



Arkansas Outdoors for Feb. 20, 2008

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Aldo Leopold celebration planned in Rogers

ROGERS - The words that naturalist Aldo Leopold wrote in 1948 still ring true today: "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." These words are the start of Leopold's famous book, "A Sand County Almanac," one of the conservation classics of all time.

The words in the book hold an even more special meaning when read aloud by members of the community together, as a much-needed reminder of Leopold's philosophy that people must live in harmony with the natural world.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in "Rogers Reads Leopold" on Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rogers Public Library. About 50 community leaders, educators, students, and outdoor enthusiasts will begin reading essays from Sand County Almanac at 9:30 a.m. in the library's Community Room. There will also be a continuous slide show featuring photographs of the Ozark landscape taken by The Morning News outdoor editor Flip Putthoff and by renowned nature photographer and author Tim Ernst.

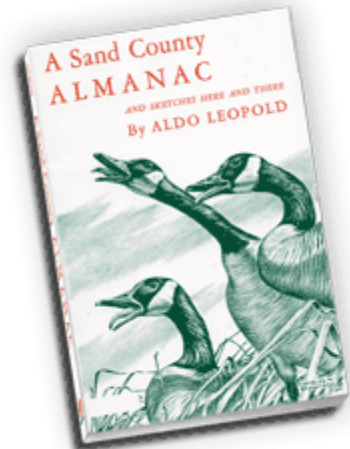
Rogers Reads Leopold readers will include KNWA 24/51 television news anchor Neile Jones, Ozark Natural Science Center director Jenny Harmon, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commissioner and University of Arkansas professor Kim Smith. Students from Rogers Public Schools, University of Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas Community College will also be among the readers.

A variety of children's nature and nature art activities are planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Children's Library. Nature educator Gordon Bradford will direct these activities.

Still on the Hill musicians Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna, known as the "dynamic folkgrass duo of the Ozarks," will entertain participants with live music following the completion of the reading session, around 3:30 p.m. Mulhollan and Stjerna have received numerous awards and are popular with children, performing in schools as Toucan Jam.

Considered by many as the father of wildlife management and our nation's wilderness system, Aldo Leopold was a forester, conservationist, educator, writer, philosopher and outdoor enthusiast. First published in 1949, a year after Leopold's death, Sand County Almanac has become a classic in the field. The book serves as one of the cornerstones for modern conservation science, policy and ethics.

For more information, contact Tom McClure or Ellen Turner, Rogers Reads Leopold Committee, e-mail turner_ellen@hotmail.com; phone: 479-633-8405.



Triple Trophy Award application deadline is April 10



2007-08 Triple Trophy Application

What is the Triple Trophy Award Program?
The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission started the program in 1984 to recognize outstanding hunting skills and to encourage harvest of antlerless deer.

How Do I Qualify?
In order to qualify for the triple trophy award, applicants must harvest three deer: one with archery equipment, one with muzzle-loading equipment and one with modern gun. Fill out the attached application using the information from the back of your animal application using the information from the back of your license. Mail it to the address listed on the bottom by the deadline.

Is the Award Given Automatically?
No. You must apply each year to receive the award.

What Will I Receive?
Triple Trophy recipients receive a certificate and patch. Award patches are mailed during the early summer each year.

Where Do I Call for More Information?
Call the AGFC Communications Division at 501-223-6331.

Please fill out the form completely. Incomplete and illegible applications will be rejected.

Name as it will appear on certificate _____

State _____ Zip _____

County _____

City _____ Date of Birth _____

Sex _____ M _____ F _____ Daytime Telephone Number _____

First Deer Killed: Date _____ Checkstation Number _____ Muzzleloader _____ Modern Gun _____
Weapon Used (check one): _____ Archery/Crossbow _____ Legal Buck _____

Second Deer Killed: Date _____ Checkstation Number _____ Muzzleloader _____ Modern Gun _____
Weapon Used (check one): _____ Archery/Crossbow _____ Legal Buck _____

Third Deer Killed: Date _____ Checkstation Number _____ Muzzleloader _____ Modern Gun _____
Weapon Used (check one): _____ Archery/Crossbow _____ Legal Buck _____

Mail completed application form to:
Triple Trophy Program
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Ark 72205

Applications must be postmarked by April 10, 2008.
Applications postmarked after this date will not be accepted. Triple Trophy Award patches are mailed to recipients in early summer.

LITTLE ROCK – The 2007-2008 Arkansas deer seasons close next week when archery/crossbow season closes Feb. 29, and some die-hard hunters are still out there trying to fill their remaining tags.

A few of those die-hards are still trying for the final segment of their Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Triple Trophy Award requirement by taking a deer with stick-and-string. Hunters who qualify for the Triple Trophy Award must, within a single annual deer season framework, take at least one deer by each of the three legal hunting methods – modern firearms, muzzle-loading rifle or pistol, and archery/crossbow tackle. Certificates suitable for framing are given to qualifying hunters.

“We started the Triple Trophy Award Program in the mid-1980s to encourage primitive weapons hunting,” said Cory Gray, Deer Program Coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. “By this we hoped to accomplish two things – to increase the harvest of antlerless deer, and to spread out hunting pressure and reduce crowding, to improve the quality of the hunting experience for everybody.”

Gray explained that primitive weapons hunting increases antlerless harvest partly because antlerless regulations are generally less restrictive for primitive weapons seasons and partly because hunters seem more willing to take antlerless deer with primitive weapons than with modern firearms. Harvest of antlerless deer is essential for maintaining the health of a high-density deer herd, as is present in most of Arkansas.

The Triple Trophy Award program has proved popular with Arkansas hunters from its inception and the number of qualifiers has slowly but steadily each year.

Triple Trophy Award applications can be downloaded on the agency's website at: <http://www.agfc.com/userfiles/pdfs/tripletrophy.pdf>. Applications are also available from the AGFC's Communications office at (501) 223-6331. The application deadline is April 10.

Private lands programs exist to help landowners aid wildlife

LITTLE ROCK – Most of the 52,075 square miles of Arkansas's land surface is privately-owned. For that reason, wildlife management in this state is largely a matter for private landowners rather than state agencies like the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

“Even though we don't control the access to those private lands, the AGFC is still responsible for managing the wildlife that lives on these lands,” David Goad, Deputy Director for the agency says. “However, the fact that we don't control the land complicates things a little.”

Goad said one way the AGFC manages wildlife on private lands is passively, through setting season regulations and bag limits for game species. But in recent years, the Commission is taking a more active management strategy for private lands through its extension-type programs.

“We've had an Acres for Wildlife program for more than 30 years,” said Goad, “and it's still an important part of our private lands program. But in recent years, we've hired a team of private lands biologists to give landowners more technical assistance in improving wildlife habitat and wildlife populations on private lands.”

Private lands biologists (PLBs) for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission work with farmers, hunting clubs, homeowners and anyone else who desires to increase wildlife potential (both for game and non-game species) on their own land or leased land. The PLBs are familiar with the many habitat-related government incentives available through the Farm Bill and other government programs, including the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. The PLBs help landowners secure cost-share money through these and other programs for habitat improvements.

In addition, the PLBs are available for on-the-ground consultation with individual landowners. In the typical case, the PLB



meets with the landowner and inspects the property, then makes a management plan recommendation based on the landowner's objectives. PLBs are also available to conduct private lands workshops, geared to landowners in specific counties in their region. They also may provide expertise and advice for the removal or deterrence of nuisance wildlife.

"We encourage private land owners and managers to get in touch with any of our PLBs for advice or assistance," Goad said. "Arkansas has a lot of good wildlife habitat on private land already, but there's a lot of room for improvement. Our folks can help."

Following is a listing of the AGFC's private lands biologists and other biologists in charge of private lands programs:

Lynn Fair - North Delta Region (Randolph, Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett and Mississippi counties), 2920 McClellan Ave., Jonesboro, (877) 972-5438.

David Covington and Stephanie Daniels - Central Delta Region (Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, Monroe, Prairie, White, Woodruff counties), 1201 North Highway 49, Brinkley, (877) 734-4581.

Ruth Chapman - South Delta Region (Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Drew, Bradley, Ashley, Chicot counties), 771 Jordan Drive, Monticello, (877) 367-3559.

Susan Gregory and Charles Self - East Gulf Coastal Plain (Hot Spring, Grant, Clark, Dallas, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Columbia and Union counties), 500 Ben Lane, Camden, (877) 836-4612.

Nicole Peterson and Eley Talley - West Gulf Coastal Plain, (Pike, Howard, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Miller and Lafayette counties), 7004 Highway 67 East, Perrytown, (877) 777-5580.

Jason Honey - Central Arkansas Region (Garland, Saline, Pulaski, Lonoke, Perry and Faulkner counties), 350 Fish Hatchery Road, Hot Springs, (877) 525-8606.

Ralph Meeker - West Central Region (Polk, Montgomery, Scott, Logan, Sebastain, Crawford, Franklin and Johnson counties), 8000 Taylor Road, Fort Smith, (877) 478-1043.

Matthew Irvin - Western Ozark Region (Yell, Conway, Pope, Newton, Boone, Searcy and Marion counties), 1266 Lock and Dam Road, Russellville, (877) 967-7577.

Ted Zawislak - Eastern Ozark Region (Van Buren, Cleburne, Stone, Izard, Baxter, Fulton, Sharp and Independence counties), Highway 56 North, Calico Rock, (877) 297-4331.

Matthew Irvin – Northwest Arkansas Region (Benton, Madison, Carroll and Washington counties), 455 Dam Site Road, Eureka Springs, (866) 253-2506.

David Long, Statewide Private Lands Coordinator and Acres for Wildlife Coordinator - (877)-972-5438. .

Conservation Scholarship Program offers career assistance



LITTLE ROCK - Considering a career in conservation? The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Conservation Scholarship Program is one way to help students achieve their educational goals.

Many fields of study can lead to a career in conservation. Education in law enforcement, fisheries management, wildlife management, public relations, environmental education and interpretation and many other fields are always a benefit to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The Conservation Scholarship Program uses funds from the sale of conservation license plates to let students reach their potential and create tomorrow's conservation professionals. Applicants must be Arkansas high school seniors or Arkansas college undergraduates pursuing a career in the field of natural resources conservation with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 the first year. A 3.0 GPA will be required thereafter, beginning with the 2009 fall semester renewals. Only resident students paying in-state tuition are eligible for the scholarships.

Applicants must not have received a full scholarship or grant from another source. Only resident students paying in-state tuition may apply. Selections are based purely on merit, without discrimination to race, sex, religion, age, color or national origin. Minorities are

strongly encouraged to apply.

The scholarship grants \$2,000 per calendar year for freshmen and sophomores, and \$3,000 for juniors, seniors and graduate students. Juniors must have 60 cumulative credit hours to receive a \$3,000 scholarship. Applicants must submit a renewal application each semester along with current official transcript to continue funding each year. Students are eligible for up to four years of scholarship funding. Scholarship funds are restricted to tuition, books, fees and lodging. Scholarships are paid directly to the college or university.

How are scholarship recipients chosen?

The selection committee is made up of persons not employed by the AGFC. They make selections based on a standardized scoring system approved by the AGFC.

When is my application due?

Completed applications must be postmarked by June 10, 2008, for the fall semester. Successful applicants will be notified by July 15, 2008. Application forms and instructions may be downloaded at: <http://www.agfc.com/education-class/programs/conservation-scholarship-program.aspx>.

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.

Snow Goose Conservation Order:

Feb. 4-April 27

Spring Turkey:

Zones 1, 2, 3, 4B, 5, 5B, 6, 7, 7A, 8, 9, and 10 - April 12-May 2

Zones 1A, 4, 4A, 5A and 9A - April 12-25

Zone 17 - April 5-27, 2008

Spring Turkey Youth Hunt:

Zones 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A and 10 - April 5-6

Zone 17 - March 29-30

Deer Archery:

Oct. 1-Feb. 29 statewide.

Turkey Archery:

Oct. 1-Feb. 29 statewide.

Furbearers:

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.

Projected deer season dates for the 2008-09 hunting season.

Archery

Oct. 1

Muzzleloader

Oct. 18

Modern Gun

Nov. 8

Coming up in the outdoors

Feb. 21 - AGFC Commission monthly meeting, Dumas.

Feb. 23 – Four Rivers Limbangers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Arkadelphia National Guard Armory. For more information contact: Teena Bebee at (870) 245-6594 or by email at tbebee@summitinsurancedirect.com.

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. 23 – Lafayette County Strutters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Lewisville Middle School. For more information contact: Tony Wheelington at (870) 533-1349 or by email at wheel02@earthlink.net.

Feb. 23 – Lawrence County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Hoxie Community Center. For more information contact: Bobby Tedder at (870) 892-3007.

Feb. 23 – Lower White River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Arkansas County Fairgrounds in DeWitt. For more information contact: Walter Jones at (870) 282-8009 or by email at wjones011@centurytel.net.

Feb. 23 – Palarm Creek Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Sherwood Forest in Sherwood. For more information contact: Keith Brown at (501) 835-9546 or by email at brownkk@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 24 – Tightlines Flyfishers outing, Beaver Tailwaters, 12 noon. For more information contact Ken Richards at (479) 531-5741.

Feb. 26 – Billy Mitchell Sr. Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Knights of Columbus Hall in Wynne. For more information contact: Robert Bassham at (870) 238-7570.

Feb. 26 – Spa City Spurs Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Elk's Lodge in Hot Springs. For more information contact: Darrel Sulton at (501) 844-7705.

Feb. 28 – East Arkansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Phillips Community College in West Helena. For more information contact: Terry Grubbs at (870) 995-2985 or by email at tgrubbs@cox-internet.com.

Feb. 28 – Cache/White River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Woodruff County Fairgrounds in McCrory. For more information contact: Bruce Golden at (870) 919-6494 or by email at bkgolden@aglcstabear.us.

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.

Feb. 29 – Buffalo Island Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Cowboy Grill in Caraway. For more information contact: Billy Vanderbilt at (870) 273-8056 or by email at weatherlyburk@hotmail.com.

Feb. 29 – Tri-County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Fordyce Armory Building. For more information contact: Burk Weatherly at (870) 687-3118 or by email at tcat01@tds.net.

Mar. 1 – Independence County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Independence Hall

UACCB in Batesville. For more information contact: Gary Stroud at (870) 307-3802 or by email at garystroud@netrider.net.

Mar. 1 – Ozark Foothills Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting in Clarksville. For more information contact: Terry Pelts at (479) 754-1168.

Mar. 1 – Southwest Arkansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Reynolds Center in Magnolia. For more information contact: Corky Thornton at (870) 234-4825.

Mar. 3 – Foothills Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Searcy High School Cafetorium. For more information contact: Wade Smalley at (501) 279-0499 or by email at smalley@cablelynx.com.

Mar. 6 – Crowley's Ridge Longbeard Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, District Fairgrounds in Jonesboro. For more information contact: Kimberly McDaniel at (870) 935-9852 or by email at kmcdaniel@riceland.com.

Mar. 7 – Annual Spring Conservation Banquet and Fundraiser, Fayetteville Town Center, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information contact Keri Russell at (479) 640-8319.

Mar. 7 – Hempstead County Sharp Spurs Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Hope Fair Park Coliseum in Hope. For more information contact: Paul Chambless at (870) 777-0770.

Mar. 7 – Southern Mississippi County Strutters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Riverlawn Country Club in Osceola. For more information contact: Stanley McPherson at (870) 563-5762.

Mar. 7 – Spring River Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Omaha Center in Cherokee Village. For more information contact: Chris Jones at (870) 625-1415 or by email at cttjones@tek-web.com.

Mar. 8 – Benton County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Quail Unlimited Barn in Bentonville. For more information contact: Tim Wise at (479) 631-4140 or by email at timwise@lakeland.com.

Mar. 8 – Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a one-day U.S. Coast Guard "Certified" ABC Safe Boating Class at the Gander Mountain Sporting Store located at 5450 Landers Road in Sherwood. The Coast Guard ABC Safe Boating Course will last from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. The cost of the course will be \$25 which includes the book, a CD ROM and all classroom materials. Seven chapters of boating information will be offered and will cover topics ranging from Rules of the Road, Safe Boat Handling, Trailering, Legal Requirements and Management of Vessel and Equipment. Upon completion of the final test, students will be issued a "Certificate of Completion" and an identification card. The certification is recognized by local, state and national enforcement organizations. Most insurance companies also honor the certification and allow a discount for individual boat owners. Students can register by calling Joe Zehler at 501-834-6993 or register on-site.

Mar. 8 – Caddo River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Center Point School in Glenwood. For more information contact: Leah Davidson at (870) 246-1575 or by email at lsdavidson@hotmail.com.

Mar. 8 – Quail Unlimited banquet at Sherwood Forest in Sherwood. For more information call (501) 223-3725 or (501) 231-4930.

Mar. 8 – Desha County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Dumas Community Center. For more information contact: G. Lynn Weatherford at (870) 382-2984.

Mar. 8 – Poteau Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Waldron High School Cafeteria. For more information contact: Mark Bailey at (479) 637-2735 or by email at rmbailey@ipa.net.

Mar. 13 – Seven Devils Limb Hangers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Drew County Fairgrounds in Monticello. For more information contact: Angela Simmons at (870) 460-0070.

Mar. 14 – Holland Bottoms Limbhangers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, First Baptist Church in Cabo. For more information contact: Jack Young at (501) 680-6028 or by email at hjyoung66@aol.com.

Mar. 15 – Petit Jean Valley Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Sacred Heart School gym in Morrilton. For more information contact: Pat Jackson at (501) 354-4521 or by email at bjackson@ccrwdd.com.

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 2 – Scout Night at the Travelers game at Dickey-Stephens Park in Little Rock. AGFC fish tank and Hooked

on Fishing Not on Drugs truck will be on display at the game. The first 500 kids will get a free keychain light. For more information, contact the Traveler's office at (501) 664-1555 or email at travs@travs.com.

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 or call the Wildlife Information Hotline, (800)440-1477.

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