



WWW.AGFC.COM

## News

### Arkansas Outdoors

February 18, 2009 - Keith Stephens (501) 223-6342, e-mail: [kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kastephens@agfc.state.ar.us)

#### Today's Topics

[Tangled bald eagle rescued from probable death](#)  
[Antique fishing tackle to be topic of nature center program](#)  
[Everything you wanted to know about trout, but were afraid to ask](#)  
[More trumpeter swans released into the wild in Arkansas](#)  
[Boating education class schedule](#)  
[Hunter education class schedule](#)  
[What's open for hunting](#)  
[Coming up in the outdoors](#)

### Tangled bald eagle rescued from probable death

**BROOKINGS** – An adult bald eagle, helpless and dangling upside down in a tall tree, was rescued by two Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff members last week and is apparently on the road to recovery.

A crew with the Arkansas Department of Highways and Transportation came across the bird hanging from a limb in a tall tree in southwestern Clay County and notified Cpl. Mike Ryan, a wildlife officer, and John Day, a wildlife technician. The eagle appeared dead. Ryan and Day and a friend, Scot Sales, decided the only way to get it down was to shoot the limb loose. They did with Sales' rifle equipped with telescopic sights.

When the limb and the bird fell to the ground, the bird fluttered its wings. And a mystery unfolded.

The eagle was tangled on the limb by jesses, leather straps fastened to each of its legs. These are used by falconers who hunt with birds or prey and also by persons in charge of captive eagles, hawks and owls used for educational purposes.

But it is a federal offense in the United States to use eagles for hunting. Some eagles that have been injured and are unable to be released back into the wild are used by licensed organizations for educational work, according to Karen Rowe, the AGFC's non-game migratory bird program coordinator.

No such eagles have been reported escaped, she said.

Adding to the mystery was a second eagle that watched Ryan, Day and Sales from its perch high in a nearby tree. Could the second bird have been a mate or perhaps a passing eagle that attempted to find a friend?

Rowe said bald eagles are permitted to be used for falconry in Canada, and some of the eagles that winter in Arkansas come from as far to the north as Ontario and other Canadian provinces.



"It was fortunate that Mike Ryan and John Day found this eagle and got it down," Rowe said. "Birds of prey hanging upside down like that can't stay alive very long."

The eagle was taken to Dr. Archie Ryan, a Jonesboro veterinarian who has experience treating birds of prey including eagles and other injured wildlife. It is expected to recover and to be released back into the wild.

Rowe urged that anyone having knowledge of this eagle with the leg straps to contact her or Ryan. Callers' identities will be kept confidential.

Rowe can be reached toll-free at (877) 893-4651 or at her cell phone, (870) 872-2279, or by e-mail at [krowe@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:krowe@agfc.state.ar.us). Ryan can be reached at (870) 857-0097 or (870) 323-0350.

## Antique fishing tackle to be topic of nature center program

LITTLE ROCK - What are the items in Granddad's tackle box worth? How about the old fishing rods you inherited? If you would like to know more about old tackle and lures, the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center is the place for you.

Members of the National Fishing Lure Collectors Club ([www.nflcc.org](http://www.nflcc.org)) will be on hand Saturday, March 21 to discuss tackle and lure collecting, the NFLCC and identify and give evaluations on old fishing items. The AGFC invites anglers and collectors alike to bring their old fishing tackle and lures for an expert opinion on their value and history. The antique fishing tackle show will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call (501) 907-0636. The nature center is located at 602 President Clinton Ave. in the River Market District of downtown Little Rock.



## Everything you wanted to know about trout, but were afraid to ask

LITTLE ROCK – Trout fishing is often referred to as a great adventure sport. People stare in awe at the beauty and complexity of fly-fishing. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Chesapeake Energy have partnered to bring a free event designed to teach interested anglers how simple trout fishing can be.

"Totally Trout" is a free event designed for the entire family. The program will be held at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale on Feb. 28 beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m. Sessions will run all day with classroom lessons repeating morning and afternoon along with concurrent hands-on lessons outside.

Educational seminars, how-to demonstrations, biology lessons, door prizes and a free lunch are just a few of items that will be provided. Come for a quick lesson or stay as long as you like.



Novices and seasoned veterans alike will find the free seminar entertaining and educational. For more information call (501) 223-6300 or go to [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com).

## More trumpeter swans released into the wild in Arkansas

DARDANELLE – Fifteen more trumpeter swans are living in the wild in Arkansas after releases this week at two locations.

Eleven swans brought in from Iowa were released at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, near Dardanelle, and four were released at the Boxley Valley Mill Pond on the Buffalo National River in western Newton County.

The latest swan releases were the second segment of a three-year experimental program of Iowa's Department of Natural Resources and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, according to Karen Rowe, the AGFC's non-game migratory bird program coordinator.



Ron Andrews and Dave Hoffman of the Iowa DNR brought the young trumpeter swans to Arkansas. Also participating in the project are the Buffalo National River and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



The Iowa to Arkansas translocation of trumpeter swans is a three-year experiment to see if migrating instincts can be encouraged for the birds. In 2008, 20 young trumpeter swans were brought from Iowa to Arkansas. The exact number to be moved in 2010 depends on swan reproduction in Iowa as well as observation of the birds already moved to Arkansas.

Trumpeter swans are increasing in Arkansas, with most of them spending the winter at little Magness Lake just east of Heber Springs, where they have been wintering since the early 1990s. The swans are part of a successful restoration program that started in Minnesota and has expanded to Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa and Ohio.

In the 1960s, only 69 trumpeter swans remained in the lower 48 states in addition to about 2000 in Alaska.

Trumpeter swans are the largest waterfowl in North America, weighing 25 to 30 pounds. Wing span is about 8 feet. In comparison, the giant subspecies of Canada geese living in Arkansas weigh about 12 pounds. Snow geese weigh about 7 pounds.

## 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. 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 "Totally Trout."

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

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

March 5 – 4th Annual Wild Game Dinner, Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person. For more information call (501) 376-3071.

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 "Outdoor Photography."

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](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 14 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs."

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

March 26 – 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.

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](mailto:bettynjacket@gmail.com).

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

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 Schweyer of Barling, [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.agfc.com) or call the Wildlife Information Hotline, (800)440-1477.**

© 2009, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. All Rights Reserved.

2 Natural Resources Drive - Little Rock, AR 72205 - (800) 364-4263 - (501) 223-6300 - [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)  
Aristotle Web Design Services