

hole “within” but on the outskirts of the small community of 766 people on the north edge of the Badlands National Park and Buffalo Gap National Grassland. A conservation officer was called, threw smoke bombs into the crevice but it did not emerge. Around 11 a.m., a city employee secured a backhoe and began excavating until the animal was exposed. The healthy 2-year old male was “dispatched” with firearms. The same fate awaits most lions that occur outside the Black Hills in South Dakota; sadly now most of Nebraska and those that cross the Missouri River into Iowa are always at risk as well.

Obviously there are many places in the Midwest where the presence of these big cats cannot be accommodated. Unfortunately, however, by pursuing a path of broad-brush extermination it is as if some wildlife commissions are turning back the pages on a century of increasing enlightenment in conservation. Rather than creating a world devoid of Mountain Lions and other native cats, it is time to reimagine the possibilities of co-existence. —Ron Klataske

### Update on 2014 Mountain Lion Legislation

Following the outcry from Nebraska residents who opposed the Commission's changes in hunting regulations to allow year round killing of Mountain Lions across 85 percent of the state, Senator Ernie Chamber of Omaha introduced legislation to close hunting seasons. The Unicameral is expected to pass his priority bill.

Two measures introduced in the South Dakota legislature that would have resulted in more killing of Mountain Lions have been defeated. One (HB 1068) would have allowed the use of dogs to hunt lions throughout the state beyond the Black Hills management area—where hunting with dogs is generally prohibited. The other bill (SB 76) would have allowed people to kill a lion whenever they felt they were “a threat to humans or livestock.” In other words, pretty much whenever they saw one! Paul Lepisto, representing the S.D. Isaac Walton League, told legislators that Mountain “Lions are a big game animal worth \$5,000 each and deserve to be treated with respect. Predators are a necessary part of the fauna.”

## MAKE THE JUMP!!!

**Don't be Afraid to Enjoy the Natural World, and Please Join with Others to Protect it**



**JOIN AOK, OR GIVE A FRIEND  
A GIFT MEMBERSHIP.**



This young lady, age 5, is one of AOK's youngest members—with a “Wildlife Partner” membership. Olympia has been a member for several years. Her parents control the purse strings, but they make the investment on her behalf because they know she loves the natural world; and they want all that we can conserve together to be there for her and others to enjoy now and in the future.

A \$20 membership is half the cost of an ornamental ceramic bird house we saw recently in a gift shop. It was pretty but not very practical. We are confident that Audubon of Kansas will do far more for birds and other wildlife with every membership contribution. And in terms of pretty, the natural world of wildflowers and native prairie grasses along roadsides is an example of the natural beauty we strive to create and protect.

AOK has membership levels that range from \$10 for Student/Senior/Subscriber and \$20 Annual Member to \$100 Wildlife Partner and higher levels of support for AOK programs and conservation initiatives. We have a choice of two items that can be used to further acknowledge membership and support for the Black-footed Ferret reintroduction initiative. As a way of saying thanks, we welcome an opportunity to send either to any new member or anyone renewing. They are an AOK ball cap or BFF print illustrated below. Simply include a request and an extra \$10 (simply to cover production and mailing cost) with either of the two lower membership rates, or request as a membership premium at no added cost with any higher level of support.

The ball caps are great, featuring a Greater Prairie-chicken in full display at sunrise in a prairie setting—the AOK logo. When we have a full selection in stock, we have a choice of green, black or khaki bill colors. The alternate choice is a 9 x 12 inch print of a Black-footed Ferret suitable for framing. It was photographed soon after being released on the Haverfield/Barnhardt/Blank ranch complex in western Kansas.

