



## Arkansas Outdoors for January 02, 2008

Keith Stephens (501) 223-6342, e-mail: [kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us)

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## Arkansas one of three states to address lapsed angler recruitment

LITTLE ROCK – The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation last week announced that the [Arkansas Game and Fish Commission](#), the [Missouri Department of Conservation](#) and the [Utah Division of Wildlife Resources](#) will all participate in a direct mail marketing effort to increase fishing license sales. Seventeen states have currently signed on to participate in the direct mail marketing initiative, a program designed by RBFF to increase participation in the sport and generate awareness of the connection between fishing license sales and conservation efforts.

"With less than a month until our training workshop, we have 17 states committed to the lapsed angler recruitment program," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "The program aims to increase fishing license sales, a critical source of funding for state agency conservation. We are encouraged by the addition of Arkansas, Missouri and Utah, and look forward to additional participation."



"The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission jumped at the chance to partner with RBFF on their lapsed angler recruitment program," said Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director Scott Henderson. "Being part of this multi-state effort is a great opportunity to learn from others and focus where we have the best chance of success. With this partnership, we hope to encourage Arkansans to start fishing again and to get their families hooked on this great outdoor activity."

"By working with RBFF and other states," noted Missouri Department of Conservation Director John Hoskins, "we're able to raise the level of awareness not only in Missouri, but throughout the nation of the important contribution anglers make when they buy fishing permits. I don't think most people realize that each state gets Federal dollars in return for the permits its citizens buy. This all goes directly to keeping our waters and fish healthy."

"Partnering with RBFF to lure back lapsed anglers is exciting," said Jim Karpowitz, director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. "Pulling from what has been learned in past direct mail campaigns is a smart move and I anticipate that we'll see positive results."

The product includes direct mail templates, instructions to implement a direct mail campaign and marketing assistance from RBFF. A workshop for states that will implement the program will be held January 16-17, 2008 in Dallas, Texas.

## Bull Shoals and Norfolk draft trout management plan meeting scheduled

MOUNTAIN HOME – In December 2007, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Fisheries Division released a draft management plan for the trout fisheries on Bull Shoals and Norfolk tailwaters. The draft plan addresses issues and concerns heard during public workshops held in May and September 2007.

Goals of the plan include improving water quality, insuring sufficient enforcement of trout fishing regulations, and improving the size structure of the trout populations in these waters.

As part of a continuing public involvement process, concerned anglers and other stakeholders will be given an opportunity to comment on the draft plan during a public review workshop on Jan. 7 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Mountain Home. Anyone with an interest in the trout fisheries on the Bull Shoals and Norfolk tailwaters is encouraged to attend.



The draft management plan is available on the AGFC Web site:

[www.agfc.com/fishing/resources-fishing/trout-in-arkansas/trout\\_plans/tailwaters\\_meetings.aspx](http://www.agfc.com/fishing/resources-fishing/trout-in-arkansas/trout_plans/tailwaters_meetings.aspx).

For more information please contact Jeff Williams at (870) 424-5924.

## Bird enjoyment can begin on the deck, in the backyard

LITTLE ROCK -- Winter is a peak time for back porch, back deck or backyard birding. Natural food sources are scarce, diminished or non-existent, so the birds readily come to seed, suet, mixes and most anything else you put out for them.

Cut an orange or an apple in half or in fourths, and it will be used by birds. For many Arkansas bird feeders, the bird staples are black oil sunflower seed, store-bought wild bird mix, which has a lot of millet, and Magic Mix. The later is a kitchen blending of lard, peanut butter and corn meal. Exact proportions aren't needed; it's one of those concoctions you put together until it looks and feels "right."

Magic Mix options include adding raisins or shelled peanuts.

Your birds will have to share the Magic Mix with squirrels, those opportunistic, busy creatures we have in the gray variety and the fox or red variety. At many homes the squirrels will make use of to the Magic Mix right along with the sunflower seed, and chances are they will ignore shelled corn if there is other food available.

Regular diners this time of year at a typical Arkansas home are bluebirds, nuthatches, titmice, juncos, white-throated sparrows, pine warblers, yellow warblers, downy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, house finches, cardinals, mockingbirds and goldfinches. Once in a while a robin or a pileated woodpecker show up. Once in a great while, there may be brown thrasher on hand. And perhaps once or twice a year an eastern towhee may appear, but it works on the ground in fallen leaves, not around the feeders.

Some old notions about songbirds and bird behavior have been shaken or challenged by observations from your breakfast table.



Bluebirds are territorial, experts tell us. You don't put bluebird boxes

close together. One bluebird family in an area is the limit. Not so at our place. One morning, a Conway observer saw eight bluebirds eating Magic Mix at once, nearly clustered on one rail of the deck. The quick analysis is there were two adult males, two adult females and four juveniles.

Cardinals are primarily seed eaters, but they will also partake of the Magic Mix. The black oil sunflower seed seems to be their preference when all three types of food are on the deck, but the cardinals appear to work on the Magic Mix more and more as winter progresses.

There are moments of high excitement also. When a hawk shows up, the backyard birds scatter quickly. The hawks are very much a part of the bird scene around Arkansas homes. Red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, northern harriers and the strikingly beautiful Mississippi kites are often seen close to houses, maybe knowing easy pickings are there for them, too.

Put the food out, and the birds will come. It's really that simple. A small supply of water helps, too.

## Rockefeller Institute workshop demonstrates how to create habitat for declining birds

PETIT JEAN MOUNTAIN – The Winthrop Rockefeller Institute of the University of Arkansas System encourages private landowners to “cultivate their wild side” at the Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop Feb. 1-2, 2008.

This objective of this workshop is to promote appropriate practices that develop private lands for quail and songbird habitat.

Private landowners and professionals in the field of wildlife management will learn about the biological needs of quail and songbirds, beneficial land management practices, and resource programs available for land assessment and habitat establishment or restoration.

Sandy Davies, environmental education program coordinator at the Rockefeller Institute, said that the array of quail and songbirds on Petit Jean Mountain, including bobwhites, robins, chickadees and sparrows, prompted her to begin a Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop at the Rockefeller Institute.

“I was pleased to see a significant number of bobwhites on Petit Jean because the species is rapidly declining,” Davies said. “A workshop that educates the public about quail and songbird habitat preservation is the first step in stabilizing the population of these birds.”

The Northern Bobwhite is No. 1 on the National Audubon Society's list of 20 common North American birds with the greatest population declines since 1967. The species has experienced an 82 percent rate of decline in the last 40 years.



According to Steve Fowler, quail program coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, loss of habitat is the key reason quail population is decreasing.

Large-scale agriculture, intensive pine-plantation forestry and development are cited as being largely responsible for the disappearance of suitable bobwhite habitat, according to the National Audubon Society's Web site.

The Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop is a cooperative program with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Audubon Arkansas, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Quail Unlimited.

Registration for the Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop is available online at [www.uawri.org](http://www.uawri.org) or by calling (866) 972-7778.

Overnight accommodations are available. The registration deadline is Jan. 28. For more information about the workshop, contact Sandy Davies by phone at (501) 215-7990 or by e-mail at [sdavies@uawri.org](mailto:sdavies@uawri.org).

The Winthrop Rockefeller Institute of the University of Arkansas System is a unique educational center with conference and

lodging facilities. Committed to acting as a catalyst, its vision involves combining the legacy and ideas of Governor Winthrop Rockefeller with the resources and expertise of the state's premier university system. Its mission is to develop an educational environment nurturing ideas, policies and activities needed for the pursuit of progress with and for all Arkansans.

The Rockefeller Institute accomplishes its mission by offering a variety of workshops, seminars, public lectures, conferences and special events. Program areas include the natural environment, the arts, culinary arts, public affairs, language instruction, archeology, heritage, and health and wellness.

For more information, visit [www.uawri.org](http://www.uawri.org) or call (866) 972-7778.

## Public meetings set for input on 2008-09 hunting regulations

LITTLE ROCK - Hunters may voice their opinions about hunting regulations and seasons at one of 11 public meetings across the state Tuesday, Jan. 8.

The meetings are part of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual hunting regulations process. They are held to give hunters and other interested parties the opportunity to make comments and proposals for the 2008-09 hunting seasons.

Comments may be verbal or written. Written comments may be submitted at one of the meetings or mailed to the AGFC, Hunting Regulations Proposals, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. Comments can also be made on the AGFC Web site at [http://www.agfc.com/hunting/misc\\_hunting/public-meeting.aspx](http://www.agfc.com/hunting/misc_hunting/public-meeting.aspx). The deadline for comments is Jan. 31.



The 11 meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. AGFC personnel will make an initial presentation and accommodate those wishing to speak. Visitors may arrive and leave at any time during the meeting. Meeting sites and AGFC office telephone numbers are:

### Jonesboro

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center  
600 East Lawson Road  
(877) 972-5438

### Brinkley

AGFC Regional Office  
1201 North Highway 49  
(877) 734-4581

### Monticello

AGFC Regional Office  
771 Jordan Drive  
(877) 367-3559

### Camden

Camden Fairview High School Auditorium  
1750 Cash Road  
(877) 836-4612

### Hope

Fair Park Community Center  
Fair Park Drive  
(877) 777-5580

### Hot Springs

National Park Community College Auditorium  
101 College Drive  
(877) 525-8606

### Fort Smith

Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center  
8300 Wells Lake Road  
(877) 478-1043

**Russellville**

AGFC Regional Office  
1266 Lock and Dam Road  
(877) 967-7577

**Fayetteville**

University of Arkansas  
Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena  
1335 West Knapp  
(877) 967-7577

**Mountain View**

Ozark Folk Center Auditorium  
Hwy 382  
(877) 297-4331

**Little Rock**

AGFC Central Office  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
(800) 364-4263

## 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:

**Squirrel:**

Statewide – Sept. 8-Feb. 29.

**Rabbit:**

Statewide – Sept. 1-Feb. 29.

**Spotted Skunk, Weasel Hunting:**

Closed.

**Dove:**

Dec. 15-Jan. 4

**Duck:**

Dec. 26-Jan. 6, 2008 and Jan. 12, 2008-Jan. 27, 2008

**White-Fronted Goose:**

Dec. 26-Feb. 3

**Snow, Blue, and Ross' Goose:**

Dec. 26-Feb. 3

**Snow Goose Conservation Order:**

Feb. 4-April 27

**Statewide Canada Goose:**

Dec. 26 – Feb. 3

**Statewide Falconry:**

Jan. 7-11 and Jan. 28-Feb. 17

**Common Snipe:**

Nov. 1, 2007 to Feb. 15, 2008

**Deer Archery:**

Oct. 1-Feb. 29 statewide.

**Turkey Archery:**

Oct. 1-Feb. 29 statewide

**Quail:**

Nov. 1-Feb. 10 statewide.

**Crow:**

Sept. 1-Feb. 17 Thursdays thru Mondays only statewide.

**Furbearers:**

Furbearer trapping Nov. 17-Feb. 17 excluding coyote, beaver, muskrat and nutria.

Coyote trapping Aug. 1-March 31.

Beaver, muskrat, nutria trapping Nov. 17-March 31.

Gray fox, mink, opossum, red fox, striped skunk hunting Sept. 1-Feb. 29.

Raccoon day or night hunting Sept. 1-March 31.

Raccoon night hunting July 1-Aug. 31.

Bobcat and coyote hunting Oct. 1-Feb. 29.

River otter hunting Nov. 17-Feb. 29.

Muskrat, nutria and beaver hunting Sept. 1-March 31.

Badger, spotted skunk and weasel hunting is closed.

## Coming up in the outdoors

**Jan. 5** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Winter Bird Feeding."

**Jan. 8** – 2008-09 AGFC Hunting Regulations Public Meetings, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Jonesboro**

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

600 East Lawson Road

(877) 972-5438

**Brinkley**

AGFC Regional Office

1201 North Highway 49

(877) 734-4581

**Monticello**

AGFC Regional Office 771 Jordan Drive

(877) 367-3559

**Camden**

Camden Fairview High School Auditorium

1750 Cash Road

(877) 836-4612

**Hope**

FairPark Community Center

Fair Park Drive

(877) 777-5580

**Hot Springs**

National Park Community College Auditorium

101 College Drive

(877) 525-8606

**Fort Smith**

Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center

8300 Wells Lake Road

(877) 478-1043

**Russellville**

AGFC Regional Office  
1266 Lock and Dam Road  
(877) 967-7577

**Fayetteville**

University of Arkansas  
Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena  
1335 West Knapp  
(877) 967-7577

**Mountain View**

OzarkFolkCenter Auditorium  
Hwy 382  
(877) 297-4331

**Little Rock**

AGFC Central Office  
2 Natural Resources Drive  
(800) 364-4263

**Jan. 12** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Youth Duck Hunting."

**Jan. 18-20** - Arkansas Marine Expo, StatehouseConvention Center, Little Rock. For more information, contact: Denton and Griffey Attractions, Ken Griffey, (501) 225-6177 or (501) 765-1423.

**Jan. 19** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "All about Raptors."

**Jan. 24** - AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

**Jan. 26** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Canada Goose Hunting."

**Feb. 1-2** - Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop, Petit JeanMountain. Registration for the workshop is available online at [www.uawri.org](http://www.uawri.org) or by calling (866) 972-7778. Overnight accommodations are available. The registration deadline is Jan. 28. For more information about the workshop, contact Sandy Davies by phone at (501) 215-7990 or by e-mail at [sdavies@uawri.org](mailto:sdavies@uawri.org).

**Feb. 2** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Winter Trout Fishing."

**Feb. 8-10** - Arkansas RV Show, StatehouseConvention Center, Little Rock. For more information, contact: Denton and Griffey Attractions, Ken Griffey, (501) 225-6177 or (501) 765-1423.

**Feb. 9** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Outdoor Photography."

**Feb. 15-17** - Arkansas State Boat Show, Little Rock's StatehouseConvention Center. The show times are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

**Feb. 16** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Snow Goose Hunting."

**Feb. 21** - AGFC Commission monthly meeting, Dumas.

**Feb. 23** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Late Season Squirrel Hunting."

**Feb. 29-Mar. 2** - Hot Springs Boat Tackle and RV Show, Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs. For more information, contact: Denton and Griffey Attractions, Ken Griffey, (501) 225-6177 or (501) 765-1423.

**Mar. 20** - AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

**April 17** - AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

**May 22** - AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

**June 19** - AGFC Commission monthly meeting.

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