



## Arkansas Outdoors for February 27, 2008

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## 18 cadets complete wildlife officer training

MAYFLOWER – Eighteen cadets have completed over 900 hours of intensive training to become wildlife officers with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The group studied at the H.C. "Red" Morris Training Center east of Mayflower on Lake Conway. Graduation ceremonies for the 2008 cadet class will take place on Friday, Feb. 29 in the State Capitol rotunda.

Capt. Terry McGuire and Lt. Jason Parker direct the cadet-training program, with many other commission enforcement officers and other staff members serving as instructors. Other experts participate in the teaching of specialized topics. The 18 cadets were chosen from several hundred applicants. Requirements for wildlife officer cadets include college degrees or prior law enforcement experience.

The 21-week training course includes police fundamentals as related to wildlife work, training in proficiency with a variety of firearms, first aid and rescue basics, drug enforcement procedures and physical conditioning. The new wildlife officers have state commissions as officers with full police authority, as do the other 150-plus wildlife officers of the AGFC.

Assignment of the new officers will fill several existing vacancies in the Commission's enforcement ranks. They will be assigned to wildlife officer positions around the state, working at first under experienced officers.

The 2008 graduates, hometowns and their county assignments are:

Name	Home Town	County Assignment
Chuck Beavers	Coal Hill	Logan County
Jeremy Black	Mount Ida	Polk County
Logan Brown	El Dorado	Union County
Joel Campora	Oden	Scott County
Brandon Gavrock	Rosemark, Tenn	Crittenden County



Wade Gilliam	Camden	Nevada County
David Hall	Gilliam	Sevier County
Chris Hardcastle	Damascus	Desha County
Mike K. Neal	Brinkley	Lee County
Mike W. Neal	Clarendon	Monroe County
Jeremy Nguyen	Augusta	Woodruff County
Kelli Sanders	Harrison	Miller County
Ronald Schwin	Prattsville	Grant County
Justin Smith	Taylor	Phillips County
Crystal Terry	Greenville, Miss	Grant County
Travis Thorn	Greenbrier	Cross County
Trent Whitehead II	Forrest City	St. Francis County
Derek Winter	Viola	Poinsett County

## Try juggin' for a different yet productive style of fishing

LITTLE ROCK – For a different type of fishing that just might put plenty of good eating on your table, consider jug fishing.

Yes, it's a style that's old as the Arkansas hills, and it largely has been lost in the wake of 200-horsepower bass boats and sophisticated gear of all types. But a simple discarded plastic bottle with line attached and hook and bait at the end can serve you well on lakes, ponds and rivers.

There are some specific rules on jug fishing. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations refer to "free-floating fishing devices" and limit an angler to a maximum of 20 jugs in the water at one time. Each must have name and address or diver's license number or vehicle license number.

In bygone times, glass gallon bottles were commonly used. Then gallon plastic milk jugs took over. Today the common fishing jug is a two-liter drink bottle, but any sort of sturdy plastic jug will work. Laundry detergent containers fit the bill.

With a drink bottle, you tie a length of fairly heavy line securely to the neck. How long? How deep do you want to fish? Most juggers go after catfish, so a large hook is commonly used, and this is baited with a live minnow, prepared bait, chunk of liver or most anything else you normally use for catfish work.

One or two split shot on the line above the hook will keep the bait down where you want it. Some jug fishermen also put something inside the jug for weight – a handful of sand or gravel works. This helps keep the floating jug close at hand and not subject to wisps of wind.

The line is usually wrapped around the jug and held in place by a rubber band for storage and for transporting. The identifications can be written on the jug with a permanent marker.

In use, an angler loads jugs in a boat and moves upwind of where the fish should be. The jugs with baited hooks are dropped into the water at intervals of a few feet, then the fisherman waits and watches.



A distinctly bobbing jug is the sign of a fish on the hook. Often a catfish will take the bait and swim off a ways, so a moving jug is also a sign of a fish with the bait. But don't hurry to grab that moving jug. Let it stop then pick it up, just as you let a catfish take a hook on a pole or rod line, run, stop, then set the hook.

Jug fishermen often paint their jugs to make them more visible or put a strip of reflective tape on them. This is why some prefer the white or colored plastic containers of laundry products to the clear plastic drink bottles. Another way of improving visibility is to pour a few drops of bright paint inside a jug, screw the cap on and give it a vigorous shake. Take the cap off to let the paint dry.

Windy days aren't the best for jug fishing. Neither is a river with a strong current. Both lead to the fisherman spending excessive time

chasing jugs instead of relaxing and enjoying a slow-paced outing.

Jug fishing doesn't have to be limited to catfish. Use crappie-type hooks and smaller minnows, and you may come up with a good bunch of crappie or perhaps a bass or two. Of course, if a husky catfish grabs that small hook, you may find a broken off or straightened hook and no fish.

But that's one of the attractions of jug fishing. Investment in equipment is definitely low end.

## Fort Smith youth wins NWTF junior calling championship

ATLANTA - Jimmy Pollard from Fort Smith called his way to the winner's circle at the National Wild Turkey Federation's Grand National Junior Turkey Calling Championships.

The competition was held during the NWTF's annual Convention and Sport Show, Feb. 21 to 24 in Atlanta. Young callers must master the intricacies of their instruments - the slate, diaphragm and box turkey calls - in order to perform well in the championships, and the pressure was intense.

It's great to finally win this," Pollard said. "I've come in second twice, and this just feels awesome."

Contestants compete in one of two divisions: intermediate and junior. The intermediate division is for callers 16 to 20 years old; the junior division is for callers 15 and younger. The types of calls contestants must imitate are not announced until the day before the competition, so participants must be prepared for several different calls.

By winning the junior division, Pollard goes home with \$500 cash.



## 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. 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](mailto:tgrubbs@cox-internet.com).

**Feb. 29-March 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](mailto: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](mailto:tcat01@tds.net).

**March 1**

– Independence County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Independence Hall UACCB in Batesville. For more information contact: Gary Stround at (870) 307-3802 or by email at [garystroud@netrider.net](mailto:garystroud@netrider.net).

**March 1 -**

Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be the "D. U. Greenwing Camp."

**March 1**

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

**March 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.

### **March 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](mailto:smalley@cablelynx.com).

### **March 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](mailto:kmcdaniel@riceland.com).

### **March 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.

### **March 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.

### **March 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.

### **March 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](mailto:cttjones@tek-web.com).

### **March 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](mailto:timwise@lakeland.com).

### **March 8 -**

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

### **March 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.

### **March 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](mailto:lsdavidson@hotmail.com).

### **March 8 –**

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

### **March 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.

### **March 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](mailto:rmbailey@ipa.net).

### **March 10**

– 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](mailto:bkgolden@aglcstabear.us).

### **March 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.

### **March 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@ccrwwd.com](mailto:bjackson@ccrwwd.com).

### **March 15 -**

Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Top 10 Least Known Places to Fish in Arkansas."

**March 15**

– Cypress Bayou Limbhangers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, ASU Beebe Cafeteria. For more information contact: Pam Walker at (501) 796-6387.

**March 15**

– River Valley Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Boys and Girls Club of the Arkansas River in Russellville. For more information contact: Michael Mills at (479) 967-5105 or by email at [bmmills@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:bmmills@agfc.state.ar.us).

**March 15**

– Scatter Creek Fightin' Toms Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, New Paragould Community Center. For more information contact: Jarrod Kersey at (870) 335-2549.

**March 15**

– Crappie fishing seminar, National Park Community College Auditorium  
101 College Drive, Hot Springs, 10 a.m. Keith Sutton, author of "The Crappie Book: Basics and Beyond" will be the speaker. For more information, call (501) 594-5719.

**March 20**

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

**March 22**

– Crooked Creek Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Comfort Inn in Harrison. For more information contact: Steve Jackson at (870) 365-9797 or by email at [stjackson1@ritternet.com](mailto:stjackson1@ritternet.com).

**March 22 -**

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 Falconry."

**March 22**

– Flatland Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Southland Greyhound Park. For more information contact: Jackie Dixon at (870) 732-1484.

**March 22**

– Kings River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, American Legion Post 137 in Huntsville. For more information contact: Joe Norman at (724) 910-9366 or by email at [droptine\\_trophy\\_guide\\_service@yahoo.com](mailto:droptine_trophy_guide_service@yahoo.com).

**March 22**

– Ouachita River Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Malvern Senior Adult Center. For more information contact: Mark Badgewell at (501) 844-5044.

**March 22**

– Ozark Ridge Runners Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Baxter County Fairgrounds in Mountain Home. For more information contact: Bob Tedder at (870) 491-7484.

**March 28**

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

**March 28**

– Hogskin County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation meeting, Hampton High School Cafeteria. For more information contact: Keith Coleman at (870) 798-4084 or by email at [kcoleman@sat-co.net](mailto:kcoleman@sat-co.net).

**March 29 -**

Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Calling All Turkeys."

**April 5 -**

Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Turkey Season Forecast."

**April 12 -**

Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Lookin' for Lunkers."

**April 17**

– AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

## **April 18-19**

– The seventh annual Great Cotter Trout Festival will celebrate trout fishing on April 18-19 in the Big Spring Park in Cotter. It will feature trout fishing programs, the popular "kids fishing hole," exhibits, arts and crafts, and great food and entertainment for the whole family. The festival opens at noon, April 18 and runs into the evening barbeque dinner with entertainment. The festival opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 19, which is Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Appreciation Day and will conclude with an evening fish fry with entertainment. For more information call 870-435-6144.

## **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](mailto:travs@travs.com).

## **May 22**

– AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

## **June 10**

– Deadline for application for AGFC conservation scholarships. Considering a career in conservation? 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 is 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.

Minimum Requirements: 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 (4.0 scale) the first year. A 3.0 GPA will be required thereafter, beginning with 2009 fall semester renewals. 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. Completed applications must be postmarked by June 10, 2008, for the fall semester and by February 15, 2008, for the second 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>.

## **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.