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## News

### Arkansas Outdoors

Jan. 14, 2009 - Keith Stephens (501) 223-6342, e-mail: [kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us)

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### Dunklin named conservationist of the year

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – George Dunklin Jr., a commissioner with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Ducks Unlimited Life Sponsor, was presented with Budweiser's Conservationist of the Year award at the 2009 SHOT Show in Orlando, Fla.

Dunklin has been a commissioner for the AGFC since 2005 after being appointed by former Gov. Mike Huckabee. He also has been a member of Ducks Unlimited for 30 years and is a member of the president's council.

He was DU district chairman for 12 years, conservation committee member 1990-95 and sponsor chairman for 15 years and previously served on the DU Growth and Innovations Committee. He currently sits on the board of directors and is also the senior vice-president of the Conservation Programs Committee.

"DU and wetland and associated habitat conservation has been a part of my life forever," said Dunklin after accepting the award. "This award means a lot to me, but I hope that others will look at what they can do in the habitat conservation arena through organizations such as DU."

Budweiser's Conservationist of the Year award is a prestigious award that also comes with a \$50,000 prize from Budweiser and the National



Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The four finalists were narrowed down and then voted on by people visiting [www.budweiser.com](http://www.budweiser.com).

Dunklin's passion for habitat conservation is seen in his profession as a rice farmer in Stuttgart, Ark. His work in conservation isn't only geared toward DU, but he also sits on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission among other rice grower's associations and organizations. His conservation efforts have been tireless and his personal property is a model for betterment of an ecosystem.

"George is an integral part of this organization and a leader among leaders," said Don Young, DU executive vice-president. "His role in conservation within DU, the state of Arkansas and various farming organizations; puts him in a league of his own. We are happy to see he is being given recognition for his efforts from one of our most important corporate partners."

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization with more than 12 million acres conserved. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands – nature's most productive ecosystem – and continues to lose more than 80,000 wetland acres each year.

## Signing paves way to implement White River minimum flows

LITTLE ROCK – The Honorable John Paul Woodley, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, signed a record of decision last week that paves the way for implementation of the White River Minimum Flows Project at Bull Shoals and Norfork lakes. For several years, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move this program forward.

The project reallocates some storage space in each of the two lakes to provide minimum releases from the two dams during times when hydropower is not being generated to keep a steady release of cold water flowing for downstream trout. The Corps still requires funding from Congress to implement the project, and funds will be required from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission as well.



Minimum flows will be implemented independently at each of the two lakes, and each will have a separate Project Participation Agreement. While a timetable has not yet been developed, primarily because of uncertainty when funding will become available, the next steps are as follows:

1. Develop Project Participation Agreements.
2. PPA is signed by participating stakeholders.
3. Design bulkheads, siphon system (Norfork Dam only), modified lakeside facilities, develop drought contingency plan, update Bull Shoals and Norfork Water Control Manuals.
4. Congress appropriates necessary funds.
5. Execute PPA's.
6. Relocate and modify lakeside facilities to accommodate slightly higher lake levels.
7. Capture storage at Bull Shoals and Norfork lakes.
8. Implement White River Minimum Flows operation.

The White River Minimum Flows study began with the Water Resource Development Acts of 1999 and 2000, which authorized a storage reallocation in the White River lakes to sustain the downstream trout fishery. The legislation directed the Corps to conduct appropriate studies.

The Energy and Water Bill of 2006 authorized implementation of White River Minimum Flows and focused the project on Bull Shoals and Norfork lakes, removing Beaver, Table Rock and Greers Ferry lakes from consideration. The Record of Decision is the culmination of the legislation and the Corps' studies.

More information about the White River Minimum Flow project is on the Internet at <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/planning/wrminflow.html>.

## Walton Short's long elk legacy comes to an end

MAGNOLIA – Arkansas's premier elk hunter has died at the age of 84. Walton Short's legacy will be forever intertwined with the state's elk herd. Short died Sunday, Jan. 18.

In the 11 years since Arkansas's first elk hunt, Short became a prominent figure in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's elk program. His bull from the September 2007 hunt completed an improbable quest – Short's goal of taking two elk in each of the state's four public-land elk zones.

"It means a lot to me," said Short at the time. "I just love it. When I get an elk in my sights, I just tremble. I love to hunt elk and I love even more to be able to hunt elk in Arkansas."

Short didn't set out to kill eight bulls in Arkansas. The AGFC awards most elk permits through a random drawing at the annual Buffalo River Elk Festival in Jasper, and donates two permits each year to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which auctions the tags to raise money for habitat work. In 1999, the second year of the state's hunt, Short paid \$10,000 for a permit at a RMEF auction. After taking a 6x7 bull that year, he was hooked. The next year he bought a permit for \$15,000.



"I started out and killed two bulls in the first zone," said Short. "And then I decided I'd just keep going and try to get two in every zone."

In eight years of hunting elk in Arkansas, Short paid \$159,000 for permits.

"He's doing it because he loves these elk," said Steve Whitehead of Magnolia, a close friend who has assisted Short on his last three Arkansas hunts. "He's the best friend the Arkansas elk have ever had."

Mike Cartwright, former AGFC elk program coordinator, cited the significance of Short's contributions.

"He wanted to help the resource, and it has been real important to us," Cartwright said. "The work we do is very expensive – controlled burns,

openings, timber work, research projects, helicopter surveys – it adds up. In part, his contributions are responsible for future generations being able to hunt elk and view elk in Arkansas."

The sun has set on Short's days as the leading man of Arkansas elk hunting, but not on his legacy. "I just want people to remember it," Short said. "No matter how they remember it, just remember it."

## Ladder can be a lifesaver in a boating accident

LITTLE ROCK – It is hardly a surprise to read statistics showing the chief cause of boating accident deaths is falls from a boat.

Persons who aren't wearing life jackets and fall from a boat are often drowning victims. The obvious answer and one heavily emphasizes in all boating safety classes is to wear a life jacket



anytime you're using a boat.

There is a second element to this safety advice, according to boating safety staff members at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Equip your boat with a ladder.

Even when a person is wearing a life jacket, a fall into the water can bring major problems in getting back on board that boat, especially if the person who falls is alone.

Example: An angler working a trotline for catfish leans too far to the side when a fish jerks on the line. He or she falls into the water, and no one else is around. The life jacket keeps the person afloat, but climbing back into the boat is difficult, sometimes impossible.

A lightweight ladder is the answer here.

The ladder can be mounted on a boat's transom to the side of the outboard motor, or it can be kept inside but within reach of someone in the water.

Flatbottom boats commonly are used by fishermen, trotliners included. Some anglers call them jon boats. Their sides are only 15 to 18 inches high in most cases, but this is a major hurdle for a person in the water, especially when the person is fully clothed. It is much more difficult if the water is cold.

Even for someone wearing a life jacket, hypothermia can quickly set in after a fall from a boat. Getting out of the water is vital.

Small ladders can be metal and rigid or plastic and flexible. Two rungs are usually sufficient, but some ladders of this type have three rungs.

Another consideration is where the ladder is attached to the boat. With a small flatbottom boat, a ladder on its side may not keep the boat upright with an adult attempts to climb from the water back into the boat. The boat could capsize, adding to the boater's woes.

Better is a ladder mounted on the transom at the rear of the boat. It has to be to one side to be out of the way of the outboard motor. A person using a rear-mounted ladder to climb from the water has the long dimension of the boat to work against rather than the narrow beam or side dimension of the boat.

A final bit of advice from boating safety personnel is to practice using that ladder. Make it a drill for everyone who may be aboard – in warm weather, naturally. Get into the water then climb out by using the ladder. Yes, it may be awkward the first attempt, but it can be a life saver.

## Arkansas wildlife officer wins NWTF award

EDGEFIELD, S.C. - Corporal Doug Pearce, a wildlife officer with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be honored by the National Wild Turkey Federation for his efforts in conserving America's wildlife.

Pearce, of Pangburn, will be recognized as the NWTF's Arkansas Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year during its 33rd annual Convention and Sport Show, held Feb. 19-22, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn.

The NWTF initiated the State Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award in 2000 to highlight the contributions from wildlife officers across the country. In addition to playing a crucial role in helping to convict wildlife criminals, many wildlife officers volunteer their own time to help educate youth about the importance of wildlife, conservation and our hunting traditions.



By earning the State Wildlife Officer of the Year award, Pearce and other state winners are eligible for the NWTF's National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award, which will be presented during the NWTF's Awards Banquet Saturday, Feb. 21 during the Convention and Sport Show.

For more information about the NWTF's Convention and Sport Show, visit [http://www.nwtf.org/special\\_events/convention.html](http://www.nwtf.org/special_events/convention.html).

For more information about the NWTF's law enforcement award winners, or the NWTF's efforts to support wildlife law enforcement, call (800) THE-NWTF, or visit [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).

## 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:

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

Duck: Dec. 26-Jan. 25.

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

Statewide Canada goose season: Dec. 26-Jan. 30

White-fronted goose season: Dec. 26-Jan. 30 with a bag limit of two.

Snow, blue and Ross' goose season: Dec. 26-Jan. 30 with a bag limit of 20.

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

Spotted Skunk, Weasel Hunting: Closed

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

Furbearers: 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: Zone 4 private lands: Jan. 12-16. The quota is five antlerless elk; two either-sex permits also will be issued.

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

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

Jan. 23 – White River Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the American Legion Hall in Clarendon. For more information call: Fusty Lansford at (870) 468-6097.

Jan. 24 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Ladies Only Duck Hunt."

Jan. 24 – Lawrence County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Walnut Ridge Country Club. For more information call: Bill Davis at (870) 886-3820.

Jan. 24 – Bottomland Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Tri-County Farmers Building in Holly Grove. For more information call: Stanley Powell at (870) 270-7331.

Jan. 24 – Three Rivers South Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Arkansas County Fairground Building in DeWitt. For more information call: Gary Boyd at (870) 946-9430.

Jan. 25 – NWTF consignment auction, Farm and Ranch Building at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock, 1 p.m. Bring extra hunting equipment. Items must be in like-new condition be worth at least \$50. Items will be sold with 25% consignment going to the Arkansas State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Jan. 30 – Arkansas State University Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Moose Lodge in Jonesboro. For more information call: Jonathan Higgins at (870) 821-1306.

Jan. 31 – Outdoor Sportsmen Banquet, Greenwood High School basketball arena, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jan. 31 - Talkin' Turkey and Whistlin' Quail Workshop, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Eagle View in Searcy. Topics are habitat and management of turkey and quail. For more information and registration, contact White County Cooperative Extension Service, (501) 268-5394.

Jan. 31 – University of Arkansas Razorback Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Fayetteville Town Center. For more information call: Dane Harris at (501) 977-4762.

Jan. 31 - 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 Duck Hunt."

Jan. 31 – Calhoun County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Calhoun County Fairground Building in Hampton. For more information call: Cody Strickland at (870) 818-5032.

Feb. 6-8 – Arkansas Sportshow presented by the Rotary Club of Jonesboro. The Sportshow will be held at the Convocation Center on the campus of Arkansas State University. For more information, go to <http://www.arsportshow.com/home.php>.

Feb. 6-7 – Arkansas Ducks Unlimited state convention at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock. For more information contact Vince Callahan at (870) 735-5813 or [vcallahan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vcallahan@sbcglobal.net).

Feb. 7 - Wildlife Habitat Improvement Workshop, 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, Barling. Topics include deer, duck, quail and turkey habitat. For more information and registration, contact Crawford County Cooperative Extension Service, (479) 474-5286.

Feb. 7 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "The Art of Knife Making."

Feb. 8 - 12 - The Nature of Agritourism Retreat, sponsored by the Business of Birding Institute, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, DeWitt, Arkansas. Farmers, landowners, lodge owners, hunting guides, community leaders or anyone with an interest in starting or expanding Nature Tourism needs to attend this retreat. Topics include habitat management, business planning, risk analysis and marketing. Participants stay in lodges, interact with a variety of experts, go on field trips, and leave with a business plan for their land or community. The birding community as a potential market is explored. Information including registration is available at <http://www.aragriculture.org/aai/retreat/default.asp> or contact Kathy Radomski at (870) 946-3506, ext. 1617.

Feb. 12 – Arkansas Tech University Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Lion's Den in Dardanelle. For more information call: Micah Tindall at (870) 421-5167.

Feb. 14 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Run, Rabbit, Run."

Feb. 19 – 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.

Feb. 21 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Quail for Kids."

Feb. 21 – Fly-tying class, taught by Donnie Hyslip, will be held at the Little Red Fly Shop in Heber Springs. The cost of the class is \$100 and includes everything needed to learn how to tie the flies useful in the White River system. For more information call the Little Red Fly Shop at (888) 442-4022 or (501) 887-9988 or e-mail at [shop@littleredflyshop.com](mailto:shop@littleredflyshop.com).

Feb. 28 - Bucks and Ducks Habitat Improvement Program, Lawrence County Community Room, Walnut Ridge, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Topics include waterfowl, deer, turkey and quail. For more information and registration, contact Lawrence County Cooperative Extension Service, (870) 886-3741.

Feb. 28 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Zig-Jigging for Trout."

Feb. 28 - Arkansas Catfishing Association younament at the Arkansas River in North Little Rock at the Alltel Arena access. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations, visit our website at [http://arkcats.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php) or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), or Paul Schweyer of Barling, [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

March 7 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Raccoon Hunting."

March 7 – Marion Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Barton Ag Center. For more information call: Irwin Burton at (870) 738-3442.

March 7 – Saline County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Saline County Girls and Boys Club in Benton. For more information call: Keith Johnson at (501) 840-2379.

March 14 – Springdale Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Dinner at the Parson's Rodeo Arena. For more information call: Steve Delancey at (479) 466-4666.

March 14-15 – Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Lakes Millwood (Yarborough Landing) and Earling (Hwy. 53 to Lake Earling Park's Public Ramp) in southwest Arkansas between Hope and Texarkana. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. This will our yearly charitable tournament whereas we suspend the normal rules and "go for the double catch" to donate to a local charity to help feed the hungry. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations, visit our website at [http://arkcats.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php) or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), or Paul Schwyer of Barling, [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

March 19 – 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.

March 28 – Greenbrier Chapter of The National Wild Turkey Foundation annual fundraising membership drive, dinner and auction at the Boy Scout Camp in Damascus. For more information call: Dave Smith at (501) 335-7240.

April 4 – Twin Lakes Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Membership Banquet at the Big Creek Country Club in Mountain Home. For more information call: Shane Williams at (870) 421-5746 or [shanewilliams@eaton.com](mailto:shanewilliams@eaton.com).

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

April 18 – Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Lake Maumelle launching from the Jolly Roger Marina. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations view our website at [http://arkcats.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php) or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), or Paul Schwyer of Barling, [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

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

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

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