



News

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Arkansas Outdoors for September 24, 2008

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Conservative turkey season again proposed by AGFC

LITTLE ROCK – Biologists from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission again have proposed a conservative turkey season. The AGFC has tried to address declining turkey harvests through the regulations process starting in spring 2005.

AGFC turkey biologist Mike Widner told the Commission, that the shorter season of 30 days in 2005 and 2006 undoubtedly aided gobbler carryover somewhat. "However, the reduction in season length was not enough to reverse the trend in declining spring harvests and the index of gobbler carryover from the 2005 and 2006 brood surveys," he said.

Widner said that the best way to achieve long term harvest management goals is to utilize a short, later turkey season such as the one in place during the 2007 and 2008 season. "The data we have collected strongly supports this conclusion. After the first year of this regulation, we saw positive results and we believe those positive results continued in 2008," Widner explained. "When we first approached the Commission with a conservative season recommendation, we stressed that a one-year change wouldn't result in turkey harvest recovery. Our intention was to bring harvests in line with reproductive trends," he added.



Widner went on to say that it is going to take at least two good years of turkey brood production to see a significant increase in turkey numbers and turkey harvest. "Even when that finally occurs, there is plenty of data to suggest a conservative season is in the best long-term interest of turkeys and turkey hunters in the state. Of course, we haven't

seen those two good years of turkey reproduction yet, so continuation of the conservative season structure now in place is especially important," he said.



The AGFC Wildlife Management Division turkey team recommended a spring 2009 season structure to open with a two-day statewide youth hunt April 4-5. In zone 17 the youth hunt would be March 28-29. The regular-season proposal was April 11-May 1 in zones 1, 2, 3, 4B, 5, 5B, 6, 7, 7A, 8, 9 and 10; April 4-26 in zone 17; April 11-24 in zones 4, 4A, 5A and 9A. Zone 1A would be closed.

According to Widner, turkey numbers currently are extremely low in Zone 1A. Hobbs SP-CA and Beaver Lake WMA are proposed for closure for the same reason.

Other proposed changes include closure of Bald Knob NWR to turkey hunting, a change to regular season quota permit hunts on McIlroy Madison County WMA and Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA, a change to a 4-day regular season quota permit hunt on Sylamore WMA later followed by public hunting for the rest of the season, the addition of a regular quota permit hunt on Choctaw Island WMA and public archery-only hunts on Harold E. Alexander WMA and Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA after quota permit hunts are completed.

Comments on the proposed basic season structure or on the specific changes listed above are welcomed by AGFC and should be sent prior to Oct. 17 to AGFC, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205 or by calling (501)

223-6359 or (800) 364-4263 or by email to information@agfc.com

Commissioners will formally approve the season at the agency's Oct. 22 meeting in Pine Bluff.

In other business, the Commission:

*Discussed proposed commercial fishing and turtle farming regulations. The regulations will be approved at the October meeting.

*Approved an agreement for land conveyance on the Arkansas River. Echubby Lake Hunting Club will donate to the Commission Coal Pile Lake and adjacent lands totaling about 538 acres. There is no cost to the Commission other than closing costs that are expected to be less than \$1,500. The lake will be managed for public fishing and as a waterfowl rest area.

*Approved the return of more than \$659,650 in fine money, collected during fiscal year 2008, to the Arkansas Department of Education. The money will be sent to the counties where the offenses occurred and used for school fish and wildlife conservation programs.

*Approved a budget increase of \$200,000 for initially funding of a new bridge over Crooked Creek. The bridge will provide year-round access to the Fred Berry Crooked Creek Conservation Education Center in Yellville. The low-water bridge that had provided access to the center was damaged during repeated flooding in the creek.

*Approved a cost-share agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help control nuisance aquatic vegetation in Felsenthal Reservoir. The AGFC will provide approximately 35,000 triploid grass carp in an effort to control the vegetation. The vegetation is so thick that it impairs boat access to fishing and hunting areas.

*Approved a \$145,000 budget transfer to be used for re-surfacing the Pendleton Access Area on the Arkansas River in Desha County. The area is heavily used by anglers and is a popular tournament site.

*Approved a land exchange for 80 acres of land in the Gene Rush Buffalo River Wildlife Management Area in exchange for 80 acres of isolated and excess land on the Bayou Meto WMA. In addition to the land, the AGFC will also pay \$70,200 for the 80 acres in Searcy County. The money will cover the purchase and closing costs.

*Approved a land exchange of just over 16 acres for land on Bayou Meto WMA. The land swap will make land that was inaccessible, due to Little Bayou Meto, a contiguous part of the WMA.

Sportsmen may access public areas to repair blinds

POCAHONTAS – Due to the recent heavy winds associated with the passage of Hurricane Ike over Northeast Arkansas, a considerable amount of tree limbs and logs have accumulated in some hunting areas and boat lanes.

Hunters on the Dave Donaldson Black River and the St. Francis Sunken Lands wildlife management areas will soon get a second opportunity to access these Arkansas Game and Fish Commission areas.

Sportsmen may access St. Francis Sunken Lands and Dave Donaldson Black River WMAs from Friday, Sept. 26, 2008 through Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008, in order to remove fallen logs and limbs from waterfowl hunting holes and boat lanes. Debris removal on the Big Lake WMA will be carried out by the Big Lake Volunteer Work Group, under the supervision of the AGFC.

Maintenance will only be allowed into the areas during daylight hours. Special permits will not be required.

Maintenance may be done under the following guidelines:

- Certain levees and roads usually open to vehicular traffic may be closed due to construction or logging operations on Dave Donaldson Black River and St. Francis Sunken Lands WMAs. For maintenance purposes, only ATVs will be permitted beyond signs, locked gates or barricades.
- Boats, three wheeled, four wheeled, six wheeled or eight-wheeled all terrain vehicles may be used on existing roads or trails to access hunting areas. Trailers may be used with ATVs to transport repair materials and equipment to blind locations.
- No trucks or other passenger vehicles, farm tractors or implements, including implements for use with four-wheelers, riding mowers or power mowers may be used.
- Chainsaws mounted on extension poles or any other devices intended exclusively for overhead limb cutting are not permitted.
- No chemicals, herbicides or defoliants may be used.
- Chainsaws will be permitted only for the cutting of fallen logs from boat lanes, trails and hunting spots.
- No standing trees are to be cut or damaged.
- No new holes or clearings are to be created and existing holes are not to be enlarged by cutting surrounding trees or shrubs. Violations of this restriction may result in the red-lining of the hole and permanent closure of the hole to all waterfowl hunting.
- Soil may not be plowed, cultivated or disturbed in any manner and no seeds of any kind are to be planted.
- Cutting of trees, application of chemicals or defoliants, or the enlargement or creation of new openings will result in the permanent closure of that location to hunting.
- No maintenance may be done in areas that have been closed to hunting by painted boundaries or signs.



The use of all-terrain vehicles for off road travel is restricted to persons actively participating in blind or hunting hole maintenance, and mobility impaired access permit holders as permitted by area regulations. Joy riding is prohibited and violators will be prosecuted.

11th elk hunt opens with two bulls taken

COMPTON - For the 11th year, a handful of fortunate hunters went after elk in the Buffalo River country.

They had favorable weather cool nights, warm days and clear skies in their favor. But the hunting was a challenge. One bull elk was taken the first day near sunset, and one was downed the second day near sunset.

Gary Jashinsky Jr. lives in Cabot and is stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base. He had one of four public land permits for the September 2008 hunt and scored with a 6X6 bull elk, meaning six points on each side of its antlers.

Jashinsky eased out into a field in the Hasty area close to the Buffalo River late Tuesday afternoon. He spotted the bull, shot with his .30-06 rifle and hit the bull. But it didn't go down. Jashinsky fired



again and the bull dropped.

The first success of the hunt was on the private land portion of the hunt and this area has a quota of three elk. Kevin Shaddox of Springdale was hunting on land owned by his family near the Boone-Carroll county line.

Shaddox, hunting with his father, Dorwin Shaddox, said they heard one bull elk but didn't find it. Later in the day they sat in a ground blind, heard another and began using a call. The bull answered. After some more calls, the bull came into good shooting range, 50 yards.

Shaddox fired once with his .300 Magnum rifle, and the 5X6 bull dropped. It was his first elk hunt. Shaddox is 31 and a fleet manager for J.B. Hunt Co.

The September elk hunt will continue through Friday or until the private land permits and the private land quota are filled. Another hunt will be Dec. 8-12.

Arkansas in second year of project to test convenience of electronic duck stamp

LITTLE ROCK – In an effort to make federal duck stamp purchasing more convenient, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is beginning the second year of a three year program to test electronic stamps. The AGFC, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is testing the pilot program to make it simpler for hunters, birdwatchers and stamp collectors to buy Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as duck stamps.

The pilot program allows the AGFC along with fish and wildlife agencies in the states of Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas and Wisconsin, to sell stamps electronically through their individual automated licensing systems providing proof of purchase.

This proof of purchase – a unique code given to the purchaser instantly, will be accepted as evidence of the federal duck stamp purchase for 45 days. This will give the purchaser – time enough for the physical stamp to arrive in the mail. Duck Stamp purchasers will now be able to buy an electronic duck stamp from Arkansas and the other eight states' retail licensing locations or by telephone or by their website.



Every waterfowl hunter over the age of 16 is required to buy a federal duck stamp in order to hunt waterfowl. In addition, federal duck stamps provide free entry into any national wildlife refuge in the country that charges an entrance fee. The electronic duck stamps are \$2 higher in cost than the over-the-counter version.

The electronic proof of purchase will fulfill the requirement for waterfowl hunters to possess the stamp nationwide and allow visitors to National Wildlife Refuges gain free access. After the 45 days, the proof of purchase will expire and the purchasers must possess the paper stamp to receive its full benefit.

The federal duck stamp is currently available at many major sporting good stores selling hunting and fishing licenses, select post offices and online through the U.S. Postal Service and AMPLEX, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's duck stamp fulfillment center.

The Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005 directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with state management agencies, to conduct a three-year pilot program under which up to 15 states could issue electronic migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps. The pilot program will allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate the program and make adjustments or assess other distribution options to better serve stamp buyers.

Click this link for more information about the [Federal Duck Stamp Program](#).

Hunting and Fishing Day to be celebrated at AGFC nature and education centers

LITTLE ROCK – Plans for National Hunting and Fishing Day are in the works at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's nature and education centers.

The Sept. 27 nationwide celebration shares the values and fun of the outdoors with every outdoorsman, especially kids.

At the [Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center](#) in Fort Smith, kids will be able to compete in the "[Fabulous Five Outdoor Skills Event](#)." Activities include archery, laser shot, a casting contest, BB guns and a climbing wall. All ages are encouraged to participate. Prizes will be awarded in three age groups:

- 5-8 years
- 9-12 years
- 13-16 years

Events at the nature center will be from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on these events, please contact the nature center at (479) 452-3993.



In southwest Arkansas, the [Rick Evans Grandview Prairie Conservation Education Center](#) near Hope will be hosting a full day of events. The family-focused celebration includes a fishing derby, K-9 unit demonstration, air rifles, shotgun live firing and a scavenger hunt, to name just a few of the festivities. Events get underway beginning at 9 a.m.



For more information, please contact the education center at (800) 983-4219.

There is no fee for any of these programs thanks to Arkansans' support of the [1/8 Cent Conservation Sales Tax](#).

This weekend the [Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center](#) in Jonesboro will be hosting a "Family Fair" at the nature center. The events get underway at 10 a.m. on Sept. 27 and continue throughout the day. Besides getting the chance to visit the nature center and experience what all it has to offer, booths throughout the facility and grounds will be set up allowing visitors the chance to speak to the AGFC's various program coordinators. Biologists from deer to bear to elk to turkey will be on hand to answer the public's questions.

On Sept. 25, one of the featured events will be a seminar covering predator hunting and game calling, with famed predator caller Gerald Stewart from Johnny Stewart Calls. There will be events for people of all ages such as face painting, inflatables archery, hunting simulator and air rifle range, to name just a few.

The event is co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Jonesboro. For more information go to www.crowleysridge.org or call (870) 933 – 6787.

Reading those signs can improve your deer hunting

LITTLE ROCK – A sensible step on the road to becoming a better deer hunter can be simply studying signs.

These signs aren't the ones erected by highway departments. They are the ones made by the deer themselves, according to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff members.

Deer hunters toss that term "sign" about freely. "I found some sign at the edge of those pin oak trees." They could mean more than one thing.

Deer sign can be rubs, scrapes, tracks or trails. Looking for and paying attention to all of these helps in getting a shot at a deer and making a successful hunt.

Rubs means a bare spot on a tree or sapling where a buck has polished his antlers, rubbed the velvet or skin off. Nearly always, this rub is on a small trunk, usually just a sapling. You seldom find rubs on trees large enough to make firewood or sawmill timber.

One myth among some hunters is that the higher the rub, the bigger the buck that made it. Keep in mind that a buck bends over to rub the tree. This puts the rub two or two and a half feet above the ground, seldom more than that and sometimes even less than two feet. It's possible that a prize 12-point buck will leave a lower rub than a spike buck.

Scrapes are regarded by some veteran deer hunters as the most important of deer signs. A scrape is a bare place on the ground where a buck has raked the ground clean with its feet then urinated on the spot. The buck puts a mark there, staking the territory as his and warning away competitors. Experienced hunters look for the freshness of a scrape, meaning it was made recently and that the buck should still be in the vicinity.

Tracks are footprints of deer. You'll find them in soft ground, semi-soft ground or mud anywhere deer have been, and they can be read for freshness. A track with sharp edges is a recent one. If the edges are rounded, it's been a while since the deer passed by. A newer track may be partially on top of an older one. Usually, larger deer make larger tracks, and bucks are larger than does on the average. But keep in mind that softer earth can mean a track larger than one in fairly firm earth.

Trails are game paths, places where deer and other animals walk to and from feeding areas, watering areas and bedding areas.

Trails are indicators that ground animals come that way on a regular basis, but trails don't tell a hunter what kind of animal it is. Possums, raccoons and armadillos make and use trails just as deer do. Several kinds of animals can use the same trail. Still, a trail is a sign that animals are in the area regularly.

Put the reading of signs in your deer hunting repertoire, and it is one more step toward becoming a more successful on the hunt. And it is another step in the story-telling aspect of deer hunting as well.



Arkansas youth selected for Olympic evaluation in trap and skeet

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - The Olympic torch in Beijing has barely cooled but preparation is already underway for the 2012 games in London. Eighteen shooting-sports hopefuls from 11 states have been selected for intensive training and evaluation Oct. 8-12 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Hindsville's Cord Riley has been selected for the 2008 Junior Olympic Development camp in trap



shooting. Riley also competes in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports Program.

"All of these top young talents were selected from the Scholastic Clay Target Program, the eight-year-old national shooting league that produced two medalists for the U.S. in Beijing," said Zach Snow of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which selected camp attendees in partnership with USA Shooting.

SCTP alumni Vincent Hancock (Eatonton, Ga.) and Corey Cogdell (Eagle River, Alaska) won gold in men's skeet and bronze in women's trap, respectively, in Beijing. Their medals were two of the six won by the U.S. in shooting sports.

At the camp, athletes will work with U.S. Olympic coaches to hone skills in the international style of skeet and trap shooting. Daily training starts early and goes late. Daytime drills help shooters fine-tune skills and help coaches identify athletes with special aptitude as well as attitude. Evening classroom work teaches goal setting, team structure and preparing physically and mentally for high-level competition.



Attendees will be housed in the Olympic athlete dormitories and fed in the athlete cafeteria alongside scores of other Olympic hopefuls from many different sports.

Volunteer coach Steven Johnson, 37, Mountainburg also has been invited to attend the camp to learn advanced skills in coaching shooting sports. Chuck Woodson, the Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports Program Coordinator, also will attend the training camp. The AGFC will be hosting a qualifying tournament for the Junior Olympics next summer

The National Shooting Sports Foundation directs a variety of outreach programs to promote greater participation and a better understanding of shooting sports, emphasizing safe and responsible ownership of firearms. For more information, visit www.nssf.org and www.nssf.org/sctp.

AGFC seeks jackrabbit sightings for survey

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is conducting an observation survey throughout the state, and seeks the help of Arkansas residents.

While cottontail and swamp rabbits are common, jackrabbits have not been seen in Arkansas since the late 1980s. One of the last known jackrabbit populations was in FortChaffee until the early 1970s.

The black-tailed jackrabbit once was found across northwestern and western Arkansas. It was common in Benton, Crawford and Washington counties in the mid-1950s, but has become rare in Arkansas because of changes in farming practices. Jackrabbits can be seen early or late in the day and thrive in prairies, pastures, hay fields and orchards.

Residents can help the AGFC by recording any jackrabbit sightings and submitting them to <http://www.agfc.com/jackrabbit>. They also may call Blake Sasse, AGFC nongame mammal program coordinator, at (877) 470-3650 to report jackrabbits. Old sightings will benefit the survey as well.



Jackrabbits are much larger than cottontails and swamp rabbits and can jump as high as 3 feet. The Web page includes drawings of cottontails, swamp rabbits and jackrabbits for identification.

Wildlife artist to teach workshop at Rockefeller Institute

PETIT JEAN MOUNTAIN – Combine a love of the outdoors with a passion for painting, and you get wildlife artist Duane Hada.

Hada, an experienced and energetic art instructor, avid outdoorsman and professional fly fishing guide, will teach a wildlife painting workshop Oct. 30 through Nov. 2 at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain. The workshop is part of Art Escapes Fall 2008.

During the three-day workshop, Hada will teach students how to realistically and accurately depict various wildlife subjects in their natural habitats using water-based acrylic paint. Although workshop participants are not required to paint wildlife indigenous to the area, Hada prefers to stick with what he knows.

“There’s something about the soul, the spirit and the energy that goes through a painting once you have passion for it and knowledge of it,” Hada says. “You paint best with what you know.”



The primary themes of Hada’s paintings are fly-fishing and the wildlife and landscapes of the Ozark Mountains and White River. As a native of the Ozarks, Hada has been immersed in the region’s landscapes and its diverse plant and animal life his entire existence.



“Since I was a young man, I’ve observed natural beauty, and I’ve always been a wildlife lover. I think my paintings come from being a keen observer and just having the passion for wanting to try to duplicate what I see, especially if it’s wildlife or landscape,” Hada says.

In his paintings, Hada aims to make viewers feel as if they are part of a particular scene by placing the animal in a situation rather than simply painting a portrait of the animal. When a painting depicts an actual scene, Hada says, it comes to life.

“I think the thing that separates a good wildlife painter from someone who just paints a portrait of a wildlife subject is the ability to create that mood or feel or capture that special moment that we occasionally get to see in nature. I want my paintings to make others feel as if they were part of that environment.”

Hada has won numerous awards in the field of wildlife painting, including the Midsouth Watercolor Society Best of Show award in 2007. In addition, collectors and state agencies have prized Hada’s wildlife paintings for years. His work has been selected to appear on trout stamps, calendars, educational posters, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission trout license plate. In his most recent project, Hada is painting the waterway ecosystems of the state for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.



“It’s fulfilling when someone that really knows wildlife sees my work and connects to the same inspiration and feeling that I put into it,” Hada says.

During Art Escapes Fall 2008, Hada will help participants achieve success and improvement in their wildlife painting, regardless of their skill levels. Those who are interested can register online at www.uawri.org. A commuter workshop with lunch only is \$325 and a commuter workshop with lunch and dinner is \$400. The price of an all-inclusive workshop, which includes overnight accommodations at the Rockefeller Institute’s Lodge and Conference Center, ranges from \$540 to \$595, depending on the lodging option.



Duane Hada lives in the small Baxter County town of Cotter. He and his wife, Marlene, own and operate Rivertown Gallery, which features Duane’s original wildlife art and showcases the art of fly fishing and the Ozark landscape.

To learn more about Duane Hada and to view samples of his work, visit www.rivertowngallery.com.

Hada is one of three instructors for Art Escapes Fall 2008. The other workshops are Plein-Air Oil Painting with Bill Garrison and Watercolor Painting with Gloria Garrison. For more information about Art Escapes contact Julie Hall, program coordinator at the Rockefeller Institute, at (501) 727-6220 or jhall@uawri.org.

For more information on the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute of the University of Arkansas System, visit www.uawri.org or call (501) 727-5435.

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:

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.

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. 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."

Sept. 28 – Skeet shooting contest, 2 p.m., Point Remove Lodge in Hattiesville. The University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton Foundation is sponsoring the three person contest. For more information call Mary Clark at (501) 977-2011 or Kristi Stain at (501) 977-2085.

Sept. 30 – "Metro Fishing Hotspots" will be presented by AGFC fisheries biologist Clifton Jackson at the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock. The program will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. The nature center is located at 602 Clinton Ave. in the River Market District of downtown Little Rock. For more information, call (501) 907-0636.

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. 4 - Keith Sutton of Alexander, one of the country's best-known fishing writers, will be the featured speaker for a special crappie fishing seminar sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. His talk, "Learn New Tricks for Catching Big Slabs," will begin at 9 a.m., Oct. 4 at South Arkansas Community College, 300 S. West Ave., in El Dorado. "Crappie are the most popular panfish in Arkansas," said Sutton. "But many anglers find them hard to catch outside the spring spawning season. This seminar, for both beginning and experienced fishermen, will provide simple tips anyone can use to catch more crappie year-round." Sutton, a native Arkansan, has been an avid crappie fisherman for almost four decades. His first-hand knowledge of the sport, and tips he's learned from pro crappie anglers nationwide, form the basis for his latest book, "The Crappie Book: Basics and Beyond," which was released last year by Stoeger Publishing in Accokeek, Maryland. The seminar, funded by the 1/8th-Cent Conservation Sales Tax, is free to the public. Refreshments and door prizes will be available. For more information, call AGFC regional education coordinator Laura Rogers at (870) 818-6378.

Oct. 11 – Turkey/hoot owl calling contest, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Desha County Fairgrounds in McGehee. For more information, go to www.mcgeheechamber.com or call (870) 222-3880.

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 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. 6, 2009 – AGFC hunting regulations meetings, 7 p.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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