita Littles, Buddy Sheets and Josh Meliza and Big Brother Jeff Christensen had a chance to learn about

upland game at the October Pheasant Hunting Training hosted by the Geary County Sportsman's Club. Participants learned about game conservation, firearm safety in the field, and hunting over dogs. The Littles had a chance to refine their techniques that afternoon, as adult mentors led a controlled hunt.

A waterfowl seminar was held in December, hosted by the Great Plains Nature Center. Marc Murrell again led the class, this time covering duck identification, regulations for hunting waterfowl, necessary equipment, and how to effectively call ducks. Some Littles even won a perfect door prize – a duck call.

Pass It On matches still have terrific opportunities to learn more about the outdoors. A full slate of seminars is already being planned for 2003 at locations across Kansas.

# Kansas Kids Hit the Water

## Littles meet new friends at Pass It On fishing events

For many outdoorsmen and women, a peaceful day of fishing is the best way to beat the heat of the late summer and early fall. Pass It On – Outdoor Mentors held three fishing events this year, giving many Kansas Littles the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and fish for the first time with the help of new friends.

### FOP Big For a Day

Members of the Wichita Police Department were out in force for a Big For a Day event at the Fraternal Order of Police's private lake. Ken McCloskey, biologist from Kansas Wildlife and Parks, was also on hand to give a fishing tutorial to Littles.

During the event, Littles were matched with the police officers, who helped the youth to cast the lines and reel in the fish. Most of the Littles caught at least one fish and each had their picture taken with their catch. Afterwards, the Littles enjoyed a swim in the lake, and a picnic-style lunch with their big time Bigs.



*Above, guided by Steve Shirley and volunteers from the Grand Reservoir Dam Authority Police, Bigs and Littles had an exciting time catfishing at the Shangri-La Resort and made a huge catch.*

*At right, 21 anglers from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County begin their catfishing trip at sunrise on Oklahoma's Grand Lake. Volunteers, Littles, and even some family members attended this event at the Shangri-La Resort.*



*At left, Ken McCloskey, of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, helps a Little reel in a 'big' one at the Fraternal Order of Police's Big For a Day event. Ken and his staff from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks led a fishing demonstration for the Littles prior to the start of the fishing event.*

*Below, a Little Brother proudly shows off his catch. After spending the morning fishing, Littles took a swim in the FOP lake and enjoyed a picnic lunch with their friends for the day.*

### Catfishing at Shangri-La

The Grand Reservoir Dam Authority Police of Oklahoma played host to 21 Littles and volunteers from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County. Even family members were invited to stay overnight in Oklahoma, at the beautiful Shangri-La Resort.

In the morning, the anglers awoke before sunrise and set out on Grand Lake in search of catfish. Before the day was done, the Littles and volunteers, guided by the Dam Authority Police, caught a heap of fish, enough for everyone to have seconds and thirds at a fish fry later that night.

### Prudential Big For a Day

The private fishing pond in front of Prudential Financial's Wichita office building provided a morning of fun for several of Big Brothers Big Sisters' Littles. The company hosted a very successful Big For a Day event in October.

Over 30 Littles from Sedgwick



County were matched with the employees, and in some cases, even employees' families to enjoy the morning of fishing. The private pond provided a perfect opportunity for Littles and the volunteers to get to know one another and reel in the perch, catfish and bass. Catch-and-release was the order of the day, and everyone cheered when a big one was on the line.

After spending the sunny Saturday fishing with their Big, Littles enjoyed a game of kickball and a tasty lunch of hamburgers, which were grilled on the front steps of the Prudential Financial office.

Thanks to so many generous volunteers, Littles across the state had a chance to take advantage of a fun, wholesome pastime this year. Many more fishing events are being planned as part of Pass It On's 2003 schedule.

# A New Stomping Ground

KSBBS has rare opportunity to visit Ted Turner's Kansas Ranch

Lights, camera, hunting! Pass It On – Outdoor Mentors matches recently had a rare opportunity to enjoy some of the best deer hunting in the state of Kansas. Where? On the 42,000-acre Z Bar Ranch near Medicine Lodge, owned by media mogul and avid sportsman Ted Turner.

Authorities at the Z Bar Ranch agreed to host ten Big Brothers Big Sisters matches for hunting trips dur-



*The Wichita Eagle reporter Michael Pearce joined Big Brothers Big Sisters during the December 7 hunt, and even took a second to show Little Brother Jeff Meliza how to sight his rifle.*

ing the 2002 rifle season. Matches traveled to the Z Bar Ranch on two separate Saturdays in December.

The first trip to the ranch was made by four matches and one waiting Little who were accompanied by Michael Pearce, outdoor writer for *The Wichita Eagle* and hunting guide Neil Lawson, Senior Wildlife Manager for Turner Enterprises. After sighting in the rifles and spending some time practicing their marksmanship, the matches were taken to blinds, provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The Pass It On hunters had a terrific time practicing their skills and saw many deer, but were unsuccessful at bringing one home.

A second group of Big Brothers Big Sisters' hunters had more luck during their visit to the Z Bar Ranch, harvesting five does during an afternoon hunt. This hunt, which was attended by five Littles, also included a tour of the ranch with Keith Yearout, ranch manager. Littles were able to see some of the nearly 1,800 buffalo that live on the ranch and the prairie dog towns that



*A group from Big Brothers Big Sisters stops for a picture during the December 14 deer hunt at media mogul Ted Turner's Z Bar Ranch. In the background are some of the nearly 1,800 buffalo who have made a home at the ranch, along with deer, prairie dogs, prairie chickens, and the occasional antelope.*

are being established to support the wildlife.

Both Bigs and Littles truly enjoyed these unique opportunities to hunt on this exclusive property, and Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking forward to returning to the Z Bar Ranch for a youth deer hunt in the fall.

## Pass It On Events and Supporters

### Pass It On Joins Arrowhead Archery for a Big For a Day Event

Ten Littles recently got to try their hand at shooting a bow and arrow during the first Big For a Day at Arrowhead Archery.

Littles were instructed on bow safety, and proper stance and form. Little Brother Marcus Woodside-Heit hit six bull's-eyes in a row during the evening's shooting competition.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers of Arrowhead Archery, who made this activity fun for the Littles!

### Ducks n' Bucks Helps Match to Hunt on the Salt Fork River

Big Brother Jere Schwardtfeger and his Little Austin Slanker spent an unusually sunny December morning hunt-

ing for duck along the Salt Fork River north of Cherokee, OK, courtesy of Ducks n' Bucks Guide Service in Wellington. The two were joined by Byron Schrag, host of *Diamond Adventures*, who taped the outing for an upcoming edition of the cable TV program.

Jere and Austin spend most of their time together outdoors, but the two had never before been duck hunting. Both had a great time, and by the end of the day, Austin had bagged his limit of five mallards.

### KDWP Offers Support to Pass It On

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has been key to the success of the Pass It On program. From offering loaner shotguns and rifles, providing ammunition for the hunts, caps for

the Littles, blinds, fishing rods and reels to hosting seminars to help our Littles learn more about the great Kansas outdoors, KDWP's support of Pass It On has made the program possible. Ken McCloskey, Marc Murrell, Mike Nyhoff and Mike Miller are just a few of the KDWP folks that have helped make this program go. Thank you for your support!

### BASS Clubs and KSBBS Team Up for Fishing Events

More Pass It On fishing events are in works! Members of the BASS clubs of Kansas may volunteer as Bigs at fishing events, and help Pass It On Littles to get access to fishing ponds. More details on Pass It On fishing activities will be available soon.

# Spend a Day with Professional Athletes

## Little's from across Kansas Participate in Annual Celebrity Hunt

Trap shooting with David Segui, Baltimore Orioles' first baseman. Pheasant hunting with Mel Gray, former Cardinals and Lions wide receiver and Terri Ivens, "Simone" from TV's *All My Children*. Sharing a meal with Ricky Siglar, former tackle for the Kansas City Chiefs. For several Kansas Little's, fantasy became reality at the



*David Segui, first baseman for the Baltimore Orioles, helps a Little during a trap shoot event. Nearly 30 Little's came to Glen Elder for the afternoon trap shoot, which was held in November*

David Segui Youth, Women and Celebrity Pheasant Hunt, held on November 23 at Waconda Lake in Glen Elder. Nearly thirty Kansas Little's attended a portion of the event, which was sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The day was composed of many outdoor activities, each allowing the youth the opportunity to interact with celebrities. First on the agenda: a hunter's breakfast, prepared by local residents and businesses. Four matches from the Sedgwick County area and one waiting Little from Hays had breakfast with the players before heading to the fields for a pheasant hunt.

Youth, celebrities, and sponsors were then divided into small groups, and each walked the prime habitat around the Glen Elder Reservoir, in search of pheasants. Every child had an opportunity to shoot during the morning, and Little Brother Terry Dutton even celebrated his first pheasant!

Following a lunch sponsored by the Waconda Lake Association, an afternoon of trap shooting began. Nearly 30 Little's from Kansas' wait-



*Former Arizona Cardinals football stars Jerry Holloway and Eric Williams pose with their hunting party. Five Little's from across the state participated in the morning's pheasant hunt. Obviously, this group had a very successful hunt on Waconda Lake.*

ing lists were invited to join in the trap shoot. Many of the Little's who participated were actually first-time shooters.

Throughout the shooting events and during a banquet that ended the day's excitement, celebrities signed autograph after autograph without flinching. The hunting vest worn by Mel Gray was signed by all of the celebrities and auctioned off to the highest bidder. The proceeds were donated to the Pass It On - Outdoor Mentors program.

## *Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events!*

### January

- ✓ **End of Season Upland Game Hunt**  
Saturday, Jan. 25, call (316) 263-3300 for further details

### Coming Up

- ✓ Saturday, April 5, **Youth Turkey Hunt**
- ✓ Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, **Governor's One Shot Turkey Hunt**

**Call (316) 263-3300 for details on these and other Pass It On events!**

## **PIO Hosts Clays Shoot** Fundraiser Supports Outdoor Mentoring

Get ready to have some fun and help Kansas kids learn about the outdoors at Pass It On - Outdoor Mentors' Sporting Clays fundraiser.

For a minimum of \$250 in pledges, you will have a chance to shoot 100-target rounds of clay (ammunition is provided), enjoy meals and lodging, and participate in an exciting auction. Prizes will be given to top fund raisers, and all pro-

ceeds from the event will support Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters' Pass It On program.

The event is scheduled for Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 and will be held at the Flint Oak Ranch in Fall River.

Interested? Call Mike Christensen, Director of Outdoor Mentoring projects, at (316) 263-3300 for details.