



## Arkansas Outdoors for April 09, 2008

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## Floods force emergency closure of turkey hunts

LITTLE ROCK – Continued high water throughout east Arkansas has forced the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to close spring turkey seasons on many public hunting areas in the impacted region.

As of Tuesday, April 8, turkey season will be closed on the following areas:

- Choctaw Island WMA until the Mississippi River gauge at Arkansas City falls below 29 feet.
- Trusten Holder WMA until flood water recedes below 143 feet msl at the Norrell Lock and Dam on the Arkansas/White River Shipping Canal.
- Dave Donaldson Black River WMA until the Black River gauge at Corning falls below 9.5 feet.
- St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA until the St. Francis River gauge at Oak Donnicks falls below 215 feet msl.
- The White River National Wildlife refuge will be closed for the entire spring turkey season.
- The permit turkey hunt on Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA has also been cancelled.
- All three turkey permit hunts on Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMA will be evaluated on a weekly basis.  
The April 12-14 permit hunt has been cancelled.  
The status of the April 18-20 hunt will be determined on April 14, and the April 25-27 hunt will be determined on April 21. No permit turkey hunts will be conducted on Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMA until the Black River gauge at Black Rock falls below 19 feet.  
The AGFC will send letters to each permit holder on a weekly basis, informing them of the status of these hunts.



All permit holders of cancelled hunts will be given refunds of their permit payment and have their preference points restored.

The AGFC has delayed these decisions as long as possible to monitor water levels and minimize necessary closures. All turkey hunters are urged to use extreme caution if accessing a flooded area by boat. Unusually swift currents and floating debris can cause an unfortunate boating accident. All hunters accessing their hunting area by boat are urged to wear their life jackets at all times while on the water.

The AGFC also reminds hunters that it is illegal to hunt turkeys from a boat or other floating device. It is also illegal to take or attempt to take wildlife, including turkeys, fleeing from a flood.

## Deer management plan calls for more education work

LITTLE ROCK – Helping and encouraging Arkansans to learn more about deer and other wildlife is one of the segments of the new Strategic White-tailed Deer Management Plan of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The idea is to use various avenues, including workshops across the state, to improve knowledge about the most popular game animal in Arkansas. This education goal is one of the six elements of the new plan. The other categories of the plan are Resource, Sociological, Habitat, Communication and Enforcement.

The new deer plan was created by AGFC personnel after input and assistance from several dozen private citizens who participated in idea and planning sessions, and their influence is reflected in many of the plan's objectives. It was approved by AGFC's commissioners at their February meeting in Dumas. The plan supplants a 1999 deer management plan for Arkansas.

A theory of long standing is to know an opponent to be successful. Deer may not often be viewed as "opponents," but most experienced hunters agree that chances of success improve with the knowledge and information of wildlife and deer in particular.

A facet of deer hunting in Arkansas that has generated much enthusiasm in recent years is the special youth hunt. Adults go with youngsters as mentors and guides, but only the boys and girls under age 16 are allowed to shoot deer. This hunt is being expanded to include persons over 65 as hunters.

The deer management plan calls for "developing and operational template for youth deer hunting camps."

Other topics in education in the plan are:

Assist organizations and hunting clubs in increasing deer hunting opportunities for young people.

Work with seniors, persons 65 and older, to find hunting opportunities and ways to keep them hunting at their advancing ages.

Develop and improve educational opportunities all through the state. These include school programs that are focused on deer management and deer biology. They also include the presenting of deer workshops in many areas of Arkansas.

The new deer plan is now in operation, and its structure calls for continued cooperative input from advisory groups and from the Arkansas public. The plan also specifies that AGFC wildlife management areas to be worked to meet "public expectations, habitat composition and deer populations."

The complete deer management plan can be found online at: [http://www.agfc.com/hunting/deer/deerplan\\_revision.aspx](http://www.agfc.com/hunting/deer/deerplan_revision.aspx).



## Mcllroy family honored for land donation

HUNTSVILLE - During the 1940's fifty-five deer from Wisconsin and Sylamore, Arkansas were released on approximately 15,000 acres in Madison County. The Mcllroy's, a prominent family in Fayetteville, owned the land that the deer were released on.

Last week, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission official recognized the significance of that that stocking and the purchase of a portion of that land. Formally known as the Madison County Wildlife Management Area, the area will now be known as the Mcllroy Madison County WMA.

In 1957 the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission purchased over 7,500 acres from Industrial Finance Company which was owned by the Mcllroy family for the



price of \$10 per acre. The current is almost exclusively within the boundary of the original 15,000 acres of the McIlroy Game Management Area.

The area is typical rugged Ozark Mountain terrain with numerous steep mountains and hollows. Elevations range from 1,100 to over 1,600 feet above mean sea level. The area is extensively forested in upland hardwood and shortleaf pine timber stands. There are numerous small streams on the area that are all tributaries of the nearby Kings River which skirts the eastern boundary of the area.

## Fire council offers workshop for forest landowners

BATESVILLE - The Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council is conducting a prescribed burn workshop for private landowners beginning at 9 a.m. on April 19, at the UA Livestock and Forestry Branch Experiment Station near Batesville.

Controlled burning has been used for hundreds of years as a resource management tool to benefit forest health, wildlife habitat, soil and water quality.

The workshop will educate private landowners about factors that influence effective and safe burns. Classroom time will address fire planning, fire behavior, ignition techniques, weather, fire laws, and using fire for forest, native grass and wildlife management.

There will be a prescribed burn demonstration (weather permitting) to illustrate and teach prescribed fire planning. Space is limited. A \$25 registration fee covers workshop materials, refreshment breaks and lunch. Register by contacting the Arkansas Forestry Association at (501) 374-2441 or look online at [www.arkforests.org](http://www.arkforests.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.

**Modern Gun** - Zones 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11: Nov. 8-30.

Zone 4: Nov. 8-9.

Zone 5: Nov. 8-9 and Nov. 15-16.

Zone 4A, 5A, 13, 14 and 15: Nov. 8-Dec. 7.

Zones 4B and 5B: Nov. 8-16.

Zones 9 and 12: Nov. 8-Dec. 14.

Zone 16, 16A and 17: Nov. 8-Dec. 25.

**Muzzleloader** - Zones 1, 2, 3, 4A, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15: Oct. 18-26 and Dec. 13-15.

Zones 9, 12, 16, 16A and 17: Oct. 18-26 and Dec. 29-31.

Zones 4, 4B, 5 and 5B: Closed.

The statewide Christmas holiday modern gun deer hunt will be Dec. 26 to 28 with the special youth modern gun deer hunt in all zones (excludes certain WMAs where a modern gun or muzzleloader permit is required to hunt) scheduled for Nov. 1 to 2.

**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

**Fall Turkey:**

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

**Firearms:** Zones 3, 5B, 6, and 17: Oct. 11-17.

Zones 1, 1A, 2, 4, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A and 10: Closed.

**Bear:**

**Archery:** Zone 1: Oct. 1-Nov. 30

Zone 2: Sept. 15-Nov. 30

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

**Muzzleloader:**Zones 1 and 2: Oct 18-26

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

**Modern Gun:** Zones 1 and 2: Nov 3-30

Zone 5: Dec 6-14

Zone 5A: Nov 29-Dec 14

Zones 3, 4, 6 and 7: closed

**Special Youth Modern Gun Bear Hunt:** Zones 1 and 2 (does not include WMAs requiring a deer permit to harvest a bear): Nov. 1-2

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

**Furbearers (2008 Season):**

Raccoon night hunting July 1-Aug. 31.

Badger, spotted skunk and weasel hunting is closed.

**Furbearers (2009 Season):**

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 14.

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:**

Zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and A: Sept. 22-26.  
Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, A and B: Dec. 8-12.

### **Quail**

Statewide: Nov. 1-Feb. 8.

### **Rabbit**

Statewide: Sept. 1-Feb. 28.

### **Squirrel**

Statewide: Sept. 6-Feb. 28 and May 16-June 14.

### **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**

**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 13** - Arkansas Catfishing Association "First" Tournament at Lake Dardanelle in Russellville at the State Park weigh-in pavilion. 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, contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at big\_vato98@yahoo.com, or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Ben Purtle of McRae at (501) 268-7263 or by email at benpurtle@yahoo.com.

**April 17** – AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

**April 17** – Cabot Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, membership meeting, Furniture Building in Cabot. For more information call Matt Robinson at (501) 412-8055 or email at [mattrobinson@arkansasleader.com](mailto:mattrobinson@arkansasleader.com).

**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.

**April 19** – Old Fort Chapter of the Friends of the NRA will host a fund-raising banquet at the Fort Smith Civic Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information call Howard Robinson at (479) 928-5659. Money raised goes to education and range development. Programs such as Youth Hunter Education Challenge are funded by this program.

**April 20** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 10 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Watchable Wildlife."

**April 24** – Poinsett County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, ladies wine tasting party, Sidelines Bar and Grill in Trumann. For more information call Kimberly Stewart at (870) 483-1774 or email at [duckdaddydystew@yahoo.com](mailto:duckdaddydystew@yahoo.com).

**April 26** - Norfolk Lake Open Walleye Tournament, Henderson Access in Mountain Home. For more information call (417) 860-9129 or (417) 753-5141 or visit

[www.mid-southwalleyes.com](http://www.mid-southwalleyes.com).

**April 26** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Youth Turkey Hunt."

**April 29-30** – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Youth Expo at Lake Sylvia in Perry County, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to sign up a fifth-grade class, contact Eric DeVries at (501) 223-6402 or [efdevries@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:efdevries@agfc.state.ar.us) or Mendy Boyles at 501-821-6884.

**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 3** - Johnson County Razorduck Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, sponsor meeting, Johnson County Fairgrounds in Clarksville. For more information call Cheryl Feikema at (479) 754-3924 or email at [cherdene@suddenlink.net](mailto:cherdene@suddenlink.net).

**Mat 4** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 10 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Topwater Tactics for Bass."

**May 8-9** - Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Youth Expo at the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center in Fort Smith, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information or to sign up a class, contact Kelly Mulvihill at (479) 452-3993 or [kjmulvihill@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:kjmulvihill@agfc.state.ar.us).

**May 10** - 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. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations, contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at [big\\_vato98@yahoo.com](mailto:big_vato98@yahoo.com), or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), or Ben Purtle of McRae at (501) 268-7263 or by email at [benpurtle@yahoo.com](mailto:benpurtle@yahoo.com).

**May 10** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Black Bears of Arkansas."

**May 13** – North Little Rock Chapter of Ducks Unlimited meeting, Hooter's in North Little Rock. For more information call Pat Mahan at (501) 743-6154 or email at [pmahan000@centurytel.net](mailto:pmahan000@centurytel.net).

**May 17** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Fish Management."

**May 22** – AGFC Commission monthly meeting, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, 9 a.m.

**May 24** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Boating Safety."

**May 31** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 8:30 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Fishing Free for All."

**June 7** – Marion Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Motorcycle Poker Run, Barton Ag Center. For more information call David Jett at (901) 848-9720 or email at [jfastlog@comcast.net](mailto:jfastlog@comcast.net).

**June 7** - Arkansas Catfishing Association Tournament at Lake Norfolk at the Gamaliel Access. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. Launching behind the Highway 101 Grocery and Bait and sponsored in part by the Lake Norfolk Chamber of Commerce. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations, contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at [big\\_vato98@yahoo.com](mailto:big_vato98@yahoo.com), or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), or Ben Purtle of McRae at (501) 268-7263 or by email at [benpurtle@yahoo.com](mailto:benpurtle@yahoo.com).

**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. 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 at the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center in Fort Smith beginning at 10 a.m.

**July 26** - Arkansas Catfishing Association (ACA) Tournament at Bull

Shoals (night) 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, contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at [big\\_vato98@yahoo.com](mailto:big_vato98@yahoo.com), or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), or Ben Purtle of McRae at (501) 268-7263 or by email at [benpurtle@yahoo.com](mailto:benpurtle@yahoo.com).

**Sept. 20** - Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Youth Expo at the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center in Jonesboro, For more information or to sign up a class call Shaun Merrell at 870-933-6787 or email at [scmerrell@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:scmerrell@agfc.state.ar.us).

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.

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