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News

Arkansas Outdoors

February 11, 2009 - Keith Stephens (501) 223-6342, e-mail: kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us

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Loafer's Glory WMA is a quiet, hidden wildlife asset

HARRIET – Loafer's Glory Wildlife Management Area run neck-to-neck with Seven Devils WMA in the race for Arkansas's management area with the most interesting name.

Tucked away in the scenic Buffalo River country, Loafer's Glory has the community of Morning Star on one side and Evening Star on the other.

All this is in northern Searcy County, but Loafer's Glory is something of a hidden asset in the state's outdoor picture. Access is limited, but a new road into the area helps reach it. The WMA is in five tracts, and the largest one adjoins Buffalo National River, operated by the National Park Service. There is a total of 2,720 acres in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission WMA.

How did that name, Loafer's Glory, come about?

Rick Horton, habitat biologist with AGFC, manages the area. He said the origins of the name are shrouded in mists of the past. No one really knows where the name came from.

Canoes are numerous on the river, especially on weekends in warm weather. The clatter and chatter of paddlers quickly fades away in the steep Ozark Mountains, and Loafer's Glory is quiet. Area residents who use it for squirrel, turkey and deer hunting like it that way. They have learned to get around on the steep, wooded slopes, and they have learned where the boundaries are.

The two largest segments of Loafer's Glory are along Spring Creek and along Rock Creek. Both creeks are small and sometimes dry in periods of little rainfall. The Spring Creek area is reached by a gravel road to Pine Grove Church from Arkansas Highway 27 between Marshall and Harriett. The Rock Creek area is just east of Arkansas Highway 14's crossing of the Buffalo River, but most users go in from the gravel road to Cozahome.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has owned Loafer's Glory since 1967, but little habitat management work was possible until a few years ago. The work includes cutting fire lanes and planting them with cool season grasses – clover and other wildlife food producing vegetation. Timber work is focused on improving the hardwoods with selective cutting, thinning and controlled burning.

With Buffalo National River for a neighbor, AGFC and National Park Service personnel cooperated in the controlled burning which is a highly effective management tool for increasing the availability of natural food for deer, turkeys and other wildlife.

There is not an abundance of the major game animals on Loafer's Glory, but enough are present to make it a favorite hunting spot for outdoors people living in the area. Squirrel hunting can be good in the periods of plentiful food from the hardwood trees.

A few bears use Loafer's Glory, too.

No designated campsites are on the management area, but the Buffalo National River's Buffalo Point Recreational Area is just a short distance away – downstream by river. Buffalo Point has full campgrounds with both hookups sections with electricity and water and also tent areas with no hookups but with water and restrooms nearby. A swimming area is near the campgrounds, and several picnic sites are maintained.

Buffalo Point has cabins up the hill from the campgrounds close to the river, and some of the cabins date back to Civilian Conservation Corps construction days of the 1930s. A restaurant with a popular scenic overlook is near the cabins.

Valentine's Day bird walk for beginners

LITTLE ROCK – For those who love birds, the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas will celebrate Valentine's Day and the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 14 with a bird walk at Two Rivers Park and Lake Maumelle in Little Rock.

Beginning bird watchers are encouraged to attend and learn from more experienced birders. There will be numerous songbirds at Two Rivers Park along with loons and ducks from the shore of Lake Maumelle.

The walk will begin at 8 a.m. at Two Rivers Park. From Highway 10 west turn right on Pinnacle Valley Road; look for the brown sign for Maumelle Park. Follow the road approximately 4 miles. When Pinnacle Valley Road turns left, stay straight on County Farm Road. Bear right through the gates into Two Rivers Park. Go approximately ¾ of a mile to the first parking lot on your right that has a portable toilet.



After an hour or two we will visit various points along the south shore of Lake Maumelle. Walking will be fairly easy on hiking trails. Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes. The event is canceled if there is steady rain, snow or ice in the morning.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (www.birdcount.org) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Over 226,000 fish stocked in state's waters

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission crews stocked over 226,900 fish in Arkansas lakes and rivers during January, according to Mike Armstrong, chief of fisheries. The total stocking of fish weighed in excess of 79,500 pounds.



January stockings:

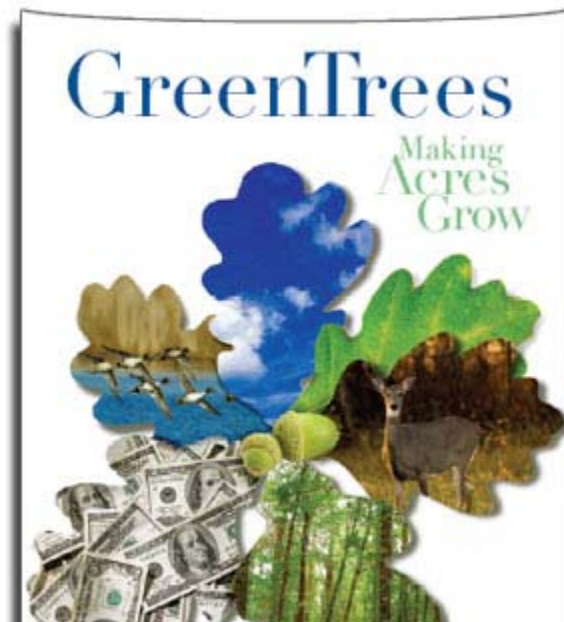
Amon's Lake, Baxter County, 600 catchable rainbow trout
 Lake Atalanta, Benton County, 1,700 catchable rainbow trout
 Beaver Tailwater, Carroll County, 5,000 fingerling brown trout
 Beaver Tailwater, Carroll County, 3,500 catchable rainbow trout
 Boyle Park Pond, Pulaski County, 400 catchable rainbow trout
 Lake Catherine, Garland County, 12,344 catchable rainbow trout
 Craighead Forest Kids Pond, Craighead County, 400 catchable rainbow trout
 Entergy Park Lake, Garland County, 450 catchable rainbow trout
 Family Park Lake, Garland County, 307 catchable rainbow trout
 Lake Greeson, Pike County, 6,760 yearling blue catfish
 Lake Hamilton, Garland County, 12,004 catchable rainbow trout
 Little Missouri River, Montgomery County, 3,840 catchable rainbow trout
 Little Red River, Cleburne County, 8,040 catchable rainbow trout
 Kiwanis Park, Pulaski County, 500 catchable rainbow trout
 MacArthur Park Lake, Pulaski County, 500 catchable rainbow trout
 Marion McCollum/Lake Greenlee, Monroe County, 1,215 Yearling Florida Bass
 Mirror Lake, Stone County, 1,000 catchable rainbow trout
 Murphy Park Lake, Washington County, 600 catchable rainbow trout
 Narrows Dam Tailwater, Pike County, 32,994 catchable rainbow trout
 Norfolk River, Baxter County, 13,286 fingerling rainbow trout
 Norfolk River, Baxter County, 2,100 catchable rainbow trout
 Otter Creek Park Pond, Pulaski County, 500 catchable rainbow trout
 Ouachita River, Hot Spring County, 3,300 catchable rainbow trout
 Pleasant View Park Pond, Pope County, 400 catchable rainbow trout
 Rich Mountain Community College Pond, Polk County, 300 catchable rainbow trout
 Rock Creek, Pulaski County, 750 catchable rainbow trout
 Salem City Lake, Fulton County, 800 catchable rainbow trout
 Sherwood City Pond, Pulaski County, 200 catchable rainbow trout
 Spring River, Fulton County, 5,860 catchable rainbow trout
 Springdale Lake, Washington County, 300 catchable rainbow trout
 Lake Valencia, Pulaski County, 1,000 catchable rainbow trout
 War Memorial Park, Pulaski County, 400 catchable rainbow trout
 Wells Lake, Sebastian County, 1,700 catchable rainbow trout
 West Memphis City Park Lake, Crittenden County, 750 catchable rainbow trout
 White River, Stone, Izard, Baxter and Marion Counties, 36,679 catchable rainbow trout
 White River, Baxter County, 15,050 fingerling brook trout
 White River, Baxter, Izard and Marion Counties, 51,438 fingerling brown trout

GreenTrees program one of 13 winners

LITTLE ROCK – Recently, the Arkansas GreenTrees program was one of 13 southern recipients for the 2009 Innovators Award from the Southern Growth Policies Board. The award is given annually for outstanding initiative that encourages economic opportunities relating to bio-products, alternative energy and energy efficiency.

Each year, Southern Growth Policies Board honors Southern initiatives that are improving economic opportunities and quality of life in the region. Southern Growth Policies Board is a non-partisan public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Innovator Awards are presented annually to one organization in each of Southern Growth's member states — Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. C2I, management company for GreenTrees, is the Virginia recipient.



GreenTrees is dedicated to increasing conservation scale and ecological benefits for the Delta region. The criteria met by GreenTrees included:

- Encouraging economic opportunities relating to bio-products, alternative energy, and/or energy efficiency.
- Encouraging economic opportunities broader in scope than merely the commercialization of an individual product.
- Being truly unique and innovative.
- Providing a proven track record or other reliable predictors of future success.

For more information on GreenTrees, go to www.green-trees.com.

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.

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

Archery: Oct. 1, 2009

Muzzleloader: Oct. 17, 2009

Modern Gun: Nov. 14, 2009

Duck: 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.

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.

Coming up in the outdoors

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 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game Banquet, Columbus Hall, 10203 Columbus Acres Rd. in Fort Smith. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information call Sam Jordan at (479) 788-4279 or SamJordan@fnbfs.com

Feb. 21 – Hunt Fest will be held at the River Port Industrial Park just off of I-440 in Little Rock. The banquet will begin at 5 p.m., but the doors will open for games and time to see the displays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at Fort Thompson's in Sherwood and Gene Lockwood's in West Little Rock, Bedford Camera and Video on Rodney Parham, Archer's Advantage on 12th Street in Little Rock, Christian Book Outlet in Conway and Little Rock's First Baptist Church. Grand prizes include a Honda Foreman 4-wheel drive 4-wheeler, two trophy whitetail deer hunts worth \$5,000 each, a fully rigged Hoyt compound bow, 2-fully rigged out Matthews Reezen bows and much more. For more information go to www.huntfest.com.

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.

Feb. 27-March 1 - 22nd Annual Hot Springs Boat, Tackle and RV Show. Hot Springs Convention Center and Summit Arena. Admission is \$5 for adults. Children 12 years and under get in free. For more information call Ken or Kelly Griffey at (501) 765-1423 or (501) 225-6177 or by email at griffeyinc@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 28 – Totally Trout free seminar. Educational seminars, demonstrations, biology lessons, door prizes and a free lunch. Classroom schedule begins at 9 a.m. at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale.

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 tournament 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. Open tournament to the general public so come out and lets do some catfishing, or you can join: 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 or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Paul Schweyer of Barling, paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

Feb. 28 - Ouachita River Chapter NWFH Hunting Heritage Banquet in Malvern. The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. at the Malvern Community Center.

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 – Wild game chili and cornbread challenge, Landers Harley Davidson in Little Rock. Proceeds benefit central Arkansas local charities. For more information contact Mike Brewer at (501) 568-3252.

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 10 – Green tree reservoir workshop, University of Arkansas at Monticello School of Forest Resources, 9 a.m. For more information, call (888) 698-7337.

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. Lake Millwood will be a regular tournament but the "catch" will be donated. 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 or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Paul Schweyer of Barling, 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 21 - Antique Fishing Tackle and Lures Day at Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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.

March 28 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Big Game Banquet, Robinson Center/Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call (501) 516-0439 or bettynjacket@gmail.com.

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.

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 or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Paul Schweyer of Barling, paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

May 8 - 2009 AGFC Scout Night at Dickey-Stephens Park. For more information contact Paul Allen at the ballpark at (501) 664-1555 or at paul@travs.com.

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.

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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