



Arkansas Outdoors for May 14, 2008

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Boaters urged to use caution in narrow areas of Lake Hamilton

HOT SPRINGS – Complaints about unsafe operation of boats in confined areas of Lake Hamilton have resulted in increased enforcement efforts by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Garland County Sheriff's Office. An area of particular concern is the Big Mazarn basin.

Concerns about skiers coming too close to docks and other boats have been received by the AGFC and sheriff's office. In a March 2008 commission meeting, property owners in the Big Mazarn basin asked the AGFC to make the narrow area a 'No Ski' zone. Commission Chairman Sonny Varnell said that he wanted to enforce the existing regulations on the lake to see if that would relieve the citizen's concerns about skiers coming too close to other boats and docks. Varnell agreed to revisit the issue in the future if the situation did not improve.

Negligent or reckless operation of a boat includes:

- Weaving through congested waterway traffic.
- Jumping the wake of another vessel too close to that vessel or when visibility is obstructed.
- Swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision.
- Chasing or harassing wildlife with a watercraft.
- Creating a hazardous wake to approaching or passing vessels (a wake that causes other vessels to take on water or toss riders of other vessels about in a manner to cause injury or the risk of injury).



Boating faster than 5 mph within 100 feet of a designated recreation area, dock, pier, raft, float, anchored vessel, dam, intake structure or other obstruction, unless a different speed limit has been posted in the area.

Spring rain, damp earth bring nightcrawler opportunities

LITTLE ROCK – Most Arkansas fishermen, young old and in between, know that springs means plentiful nightcrawlers for fishing – if you get out and look for them.

Nightcrawlers are right at the top of natural baits for



fishing, and most anything will go for them – bass and bream to catfish and including walleye and trout.

A Conway resident recently was doing some dirt moving close to a creek bank with a tractor. But he had dismounted and was closely scanning some loose soil. Both hands were full.

A relative drove up, and the tractor worker asked, “Do you have a bag or a sack in your vehicle that I could use.”

One was found, and he dropped in 8 or 10 nightcrawlers, some of them 12-inchers. “My sister has a worm bed, and I’ll take these to her,” he said. And he went back to looking for more.

His guess was the vibration of the tractor had brought these big worms to the surface where he could easily pick them up.

Some Arkansas anglers swear by Canadian nightcrawlers or “cold worms.” They are sold in bait shops, and they do catch fish. So do Arkansas nightcrawlers that are free for the person who goes out and hunts for them.

Best territory for nightcrawlers seems to be earth that is a little damp. Scratch away an accumulation of leaf litter under a large tree, and you are in likely nightcrawler territory. You can turn over the earth with a shovel or spading fork and move quickly to grab the big worms.

A couple of alternative methods for hunting nightcrawlers are fiddling and soapy water.



Fiddling is simply driving a wooden stick into the ground then rubbing it with another stick or something like a piece of metal rebar. This sends vibrations into the ground, and nearby nightcrawlers come to the surface.

If you have a likely nightcrawler spot, pour a bucket of soapy water on the area. Liquid dishwashing soap works fine. In a few minutes, the crawlers will come up to the surface for air.

Nightcrawlers are earthworms, cousins to the familiar red worm. They are highly beneficial because they aerate soil, allowing water and oxygen to penetrate into the ground. Their feeding and excrement helps recycle nutrients and fertilize the soil. Nightcrawlers also feed on thatch, a layer of live and dead plant material that can accumulate at the soil surface and reduce the penetration of water and fertilizer.

As nightcrawlers feed on soil and plant material, they leave behind a waste product called castings. Nightcrawlers deposit castings in their burrows or at entrances at ground level forming conical mounds at the soil surface. These mounds can be seen in early to mid-spring when nightcrawlers are most active and again during fall. During late spring and summer, when weather becomes warmer, nightcrawlers move deeper into the soil and are not seen as often.

If you gather a supply of nightcrawlers, a metal or plastic bucket with some soil in the bottom will hold them temporarily. Gardeners who have compost piles can dump nightcrawlers in these. For more extensive nightcrawler cultivation, a worm bed used for the smaller red worms will work. A metal box partially sunk into the ground works well.

Partially cover the box and add a bit of decayed leaf litter, a handful of corn meal or other organic material for food.

The nightcrawlers will be ready for fishing use, and you can use some of the enriched worm bed soil for potting plants.

Acres for Wildlife awards presented by Beebe

LITTLE ROCK - The Arkansas Wildlife Federation recognizes the importance of habitat development and management of private lands in Arkansas to ensure the future of wildlife populations in Arkansas. Each year, the Federation in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Cooperative Extension Service sponsors an awards program for participants in Acres for Wildlife who has performed an outstanding service through the program.

Gov. Mike Beebe presented the awards to the winners during a ceremony at the state capitol in April. For their efforts in promoting the Acres for Wildlife Program and wildlife habitat on private lands in Arkansas, Beebe recognized three individuals for outstanding service to establishing and protecting wildlife habitat in Arkansas. An Arkansas county landowner, an AGFC wildlife biologist and an AGFC wildlife officer were recognized for their



efforts in preserving wildlife habitat in Arkansas.

Arkansas County landowner Carl Northcutt, although retired, uses most of his time working to develop a wildlife paradise on his 160-acre property. Over the past 10 years Northcutt has taken his farm out of crop production and started creating wildlife habitat for deer, turkey and quail along with small game and non-game species of wildlife.

Rex Roberg, a University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Wildlife Specialist who visited Northcutt's property said that Northcutt's focus on wildlife is clear. "Carl has used several habitat management practices to create premium habitat including prescribed burning, wildlife timber stand improvement, tree planting, native warm-season grass establishment and strip-disking. Much of this work has, and will continue to be part of Carl's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, a USDA Farm Bill program," Roberg explained.

Eley Talley, a wildlife biologist who works for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, has been selected the Acres for Wildlife Biologist of the Year. He has worked as a Private Lands Biologist for the AGFC out of the Perrytown office for the past 10 years and has assisted landowners in his seven-county regional area. He has worked on thousands of acres across southwest Arkansas, introducing landowners to the basics of wildlife management.

According to David Long, State Acres for Wildlife Coordinator, Talley was a clear winner for this year's award. "He has provided tremendous support for the program by coordinating the pick-up and distribution of AFW seed packets each year, conducting habitat evaluations and writing wildlife management plans for landowners and judging the annual landowner contest sponsored each year by the Arkansas Wildlife Federation," Long said. "In addition, he has participated in program reviews/development and made presentations about the program to numerous groups of landowners in the region," Long added.

When asked about the program benefits, Talley emphasized that the Acres for Wildlife program has served as a vehicle to introduce landowners to the idea of providing improved wildlife habitat on their property. "When landowners start out just looking for some seed to plant, but end up implementing comprehensive management plans for their properties as a result of requesting AFW technical assistance, this is exactly what we, as biologist, are hoping for. Additionally, these landowners recruit their neighbors, resulting in even more habitat. The Acres for Wildlife Program is a valuable part of my wildlife management toolbox when working with private landowners," Talley concluded.

During this past program enrollment year, AGFC wildlife officer Ronnie White, assigned to Pike County, has enrolled 264 cooperators covering 27,501 acres. His average enrollment per landowner was 104 acres. In addition to working with landowners in his assigned county, he managed to enroll landowners from surrounding counties that included Cleveland, Howard and Montgomery. The vast majority of his enrollment came from Pike County, covering 25,558 acres and 229 landowners.

White makes many contacts with many landowners while serving in Pike County and takes time to discuss wildlife management opportunities with the many landowners he visits with during his daily travels across the county and encourages them to enroll in the program, Long said. "He has made an impact for wildlife in his county and other counties by not only enforcing fish and wildlife regulations, but also helping landowners with habitat improvement on their lands. Officer White is passionate about fish and wildlife conservation and uses every tool at his disposal to make a difference for the fish and wildlife he protects," Long said.

Long also noted the importance of the program to the future of wildlife in Arkansas. "Approximately 30 million acres of the 34 million acres in Arkansas are owned by private landowners. As a result, they are critical to the future of all wildlife populations found in the state. Landowners like Mr. Northcutt provide a great example of land stewardship and wildlife management by a private landowner, helping to ensure future habitat for a broad range of wildlife species," Long explained.

The AFW program provides limited wildlife food plot packets benefiting primary bobwhite quail but also species such as wild turkey, cottontail rabbits and numerous songbirds and other non-game wildlife. In addition, and maybe the most important benefit of the program, landowners may request technical wildlife assistance from an AGFC biologist to provide them professional recommendations on proper establishment and management of their land to create and maintain premium habitat.

Landowners may contact any AGFC Private Lands Biologist, Wildlife Officer, County Cooperative Extension Service Agent or go on line at www.agfc.com/afw to obtain additional information and print an AFW application for enrolling. Long may be contacted toll-free at (877) 972-5438.

Over 60,000 pounds of fish stocked in state's waters

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission crews stocked over 181,000 fish in Arkansas lakes and rivers during April, according to Mike Armstrong, chief of fisheries. The total stocking of fish weighed in excess of 110,000 pounds.

April stockings:

LouEmmaLake, CrawfordCounty, 250 catchable channel catfish
Springdale Lake, Washington County, 400 catchable channel catfish



BaltzLake, RandolphCounty, 300 catchable channel catfish
Craighead Forest Kids Pond, CraigheadCounty, 200 catchable channel catfish
MarionCityParkLake, CrittendenCounty, 150 catchable channel catfish
PoinsettLake, PoinsettCounty, 500 catchable channel catfish
Truman City Pond, PoinsettCounty, 250 catchable channel catfish
AlmaCityLake, CrawfordCounty, 450 catchable channel catfish
AtkinsLake, PopeCounty, 1170 catchable channel catfish
CaddoRiver, PikeCounty, 325 catchable channel catfish
CalionLake, UnionCounty, 750 catchable channel catfish
CampClearforkLake, GarlandCounty, 352 catchable channel catfish
CapBedellLake, CrawfordCounty, 170 catchable channel catfish
CargileLake, ConwayCounty, 260 catchable channel catfish
CedarCreekLake, PerryCounty, 284 catchable channel catfish
ColumbiaLake, ColumbiaCounty, 1560 catchable channel catfish
CoxCreekLake, GrantCounty, 588 catchable channel catfish
DarbyLake, FranklinCounty, 350 catchable channel catfish
DardanelleCityParkLake 2, YellCounty, 140 catchable channel catfish
DardanelleCityParkLake 1, YellCounty, 140 catchable channel catfish
DeGray Lake, Hot Spring County, 1,810 catchable channel catfish
DeSotoLake, UnionCounty, 1,010 catchable channel catfish
DryForkLake, PerryCounty, 332 catchable channel catfish
Dutch Creek, YellCounty, 356 catchable channel catfish
GrandviewLake 1, HempsteadCounty, 302 catchable channel catfish
GrandviewLake 2, HempsteadCounty, 312 catchable channel catfish
GreenwoodCityLake, SebastianCounty, 970 catchable channel catfish
GurdonLake, ClarkCounty, 280 catchable channel catfish
HarrisBrakeLake, PerryCounty, 1,351 catchable channel catfish
HinkleLake, ScottCounty, 1,443 catchable channel catfish
HuckleberryLake, PopeCounty, 897 catchable channel catfish
IronsForkLake, PolkCounty, 440 catchable channel catfish
JackNolenLake, SebastianCounty, 340 catchable channel catfish
LeeCreekLake, CrawfordCounty, 910 catchable channel catfish
Lester Sites/Bois d ArcLake, HempsteadCounty, 335 catchable channel catfish
Little Missouri River, Nevada and ClarkCounties, 689 catchable channel catfish
LudwigLake, JohnsonCounty, 588 catchable channel catfish
MansfieldCityLake, ScottCounty, 306 catchable channel catfish
Moss Creek Road Pond, YellCounty, 356 catchable channel catfish
North ForkLake, MontgomeryCounty, 148 catchable channel catfish
OlaCityLake, YellCounty, 507 catchable channel catfish
Old Forrester Pond, ScottCounty, 306 catchable channel catfish
OuachitaLake, GarlandCounty, 2,576 catchable channel catfish
Ouachita River, Hot Spring, Polk and Montgomery counties, 1,415 catchable channel catfish
OvercupLake, ConwayCounty, 1,154 catchable channel catfish
ParisCityLake, LoganCounty, 436 catchable channel catfish
RockCreekWatershedLake, PerryCounty, 332 catchable channel catfish
SpringLake, YellCounty, 359 catchable channel catfish
SquareRockLake, ScottCounty, 306 catchable channel catfish
SugarLoafLake, SebastianCounty, 572 catchable channel catfish
SylviaLake, PerryCounty, 338 catchable channel catfish
T. J. House Reservoir, Crawford County, 393 catchable channel catfish
Tri County Lake, Calhoun County, 429 catchable channel catfish
Truman Baker Lake, Scott County, 306 catchable channel catfish
Waldron City Lake, Scott County, 725 catchable channel catfish
Lower White Oak Lake, Ouachita County, 1,206 catchable channel catfish
Upper White Oak Lake, Ouachita County, 1,232 catchable channel catfish
Catherine Lake, Garland County, 3,042 catchable rainbow trout
Little Missouri River, Montgomery County, 2,156 catchable rainbow trout
Narrows Dam Tailwater, Pike County, 1,814 catchable rainbow trout
Ouachita River, Hot Spring County, 1,519 catchable rainbow trout
Cotter Big Spring, Baxter County, 500 catchable rainbow trout
Little Red River, Cleburne and White Counties, 11,197 catchable rainbow trout
Mirror Lake, Stone County, 1,700 catchable rainbow trout
Spring River, Fulton County, 13,615 catchable rainbow trout
White River, Izard, Baxter, Marion and Stone Counties, 54,145 catchable rainbow trout
Columbia Lake, Columbia County, 3,400 yearling grass carp
Sherwood City Pond, Pulaski County, 32 yearling grass carp
Cabot Community Pond, Lonoke County, 500 catchable channel catfish
Cherrywood Lake, Pulaski County, 1,310 catchable channel catfish
Conner Park Pond, Pulaski County, 350 catchable channel catfish
Crystal Hill Pond, Pulaski County, 350 catchable channel catfish
Lake Village Community Lake, Chicot County, 533 catchable channel catfish
Paradise Lake, Pulaski County, 330 catchable channel catfish
Pathway Youth Camp, Saline County, 400 catchable channel catfish

Roderson Church Pond, Lonoke County, 500 catchable channel catfish
Sherwood City Pond, Pulaski County, 210 catchable channel catfish
Spirit Lake, Faulkner County, 850 catchable channel catfish
West Memphis City Park Lake, Crittenden County, 1,300 catchable channel catfish
Oden High School Ponds, Montgomery County, 320 yearling channel catfish
Atalanta Lake, Benton County, 300 catchable channel catfish
Murphy Park Lake, Washington County, 500 catchable channel catfish
Valencia Lake, Pulaski County, 1,300 catchable channel catfish
Beaver Tailwater, Carroll County, 5,000 catchable rainbow trout
Bull Shoals Lake, Marion County, 30,000 catchable rainbow trout
Norfolk River, Baxter County, 5,750 catchable rainbow trout
Boyle Park Pond, Pulaski County, 500 catchable channel catfish
Cortez Lake, Garland County, 300 catchable channel catfish
Diamondhead Pond, Garland County, 250 catchable channel catfish
Family Park Lake, Garand County, 300 catchable channel catfish
Hamilton Lake, Garland County, 400 catchable channel catfish
Kiwanis Park, Pulaski County, 500 catchable channel catfish
MacArthur Park Lake, Pulaski County, 500 catchable channel catfish
Maurice Hendrix Pond, Hot Spring County, 600 catchable channel catfish
Shady Lake, Polk County, 150 catchable channel catfish
War Memorial Park, Pulaski County, 200 catchable channel catfish

Arkansas Safe Boating Week is May 17-23

LITTLE ROCK – Gov. Mike Beebe has selected May 17 – 23 as Arkansas Safe Boating Week. The designation coincides with National Safe Boating Week.

With the Memorial Day weekend just around the corner, recreational boating will get into full swing, according to AGFC Assistant Chief of Enforcement Stephanie Weatherington. “Recreational boating is fun and enjoyable, and we are fortunate that we have sufficient resources to accommodate the wide variety of pleasure boating demands. However, our waterways can become crowded at times and be a place of chaos and confusion,” Weatherington warned.

While being a marvelous source of recreation, boating, to the unprepared, can be a risky sport, AGFC Boating Safety Coordinator Bob Cushing explained. “Not knowing or obeying the navigation rules or the nautical “Rules of the Road,” drinking alcohol or taking drugs while operating a boat, or choosing not to wear your life jacket when doing so is clearly not the smart thing to do,” she added.

All are examples of human error or a lack of proper judgment. Each year, approximately 80 percent of drowning victims are not wearing life jackets. It is a simple task that has the potential to reduce terrible loss in lives.

“Knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error and improving judgment. If people are aware of the risk, they are likely to take the precautionary measures to protect themselves and their friends and family. That is why we must continue to spread the messages of boating safety not only during Arkansas Safe Boating Week, but also throughout the entire year,” Cushing said.

The Arkansas Safe Boating Coalition is comprised of local and state agencies concerned with providing boaters education to the public and providing safe waterways for Arkansas. To insure personal safety the Safe Boating Coalition recommends that every boater, regardless of age, take a boating safety course. It can be taken online or at locations around Arkansas. For more information access the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Web site at www.agfc.com and click on education or, call the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at (501) 225-2842.

On site classes are free and require only two evenings or one full day to complete the course. Upon successful completion the boater is given a certificate showing they have taken and passed. This certificate is recognized throughout the nation and most insurance companies honor the certificate and provide discounts on personal boating insurance. All boat operators who were born after Jan. 1, 1985 are required by law to have taken the boating safety course.



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

Spring Turkey:

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

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 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.

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

Spring **2008:** May 10-June 8, 2008.
Statewide: Sept. 6, 2008 - Feb. 28, 2009
Spring **2009:** May 16 - June 14, 2009 statewide

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

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.

May 10 - Arkansas Catfishing Association Tournament and Charitable Event at Lake Maumelle in the Little Rock area. This is a change of location due to the unfavorable conditions on the river. Ten catfish limit for donation to charity, with the two largest weighed-in for the tournament. Visitors welcomed to observe and may join if desired. Registration at 5 a.m. and launching at 5:40 a.m. Check-in at 3 p.m. 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 the Russellville area at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

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.

May 16 – Ouachita River Day. Students from Malvern High School will be participating in National River Cleanup Week will be picking up trash and stabilizing the river bank.

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.

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, or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

June 7 - The Independence County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited is hosting their Waterfowl Hunter Party at the BUBBA Hut in Batesville. For more information please contact: Shannon Huff at (870) 612-3757 or by email at black_mallard@hotmail.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.

June 21 - The Paragould Chapter of Ducks Unlimited is hosting their Waterfowl Hunter Party at the National Guard Armory. For more information please contact: Bryan Murray at (870) 335-6049 or by email at bejmurray@grnco.net.

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, or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

June 28 - The Benton County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited is hosting their 11th annual David Bain Memorial Ducks Unlimited Golf Tournament, 1 p.m. shotgun start at the Kingswood Golf Course in Bella Vista. For more information please contact: Blayne Estes at (479) 721-3394 or by email at baestes@cox.net or Jay Johnston at (479) 531-7632 or by email at jkjohnston42@sbcglobal.net.

Aug. 23-24 - Arkansas Catfishing Association ACA Charity tournament at Lake Millwood and Lake Earling in southwest Arkansas. 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.

Sept. 20 - Delta Wings Chapter of Delta Waterfowl will hold it's third annual banquet on at Southland Park Gaming and Racing in West Memphis. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Contact Gary Harlow at gjharlow@aol.com for more information.

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.

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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