



Arkansas Outdoors for May 21, 2008

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Public meetings set for input on waterfowl regulations

LITTLE ROCK - Hunters may voice their opinions about the upcoming Arkansas waterfowl hunting regulations and seasons at one of 12 public meetings across the state Tuesday, June 3.

These meetings are part of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's hunting regulations-setting process. They give hunters and other interested parties the opportunity to make comments and proposals on the 2008-09 waterfowl hunting seasons. The meetings will be 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Comments may be verbal or written. Written comments may be submitted at one of the meetings or mailed to AGFC, attn: Hunting Regulations Proposals, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. They also may be emailed to information@agfc.state.ar.us. The deadline for comments is July 31.

Meeting sites, locations and phone numbers are:

Little Rock – AGFC Office
2 Natural Resources Drive
(800) 364-4263

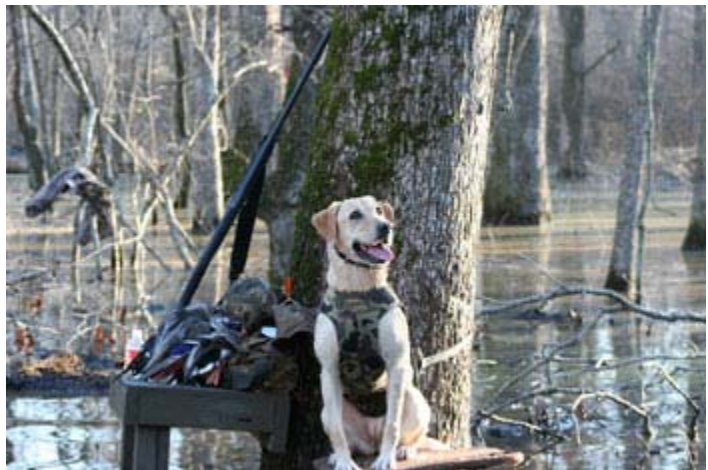
Nashville – Carter Training Center
200 Lake Nichols Drive
(877) 777-5580

Fort Smith – Janet Huckabee
Arkansas River Valley Nature Center
8300 Wells Lake Road
(877) 478-1043

Brinkley – AGFC Regional Office
1201 Highway 49 N.
(877) 734-4581

Jonesboro – Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center
600 E. Lawson Road
(877) 972-5438

Stuttgart – Phillips Community College
2807 Highway 165 S.



(877) 367-3559

Fayetteville – U of A, Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena
1335 W. Knapp St.
(877) 967-7577

Russellville – AGFC Regional Office
1266 Lock and Dam Road
(877) 967-7577

Hot Springs – AGFC Regional Office
350 Fish Hatchery Road
(877) 525-8606

Calico Rock – AGFC Regional Office Highway 56 N.
(877) 297-4331

El Dorado – South Arkansas Community College, West Campus
Library Auditorium
300 Summit Drive
(877) 836-4612

Paragould – Paragould Community Center
3404 Linwood Drive
(877) 972-5438

Unattended baby birds may not be abandoned

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas is blessed with an abundance of wild birds and their offspring. Throughout spring and summer, it is not uncommon to come across unattended baby wild birds. During this time, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is flooded with calls about abandoned fledglings and what to do with them.

Many people discover apparently lost or abandoned young birds and take them in, thinking they are doing the right thing. This almost always does more harm than good. A few simple guidelines can help determine whether the animal is in need of help. First and foremost, don't assume that these animals have been abandoned and need to be rescued.

According to AGFC Passerine Bird Coordinator Catherine Rideout, one or both of the parents may be just out of sight and disturbing young birds could jeopardize their well-being.

"Many species of birds are raising young and feeding fledglings, birds that have left the nest, but may still require some parental care. Many well-meaning people find baby birds and pick them up. The best thing to do is leave them alone," Rideout said.

Three simple questions can help determine the bird's situation.

What should I do with a baby bird I found that needs my help?



The first step is to determine the bird's age. While many people assume a feathered bird that cannot fly has fallen from the nest, this may not be true. Many kinds of birds, such as American robins, continue to care for their young once they leave the nest and before they fly well. If a bird has feathers and is able to hop around on the ground, it is likely a fledgling and its parents are probably nearby. Spend some time (even up to an hour) watching for the bird's parents. It is always best to leave offspring with their parents if it is at all possible. If you think it is a fledgling, leave the bird alone. However, if you are concerned about the bird's safety, evaluate the situation and decide what is best for the bird. Placing a bird up in a shrub or in a safer spot very nearby may be the best option. Touching a bird will not cause parents to abandon it. Please keep pets and



children away from the bird while it tries out its flight skills.

I found a bird with no feathers and its eyes closed. What should I do?

If the bird is naked, has very few feathers, or has its eyes closed, it is likely a nestling. If possible, try to locate the nest by looking in nearby shrubs, trees, or potted plants. Returning the nestling to its nest is by far the best solution. Many people believe that once humans touch a bird, the parents will not take care of it. Most birds have a very poorly developed sense of smell, and they will not reject their young if you handle them. They have invested a great deal of time and energy in their offspring.

Sometimes nests are destroyed in bad weather or by predators. At times, putting nestlings back into a nest is impossible because it is too high. Again, the best scenario is to try and leave these nestlings under the care of their parents. One option is to create a make-shift nest with a plastic butter tub (with holes punched in the bottom to drain water) or a berry basket. If the nest is still intact, place the nest in the basket or tub and replace the babies. If the nest is gone, line the new 'nest' with dry paper towels and put the young inside. Use wire to place the nest as close to the old nest as possible in a tree or in a shrub and try to give it some cover to avoid sunlight and rain. Watch to see if parents relocate the young in the new nest you have created.

I found a nestling, baby bird and need someone to care for it. Who should I call?

Although it is difficult and often not successful, when all else fails, you may want to consider contacting a wildlife rehabilitator to take care of a young or injured bird until it is ready for release. Bird rehabilitators are required to have a federal permit to take care of birds. Migratory birds are protected, and it is against the law to possess eggs, birds, nests, or feathers without a permit. Additionally, trying to hand raise a baby bird is an incredibly difficult task, and requires a great deal of time, effort, and specialized information. Keep in mind that rehabilitators are volunteers and do not have any obligation to take on caring for a baby or injured bird. Please see the list of Arkansas rehabilitators with federal migratory bird permits at http://www.agfc.com/pdfs/rehab/migratorybird_rehablist.pdf.

Mississippi County lakes stocked with tilapia

JONESBORO - The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has stocked two Mississippi County lakes with tilapia. Mallard Lake and Youth Lake received almost 10,000 of these exotic bream.

This is the first year that tilapia have been stocked into Youth Lake. Youth Lake is a 17-acre lake that adjoins Mallard Lake and is open to all ages of anglers. This small lake was stocked at three times the normal stocking rate in an attempt to stimulate more interest in fishing for tilapia in the Mississippi County area.

Tilapia have gained a reputation for being easy to catch, fierce fighters and excellent table fare. Most tilapia are caught using bream fishing techniques with worms for bait. There is no daily creel limit so anglers may keep all of the tilapia that they catch. However, everyone 16 years of age and older must have a current fishing license to fish.



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 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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