



Cheyenne Bottoms continues to be a big draw for hunters and conservationists alike. These ducks were photographed on an unseasonably warm day last February. (photo by Mike Courson)

Waterfowl hunting brings business to Central Kansas

The Fall season is a busy time for the marshes and surrounding towns of Central Kansas. Trucks hauling camo-clad waterfowl boats and dog boxes through towns and at local hotel parking lots are common sights from mid-September through mid-January.

Duck hunting season begins on Saturday, October 8 for the Cheyenne Bottoms area.

Waterfowl hunting remains an important recreational use of locations like Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

As many as 500 hunters from across the United States typically flock to Cheyenne Bottoms for the opening weekend hunt.

Waterfowl hunting is steeped in tradition, and provides hunters opportunities to get together with friends and to enjoy time in the marsh together. The tableware waterfowl provide is an added bonus.

With many waterfowl populations at all-time high numbers, the outlook for the 2016 season is excellent. We welcome the feathered visitors to our marshes, as well as the hunters that follow.

For the fourth year, duck hunters are invited to stop by the Kansas Wetlands Education Center on Saturday, October 8 after their hunt from 8 to 11am for free breakfast, coffee, and juice. Biscuits and gravy will be served. The free breakfast is sponsored by Great Bend Regional Hospital. After filling up on good eats, hunters can learn about Cheyenne Bottoms's history at the education center, peruse through items in the Cheyenne Bottoms Ducks Unlimited Chapter raffle and silent auction, visit waterfowl identification and hunting information booths, as well as share your hunting stories with fellow hunters. Hunters can also get their waterfowl boats inspected for safety for free by KS Wildlife Parks & Tourism Boater Education staff and have a friendly competition with KDWPT's Hunter Education Laser Shot game. The Kansas Wetlands Education Center is located at the southeast corner of Cheyenne Bottoms along K-156 Highway. For questions about the breakfast, call the KWEC at 877-243-9268.

Yours Truly offers plant tips

As the summer season comes to an end and the evenings are cooling down, it may be time to bring in those plants! Here are a few tips from the pros at Yours Truly on keeping your plants healthy and alive through the winter months.

Basic plant care begins with watering and correct light. Plants need to be watered at least twice a week. Pick weekly watering days and stick with it. Water the plant until excess runs out of the bottom. TIP: Make sure you have a draining dish underneath your plant or you may have a slight mess on your hands. Let the plant sit in the excess water for at least an hour. Doing so allows the plant to soak up as much water as it requires. After a



few hours - empty your draining dish. Certain plants take a bit more water than others. For example, Peace Lilies are thirsty and need more water. Just like humans - if they look droopy, give them some water!

Most plants prefer diffused sunlight, meaning, no direct lighting. Too much light will cause

your plant to turn brown.

Keep your plants away from air vents. Constant temperature changes will cause their leaves to fall off!

Find a good home for your plants. Again, like humans, moving them around too much can put them into shock, stunting their growth.

As the saying goes, "Treat your plants like you want to be treated."

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Visit the KS Wetlands Education Center after your hunt!

Hunter Appreciation Day
Saturday, October 8 • 8-11am
Free Breakfast!
Hunter/Boater Education Info • DU Silent Auction
Sponsored by Great Bend Regional Hospital

KANSAS WETLANDS EDUCATION CENTER
SE corner of Cheyenne Bottoms on K-156 Hwy
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