



News

Arkansas Outdoors for July 30, 2008

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Commission signs gas lease with Chesapeake Energy



LITTLE ROCK - With the stroke of a pen, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission on Monday unanimously agreed to gas leases on two of its wildlife management areas. The leases will generate about \$29.5 million for the agency. The lease agreements were signed during a special meeting of the AGFC at its headquarters in Little Rock.

Petit Jean River and Gulf Mountain wildlife management areas will be the site of the drilling operations by Chesapeake Energy of Oklahoma City. Chesapeake was the winning bidder out of four bids for the right to drill in the WMAs. The agreement also calls for a 20 percent royalty over the next five years.

The five year leases cover just over 11,500 acres. Petit Jean WMA is located near Ola in Yell County and Gulf Mountain is in Van Buren County near the community of Scotland. Money from the lease agreements will be used help fund many projects in the state including conservation programs, renovation of facilities as well as funding new and existing projects.

Gov. Mike Beebe, who spoke during the meeting, called the signing something special for all Arkansans. "A lot of people will benefit from this and I want to personally thank you," he said. Beebe also praised the AGFC

for its efforts to team up with other state agencies. "Your desire to partner with ADEQ and the Oil and Gas Commission for compliance, preservation and inspection will make sure these lands will be available for generations to come," Beebe said.

AGFC Chairman Freddie Black said that the lease signing was a monumental day for the agency. "We don't take this lightly. We know there will be impacts to people who hunt and fish in these areas, but we think it will be minimal," Black said. "There will be no exploration during hunting season," he added.

Danny Games, director of corporate development for Chesapeake in Arkansas, said his company recognizes the tremendous financial gain to the AGFC and the state of Arkansas. "We're also sensitive to the concerns of its citizens. We are an experienced driller with twice as many rigs as the number two driller, all on American soil. Chesapeake uses the most advanced drilling and completion technologies and operates within the strictest safety guidelines to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment. We believe that this partnership will extend far beyond the initial leasing bonus and provide long-term benefit to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the citizens of our state," Games said.



Quick Facts:

Petit Jean River WMA

Yell County

15,502 surface acres

7, 578.767 net mineral acres

5 year lease

20% royalty

Lease signing bonus for net mineral acres \$1,248,772

Gulf Mountain WMA

Van Buren County

11,683 surface acres

3,949.495 net mineral acres

5 year lease

20% royalty

Lease signing bonus for net mineral acres \$28,298,131.68

Other leases on Arkansas WMAs:

Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA

Conway County

165 net mineral acres

Kerogen Resources, Inc.

Lease signing bonus for net mineral acres \$99,000

Southern half of Gulf Mountain WMA

Van Buren County

2,965 net mineral acres

Chesapeake Energy

Lease signing bonus for net mineral acres \$2,945,399.29

George Morgan takes on elk challenge at age 91

BENTON – George Morgan has faced a number of challenges in his 91 years. The latest is Arkansas elk hunting.

The Benton resident is one of 26 people



who won the coveted elk hunting permits for 2008. Morgan's permit is for the December season in Elk Zone 3, which is mostly the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Gene Rush Wildlife Management Area along the Buffalo River.

Morgan will be the oldest person to participate in the elk hunts, which will be in their 11th year this fall. They began in 1998 after elk were restored in the state beginning in 1981. The public land permits are free, except for two used in fundraising activities by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Several thousand Arkansans apply for the permits each year.

Morgan's son, Charles, also of Benton, said he has applied for a permit nearly every year. He sent in the application for his father too.

George Morgan has a hunting background all right, going back to his first deer. It was taken in 1933, a Columbia black tail deer he got in Oregon.

He's a World War II veteran and went ashore on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in 1944. He was a sergeant in the 635th Tank Destroyer Battalion and saw action all the way into Germany. "Dad was rated an expert rifleman in the war," his son said.

After the war, George Morgan settled in North Little Rock with the wife he met at Camp Robinson. He had a long career with the Timex Corporation in Little Rock.

For the elk hunt, his son and a nephew will be helpers. Charles Morgan said, "Dad has a Savage .250 lever action rifle that he used for years deer hunting, but I think he'll use my .30-06 for this elk hunt. We are going to do a lot of scouting before the hunt."

This year's elk hunt is again in two segments – Sept. 22-26 and Dec. 9-12. Four hunters with bull permits will be in the field in September. Twenty-two others will hunt in December, some with bull permits, some with antlerless or cow permits and two youths with either sex permits.

Applications for the permits are accepted each year during the month of May, then a public drawing is held in late June at the Buffalo Elk Festival in Jasper. Except for the two auctioned permits, only Arkansas residents are eligible. There is no cost to apply, although a number of persons send along donations to be used in the state's elk program.

Some tips to help you trim fuel costs in fishing boats



LITTLE ROCK - Fuel prices for boaters have soared right along with the vehicle fuel costs – maybe even more if you fill up at marinas.

The obvious counterattack is to reduce how much you run that boat motor.

When you are fishing, you want to go where the fish are, or might be. That's obvious. Some thought may be given to just cruising around on a lake or river during your fishing outing.

Some other steps can be taken to make the fuel dollars go farther, according to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Take out items you don't need for that particular fishing day. Any weight adds to the boat's consumption of gasoline or diesel just like it does in a car or truck. Do you really need that spare battery this trip? How about that second tank of gasoline if you are just running a few miles on the lake? Extra anchor when one will suffice?

If you are using a bass boat with one or two live wells, wait until you have fish before filling them. Do some quick math. A gallon of water weighs 8.33 pounds. Twenty gallons of water in a live well amounts to some weight.

An engine tune-up on the boat motor can be just as beneficial as one for your car. The engine running better will save anywhere from a little fuel to a lot of fuel.

Few fishermen give much thought to their motors' propellers unless the boat begins vibrating heavily. Props get nicks by bumping stumps, rocks and such. If your boat goes 30 miles an hour with a new prop but only 27 miles an hour with one that has been dinged, then you're probably wasting one gallon of gas in 10.

Clean the boat's bottom. Anything slowing the flow of the boat in the water is a fuel waster, as minor as some clinging grass may seem.

Get the boat in trim when you are underway. For a bass boat, getting it up on plane quickly means less strain on the motor than churning along at low speed. Shift items around in the boat for the best distribution of weight. Moving a tackle box from the front to mid-ship can help a bit.

Fill up the boat's fuel tank at home or en route to the lake or river.

Consider using a tight-fitting cover on the boat to save a little fuel in your tow vehicle. An open boat behind your truck or car creates wind drag.

Bat Weekend planned at Pinnacle Mountain State Park

ROLAND - Pinnacle Mountain State Park will hold its annual Bat Weekend on Aug. 23-24. Programs will explain the many virtues of these misunderstood creatures of the night, beginning at 8 p.m.

Included on the agenda are hikes, games, demonstrations and talks that focus on everything batty. Bat house building will be taught as well. A detailed schedule can be obtained from the park; admission is free. Call 501-868-5806 or e-mail pinnaclemountain@arkansas.com for more information.



Queen Wilhelmina State Park to host Butterfly Weekend



MENA - Live butterflies can be viewed up close during "Wings of Wonder" Butterfly Weekend Aug. 30-Sept. 1 at Queen Wilhelmina State Park near Mena.

Park interpreters will offer programs, hikes, and activities about these beautiful insects. Learn why butterflies flock to the mountain and how to attract them to your yard. Contact the park for a detailed program schedule by calling 479-394-2863 or by checking www.queenwilhelmina.com.

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.

Dove:

Sept. 6-28

Oct. 4-19

Dec. 13, 2008-Jan. 2, 2009

Teal: Sept. 13-28

Virginia and Sora Rail: Sept. 13-Nov. 21

Spotted Skunk, Weasel Hunting: Closed

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 Statewide: Sept. 6, 2008-Feb. 28, 2009 and May 16-June 14, 2009.

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

Aug. 2 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Extreme Fishing."

Aug. 10 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 5 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Arkansas Alligators."

Aug. 17 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 5 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "All About ATVs."

Aug. 21 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include: late migratory bird season (waterfowl season) approval and 2009 fishing regulation approval.

Aug. 23-24 - Arkansas Catfishing Association Charity tournament at Lake Millwood and Lake Earling in southwest Arkansas. Two-day event. No entry fee and no payouts, double limit blues and channel. Catch to Hope in Action, Hope, Arkansas. Details at ArkCats.Org website or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pochahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at big_vato98@yahoo.com, or, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

Aug. 24 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 5 a.m. on KARK Channel 4.

Topic of the show will be "Fishing for Tilapia."

Aug. 30 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4.

Topic of the show will be "Outdoor Resources."

Sept. 6 – Annual White River Fishermen Bass and Trout Tournament benefiting

Arkansas Children's Hospital, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Access and weigh-in at Guion Access. \$50 entry fee per person. For more information contact: Johnny Thomas at (870) 269-4596 or (870) 213-5979 or (870) 213-6606, Rickey Canard at (870) 214-0760 or Bill Turner at (870) 793-3670 or (870) 834-5783.

Sept. 7 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 5 a.m. on KARK Channel 4.

Topic of the show will be "All About Elk."

Sept. 13 - Arkansas Catfishing Association (ACA). Arkansas River, Cherokee Landing, Morrilton, launching from Cherokee Park. Registration at 5 a.m. and launching at 5:40 a.m. Check-in time is 3 p.m. Details at ArkCats.Org website:, or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at big_vato98@yahoo.com, or, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

Sept. 13 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4.

Topic of the show will be "Fishing for Monster Catfish."

Sept. 18 – North Little Rock chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Woody's Sherwood Forest in Sherwood. For more information call Pat Mahan at (501) 743-6154 or email at pmahan000@centurytel.net.

Sept. 18 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include the 2009 spring turkey season regulations proposal.

Sept. 20 - Delta Wings Chapter of Delta Waterfowl will hold its 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 – Fort Smith chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Adelaide Hall in Fort Smith. For more information call Chris Walthall at (479) 471-8009 or email at tynoiaca11@yahoo.com.

Sept. 27 – Jacksonville chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Old Wal-Mart building in Jacksonville. For more information call Matt Robinson at (501) 412-8055 or email at jacksonvilledu@aol.com.

Sept. 28 - 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 Archer."

Oct. 18 - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament. Arkansas River, Ozark Taylor Lock and Dam. Registration at 5 a.m. and launching at 5:40 a.m. Check-in time is 3 p.m. Details at ArkCats.Org website hosted by godaddy.com, or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pocahontas at (870) 810-3294 or by email at big_vato98@yahoo.com, or, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net.

Oct. 18 – Logan County chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, First National Ban Community Building in Paris. For more information call Shane Vincent at (479) 963-6245.

Oct. 23 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting in Pine Bluff, beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include:the2009 spring turkey seasons regulations approval and special fishing regulations proposal.

Nov. 20 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include: special fishing regulations approval.

Dec. 18 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

Jan. 22, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

Feb. 19, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include the 2009-2010 general hunting regulation proposals.

March 19, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m. Topics include the 2009-2010 general hunting regulations approval.

April 16, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

May 21, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

June 18, 2009 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting in Lake Village. Topics include the early migratory bird season proposals.

For the latest in Arkansas Game and Fish Commission information go to www.agfc.com or call the Wildlife Information Hotline, (800)440-1477.