



News

Arkansas Outdoors for September 3, 2008

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Conservation for Arkansas Network is unveiled

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is making it easier for outdoorsmen to provide input into the agency. The AGFC has unveiled the Conservation for Arkansas Network.

A database of anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers who care about Arkansas's outdoors, according to Deputy Director David Goad.

"We want everyone to join. This database will make it much easier to announce programs and projects. When something important is happening, you'll be notified by e-mail and will have the opportunity to weigh-in with your comments," Goad explained.

Public meetings, possible regulations changes, hunting permit applications and special events held by the AGFC are just a few of the things members will receive in their inbox. They'll also receive the AGFC's weekly newsletter, fishing reports and waterfowl hunting reports.



The best part about joining CAN is the opportunity to help the AGFC learn more about you, Goad

said.

“When you join, complete a simple survey about your favorite outdoors activities, what outdoor settings you visit most and what information you want from us. Once we know what you want, we can focus our efforts on projects that enrich everyone’s outdoors experience.”

Everyone is welcome to join. It doesn’t matter if you hunt, fish or enjoy a walk in the woods listening to the birds, the AGFC wants to know about you. All you have to do is visit agfc.com, click the Conservation for Arkansas Network link and follow the online instructions. Your voice matters; make sure we hear it.

AGFC fields ready for opening of dove season

LITTLE ROCK – Opening day of dove season is this Saturday. For those hunters still looking for a field to hunt, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission maintains dove fields on some wildlife management areas. These plots are open to the public and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

“We’re stepping up opportunities for the dove season opening on our lands,” said Ricky Chastain, AGFC assistant chief of wildlife management. “With many privately-owned fields being an invitation-only proposition, we want to offer something for hunters, especially youth, who are new to the sport.”

The acreage put into dove fields is fairly small when compared to the size of the entire WMA because most hunters spend only a few days a season chasing these birds.



“Dove hunting fields can handle a hunter for every two acres or so,” Chastain said. “Most of the wildlife openings on our properties are small with irregular borders to serve a number of different wildlife species. Our dove fields will only provide limited opportunity in most cases,” he said.

What’s left of Hurricane Gustav has put a damper on the opening weekend, Chastain said. “Without a doubt, this rain will have a negative effect on the fields themselves,” he said. Hunters are urged to talk with area managers about total acreage available for hunting, status of management on the fields and the interest shown by other hunters.

AGFC Dove Fields

Brinkley Regional Office (877) 734-4581
Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA
UA Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA
Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA
Departee Creek WMA

Monticello Regional Office (877) 367-3559
Bayou Meto WMA
Choctaw Island WMA
Little Bayou WMA

Trusten Holder WMA

Hope Regional Office (877) 777-5580

Hope Upland WMA
Rick Evans Grandview Prairie WMA

Mayflower Field Office (877) 470-3650

Camp Robinson SUA
Cypress Bayou WMA
Holland Bottoms WMA
Prairie Bayou WMA

Fort Smith Regional Office (877) 478-1043

Fort Chaffee WMA
Dardanelle WMA
Ozark Lake WMA

Russellville Regional Office (877) 967-7577

Galla Creek WMA
Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA
Petit Jean River WMA

Doves can provide good eating for the hunter's table

LITTLE ROCK – Dove hunting in Arkansas is highly popular, and the season starts Saturday, Sept. 6.

Far too many dove hunters, however, make short work of the season. They hunt opening day or opening weekend then shift to other pursuits. Dove hunting can continue, with breaks into January. And the products of the hunts can make interesting and delectable dishes on the table.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff members enjoy doves in a wide variety of recipes. One of the most often used is simple – grilled dove breasts. Wrap a piece of bacon around the dove breast, secure it with a toothpick then grill until the bacon appears done, turning one or more times. Seasoning can be anything, nearly. A light sprinkle of Italian seasoning or Cavender's Greek Seasoning on the breasts before the wrap with bacon works well.



For a main dish that is more innovative, consider this dove spaghetti recipe. Make adaptations, substitutions or additions as you may see fit. It's good with a side dish and a salad for supper. It's an easy one for even a cook of modest talents.

DOVE SPAGHETTI

2 cups dove breasts, approximately
3 tbsp. butter or margarine
3 tbsp. chopped onion

2 tbsp. chopped bell pepper
1/3 cup sliced mushrooms
1 1/2 cups dove broth (see note)
2 tbsp. cornstarch
3 cups cooked thin spaghetti
1 cup shredded cheese

Melt the butter in saucepan; cook the onions, bell pepper and mushrooms over low heat until tender. Add dove broth and cornstarch and stir until thickened. Add dove and spaghetti. Heat the mixture until bubbling, stirring frequently. Turn into a baking dish and top with cheese. Place under broiler until cheese melts.

Note: To prepare dove broth, take the carcasses after the breasts have been removed and boil in water. Remove from heat and strain the liquid into a jar. This is your dove broth. Too much trouble? Just substitute canned chicken broth for the recipe.

2008-09 Arkansas Dove Seasons: Sept. 6-28, Oct. 4-19. Dec. 13-Jan. 2.

Forestry and wildlife field day offered in Hope

LITTLE ROCK – Looking for the chance to learn more about forest and wildlife management? The Arkansas Forestry Association has just the opportunity. A forestry and wildlife field day will be held at the Southwest Research and Extension Center in Hope Thursday, Sept. 18, beginning at 8 a.m.

Field tour stops will cover hardwood, pine and wildlife management issues. Topics include silvo-pasture, quail management, poultry litter applications, basic pine thinning, herbicide use in hardwoods, best management practices, tree shelters and hardwood plantings for cost share programs.

"This workshop is an excellent opportunity for landowners to increase their knowledge and interact with a variety of leading forestry professionals," said Rob Beadel, forestry education director for the Arkansas Forestry Association Education Foundation.



The registration fee is \$5 per person, which includes handouts and lunch. After Sept. 15, the registration fee will be \$10. For more information or to register, contact Jon Barry at the SWREC (870) 777-9702 or jbarry@uaex.edu. A field day brochure is available online at www.arkforests.org.

Third-generation tugboat captain opens on-the-water towing company

BEAVER LAKE - Capt. Jason Harte, a third-generation commercial tug boat captain, has opened Beaver Lake's first full-time on-the-water towing service that provides tows back to a marina or launch ramp, fuel deliveries, battery jump-starts or ungrounding services for recreational boaters.

TowBoatU.S. Beaver Lake at Prairie

BoatU.S. Towing
650,000 Members Strong!

Creek Marina is the first
TowBoatU.S. towing port in Arkansas.

Capt. Harte has stationed a white 22-foot response boat at the port that can be identified by its red "TowBoatU.S." lettering along the side. Onboard is a full complement of towing and salvage equipment including extra fuel, engine fluids, pumps, a battery "jump pack" to handle dead batteries and scuba gear.

Capt. Harte, his wife Lisa and two sons recently relocated to Arkansas from Washington, where Jason spent the last 15 years working as tug operator and towboat captain on the Columbia River. A former volunteer firefighter and U.S. Navy veteran who served in both Gulf wars, Harte gained his experience towing recreational boats for Vessel Assist Portland. Since relocating to Arkansas, the USCG-licensed Harte has worked with local law enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and rangers of Arkansas Parks and Tourism.

"One of the most common reasons boaters request on-the-water assistance is when they run out of fuel," Harte said. "There are eight marinas on Beaver Lake, but they are spread out. People sometimes don't realize how far they will have to go before they can fill up again."

Nationwide, the BoatU.S. towing fleet received over 60,000 requests for assistance from boaters last year.

Boaters in need of towing assistance can reach TowBoatU.S. Beaver Lake by calling the company directly at (479) 280-0104; by VHF radio on channel 16; or through the BoatU.S. toll-free dispatch service at (800) 391-4869 or visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Towing> for more information.

AGFC night at I-30 Speedway is set for Sept. 13

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Game and Fish Night at I-30 Speedway in Little Rock will be Saturday, Sept. 13. The special event will raise funds for boating safety education work in the state.

From each adult paid admission, Speedway officials will donate \$1 to the boating safety program of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in memory of the late sprint car driver Carl Dean Farish. Farish was killed in a boating accident.

Come early to see the agency's mobile aquarium, along with exhibits, demonstrations and other displays. Adults wearing any article of camouflage clothing will get \$1 off the regular admission price.

A special race will match several local celebrities and media personalities. Scheduled to compete in the race are KARK-4: Tracy Douglass, Melissa Simas, Sonseeahray Tonsall, Mallory Hardin and Courtney Collins; from KATV-7: Anne Pressly, Heather Crawford, Kristin Fisher and Amanda Manatt; from KTHV-11: Pam Baccam and Ebone Monet; from FOX 16: Sandra Kirk and A.J. Parker.



Gates will open at 5 p.m., and races will start at 7:30 p.m. I-30 Speedway is at Exit 126 off Interstate 30.

For more information, contact Steve "Wildman" Wilson at (501) 223-6408 or the Speedway at (501) 455-

4567.

Boating education class schedule

Click here for boating education information: <http://www.agfc.com/education-class/boating-education.aspx>

Hunter education class schedule

Click here for hunter education information: <http://www.agfc.com/education-class/hunter-education.aspx>

What's open for hunting

Current and approaching seasons in Arkansas:

What's open for hunting

Alligator:

Sept. 19-22

Sept. 26-29

Deer:

Archery – All zones: Oct. 1, 2008 to Feb. 28, 2009.

Modern Gun - Zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11: Nov. 8-30.

Zone 4: Nov. 8-9.

Zone 5: Nov. 8-9 and Nov. 15-16.

Zone 4A, 5A, 13, 14 and 15: Nov. 8-Dec. 7.

Zones 4B and 5B: Nov. 8-16.

Zones 9 and 12: Nov. 8-Dec. 14.

Zone 16, 16A and 17: Nov. 8-Dec. 25.

Muzzleloader - Zones 1, 2, 3, 4A, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15: Oct. 18-26 and Dec. 13-15.

Zones 9, 12, 16, 16A and 17: Oct. 18-26 and Dec. 29-31.

Zones 4, 4B, 5 and 5B: Closed.

The statewide Christmas holiday modern gun deer hunt will be Dec. 26 to 28 with the special youth modern gun deer hunt in all zones (excludes certain WMAs where a modern gun or muzzleloader permit is required to hunt) scheduled for Nov. 1 to 2.

Duck:

Nov. 22-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-Dec. 24, Dec. 26-Jan. 25.

The youth waterfowl hunt will be Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

Goose

Northwest Canada goose zone season: Sept. 1-15 (with a bag limit of five) and Sept. 27-Oct. 6 (bag limit two).

Statewide Canada goose season:

Sept. 1-15 (bag limit five) and Jan. 10-Feb. 1 (bag limit two).

White-fronted goose season:

Nov. 15-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Jan. 30 with a bag limit of two.

Snow, blue and Ross' goose season:

Nov. 8-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Jan. 30 with a bag limit of 20.

Snow goose Conservation Order: Feb. 2-April 25 with no bag limit.

Dove: Sept. 6-28
Oct. 4-19
Dec. 13, 2008-Jan. 2, 2009

Teal: Sept. 13-28

Virginia and Sora Rail: Sept. 13-Nov. 21

Spotted Skunk, Weasel Hunting: Closed

Fall Turkey:

Archery: All Zones: Oct. 1, 2008-Feb. 28, 2009.

Firearms: Zones 3, 5B, 6, and 17: Oct. 11-17.

Zones 1, 1A, 2, 4, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A and 10: Closed.

Bear:

Archery: Zone 1: Oct. 1-Nov. 30

Zone 2: Sept. 15-Nov. 30

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

Muzzleloader: Zones 1 and 2: Oct 18-26

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

Modern Gun: Zones 1 and 2: Nov 3-30

Zone 5: Dec 6-14

Zone 5A: Nov 29-Dec 14

Zones 3, 4, 6 and 7: closed

Special Youth Modern Gun Bear Hunt: Zones 1 and 2 (does not include WMAs requiring a deer permit to harvest a bear): Nov. 1-2

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

Furbearers (2008 Season):

Raccoon night hunting July 1-Aug. 31.

Badger, spotted skunk and weasel hunting is closed.

Furbearers (2009 Season):

Trapping (other than coyote, beaver, muskrat, nutria): sunrise, Nov. 15-sunset, Feb. 22.

Coyote trapping: sunrise, Aug. 1-sunset, March 31.

Beaver, muskrat, nutria trapping: sunrise, Nov. 15-sunset, March 31.

Gray fox, mink, opossum, red fox, striped skunk hunting: sunrise, Sept. 1-sunset, Feb 28.

Raccoon day or night hunting: sunrise, Sept 1-sunset, March 31.

Raccoon night hunting: sunset, July 1-sunrise, Aug. 31.

Bobcat hunting: sunrise, Oct. 1-sunset, Feb. 28 and from the first day of spring turkey season through June 8.

Coyote hunting: sunrise, July 1-sunset, Feb. 28 and from the first day of spring turkey season through June 14.

River otter hunting: sunrise, Nov. 15-sunset, Feb. 28.

Muskrat, nutria, beaver hunting: sunrise, Sept. 1-sunset, March 31.

Badger, spotted skunk and weasel hunting: Closed.

Elk:

Zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and A: Sept. 22-26.

Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, A and B: Dec. 8-12.

Quail

Statewide: Nov. 1-Feb. 8.

Rabbit

Statewide: Sept. 1-Feb. 28.

Squirrel

Statewide: Sept. 6, 2008-Feb. 28, 2009 and May 16-June 14, 2009.

Crow

Statewide: Sept. 6-Feb. 23.

Projected opening dates for the 2009-2010 deer hunting season.

Archery: Oct. 1, 2009

Muzzleloader: Oct. 17, 2009

Modern Gun: Nov. 14, 2009

Coming up in the outdoors

Sept. 6 – Annual White River Fishermen Bass and Trout Tournament benefiting Arkansas Children's Hospital, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Access and weigh-in at Guion Access. \$50 entry fee per person. For more information contact: Johnny Thomas at (870) 269-4596 or (870) 213-5979 or (870) 213-6606, Rickey Canard at (870) 214-0760 or Bill Turner at (870) 793-3670 or (870) 834-5783.

Sept. 7 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 5 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Elk of Arkansas."

Sept. 13 - Arkansas Catfishing Association (ACA). Arkansas River, Cherokee Landing, Morrilton, launching from Cherokee Park. Registration at 5 a.m. and launching at 5:40 a.m. Check-in time is 3 p.m. Details at ArkCats.Org website or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at big_vato98@yahoo.com, or, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

Sept. 13 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Fishing for Monster Catfish."

Sept. 18 – North Little Rock chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Woody's Sherwood Forest in Sherwood. For more information call Pat Mahan at (501) 743-6154 or email at pmahan000@centurytel.net.

Sept. 18 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include the 2009 spring turkey season regulations proposal.

Sept. 20 - Delta Wings Chapter of Delta Waterfowl will hold its third annual banquet on at Southland Park Gaming and Racing in West Memphis. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Contact Gary Harlow at gjharlow@aol.com for more information.

Sept. 20 – Fort Smith chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Adelaide Hall in Fort Smith. For more information call Chris Walthall at (479) 471-8009 or email at tynoiaca11@yahoo.com.

Sept. 27 – Jacksonville chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Old Wal-Mart building in Jacksonville. For more information call Matt Robinson at (501) 412-8055 or email at jacksonvilledu@aol.com.

Sept. 28 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 11 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "All About Archery."

Oct. 5 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 11 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Early Season Goose Hunting."

Oct. 11 – A one-day course on Bears and Bear Hunting is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 11, at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Biologists with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will lead discussions on bear biology and management along with the history of bears and hunting strategies. The class will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center, and it is free. Space is limited, so advance registration is needed. This can be done by phone at (501) 450-5274 or online at www.uca.edu/AOEP/ and click on Community Education.

Oct. 11 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Deer Hunting 101."

Oct. 18 - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament. Arkansas River, Ozark Taylor Lock and Dam. Registration at 5 a.m. and launching at 5:40 a.m. Check-in time is 3 p.m. Details at ArkCats.Org website or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at big_vato98@yahoo.com, or, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

Oct. 18 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Fall Fishing."

Oct. 18 – Logan County chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, First National Ban Community Building in Paris. For more information call Shane Vincent at (479) 963-6245.

Oct. 22 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting in Pine Bluff, beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include: the 2009 spring turkey seasons regulations approval and special fishing regulations proposal.

Oct. 24-26 - Want to learn more about trapping? A workshop is being held Oct. 24-26 to give interested people tips and techniques for trapping in Arkansas. The workshop is sponsored by the Arkansas Trappers Association, Southwest Arkansas Fur Takers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and North American Fur Auctions. Both advanced and beginner classes will be available. The workshop will be held at Camp Clearfork near Mount Ida on Highway 270. Lodging and meals are provided. Camping facilities and motels are located nearby as well. Groups are welcome. The cost for those 17 years of age and under is \$10. For those 18 and over the price is \$20. Reservations must be received by Sept. 30. For more information call Wallace Funderburk at (870) 867-2642.

Oct. 25 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Snakeheads."

Nov. 1 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Youth Deer Hunting."

Nov. 8 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Getting Ready for Duck Season."

Nov. 15 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Ducks, Ducks and More Ducks."

Nov. 20 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include: special fishing regulations approval.

Nov. 22 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Wings Over the Prairie Festival."

Nov. 29 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "How 'Bout Them Hogs?"

Dec. 6 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Christmas Gift Ideas." The Grand Prize will also be awarded to some lucky viewer.

Dec. 18 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

Jan. 9-11, 2009 –Marine Expo at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Jan. 22, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

Feb. 19, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include the 2009-2010 general hunting regulation proposals.

March 19, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include the 2009-2010 general hunting regulations approval.

April 16, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

May 21, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

June 18, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting in Lake Village. Topics include the early migratory bird season proposals.

For the latest in Arkansas Game and Fish Commission information go to www.agfc.com or call the Wildlife Information Hotline, (800)440-1477.

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