



# News

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## Arkansas Outdoors for September 10, 2008

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### Today's Topics

[Teal prospects look good for Saturday's opening day](#)  
[Going hunting? Check for road closings and detours first](#)  
[Deferred Hunter Education license available again this year](#)  
[Ouachita River clean-up set for Sept. 20](#)  
[Boating education class schedule](#)  
[Hunter education class schedule](#)  
[What's open for hunting](#)  
[Coming up in the outdoors](#)

## Teal prospects look good for Saturday's opening day

LITTLE ROCK – This week's torrential rains may have put a damper on dove season for some hunters, but it may be a welcome sight for Arkansas' teal hunters. The special September teal season in Arkansas begins on Sept. 13 and continues through Sept. 28.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission waterfowl biologist Luke Naylor said the recent cold front likely pushed some bluewings down from the north. "We've got a ton of water in the state. That should make for some pretty good conditions for teal hunters," Naylor said. "All we need is a nice cold front to push some teal into the state," he added.

Scouting is important, but teal are often here today and gone tomorrow, so even if teal appear to have left an area you still may have a quality hunt due to birds jumping from one place to another or new birds arriving, Naylor explained. "In other words, do some preseason scouting to find an area with some teal and give it a try or just head out to a spot that has water where you've had success in the past," he said.

"Blue-winged teal are very sensitive to cold weather," said Naylor explained. "In September, as cold fronts push down from Canada and the northern U.S., large concentrations of blue-wings will migrate southward to warmer climates. Their primary wintering grounds include the coastal marshes of Louisiana and Texas as well as Central and South America," he said.

Naylor said blue wings make up 95 percent of the September migration (the other teal species being green-winged teal) and will seek out a variety of habitat during their stopovers in Arkansas.

"They prefer marshes, harvested rice fields, moist-soil impoundments and agricultural reservoirs. Teal prefer shallow mud flats. Ideal water depth is less than six inches," he said. "Having said that though, inland reservoirs and oxbow



lakes also provide good teal habitat in their upper reaches. Shallow water is the key," he added.

Scouting early will help hunters find the best spots to set decoys. "Hunters don't need many decoys. I generally use 12 to 18 decoys, teal if possible, but mallard decoys will also work," he explained.

## Going hunting? Check for road closings and detours first

LITTLE ROCK – Gustav is gone, the rains have abated, hunting seasons are underway – and Arkansas sportsmen are on the move.

Save yourself a possible headache and check road conditions before you leave home, suggests the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Hunters and fishermen often travel across the state or just a few miles from home to participate in their activities. The travel may be on interstates, on two-lane paved highways or on graveled back roads. The torrential rains from Hurricane Gustav left roads in the state flooded in many places and washed out in a few spots.

An example is Arkansas Highway 7 between Russellville and Harrison. This is a major route for hunters and recreationists headed to the Buffalo River country. The highway is closed just south of Pelsor in extreme northern Pope County, and major repairs are underway. Detours are lengthy.

If you are traveling, a starting point for road conditions can be the Internet. Go to <http://www.arkansashighways.com/Roads/roads.htm>. Click on "road closings." This is a web site of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, and it gives current closings of federal and state highways in Arkansas.

But it doesn't list county roads or national forest roads or other remote routes that sportsmen may use.

For these, a phone call can help. If you don't know a person living in the area, try the county road department of the county where you're headed. Can't find a phone listing? Try the county judge's office. You'll get the right number and maybe the information you need there.

Once you are off the main highway and in the back country, slow down and watch for potential problems. A washed away culvert could leave an unpaved road impassable.

Remember too that repairs on Arkansas's damaged roads are on a priority system. The heaviest traveled roads get the first attention from work crews, and it may be a while before that particular back road you are traveling will have its damage taken care of.

## Deferred Hunter Education license available again this year

LITTLE ROCK – In an effort to give more first-time hunters a chance to experience the state's outdoor resources, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is again offering a Deferred Hunter Education license. A hunter can apply and use a Deferred Hunter Education license as long as the user is at least 16 years of age and born after Dec. 31, 1968. There is no cost for the license.

A few other criteria must be met for the hunter to take advantage of the DHE. The hunter must not be hunter education certified, but they must be in the immediate presence of an adult hunter who is



at least 21 years of age who possesses a valid hunter education card, or who was born before Dec. 31, 1968. The DHE hunter must also possess a valid Arkansas hunting license in addition to the DHE license.

A DHE license can be acquired only once in a lifetime. The DHE license will be available through the AGFC's Web site at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com), after-hours phone sales and at license dealer's who have been converted to the agency's new license system. The license expires June 30.

A person is not eligible if they have been convicted or forfeited bond for prior violation of hunter education certification requirements or under AGFC sanctioned hunting privilege revocations.

## Ouachita River clean-up set for Sept. 20

MALVERN - The Arkansas Stream Team, a program of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Fisheries Division is sponsoring the First Annual Ouachita River Sweep. The one-day event will be held Sept. 20 in Malvern, Arkadelphia, Camden and Crossett.

The event is being hosted in partnership with the Ouachita River Valley Association, The Ouachita River Commission, Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Felsenthal, Ouachita Conservation District, Save the Ouachita, and the cities of Malvern, Arkadelphia, Camden and Crossett.

The 2008 Ouachita River sweep is a collaborative project between Arkansas and Louisiana and is in an effort to clean and beautify the entire Ouachita River. The 2008 River Sweep will be hosted at four locations along the Ouachita River in Arkansas and extends into Monroe, Louisiana. .



This event will provide an opportunity to bring together the communities surrounding Malvern, Arkadelphia, Camden, Crossett and El Dorado, with personnel of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and volunteers from all of the sponsoring partners.



The clean-up is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at four locations along the river. Volunteers are encouraged to join at any of the four clean-up sites located at the Millennium Park Access at Malvern, the Ouachita River Park Access in Arkadelphia, the Sandy Beach Park Access at Camden and Crossett Harbor. T-shirts and a free lunch will be provided to all volunteers. In addition, all volunteers will have the opportunity to win several door prizes including Arkansas Stream Team products along with fishing rods and tackle.

Come and spend a day on the Ouachita River with family, friends and your neighbors pitching in to help Keep Arkansas Clean and Green. Bring a boat, canoe or just your shoes, the AGFC will supply the litter bags.

## 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:

### Alligator:

Sept. 19-22

Sept. 26-29

### 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.

### Duck:

Nov. 22-Dec. 1,

Dec. 6-Dec. 24

Dec. 26-Jan. 25.

*The youth waterfowl hunt will be Jan. 31-Feb. 1.*

### Northwest Canada goose zone season:

Sept. 1-15 (with a bag limit of five) and Sept. 27-Oct. 6 (bag limit two).

### Statewide Canada goose season:

Sept. 1-15 (bag limit five) and Jan. 10-Feb. 1 (bag limit two).

### White-fronted goose season:

Nov. 15-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Jan. 30 with a bag limit of two.

### Snow, blue and Ross' goose season:

Nov. 8-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Jan. 30 with a bag limit of 20.

### Snow goose Conservation Order:

Feb. 2-April 25 with no bag limit.

### 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**

**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 or 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, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jacksonvilledu@aol.com).

**Sept. 28** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 11 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "All About Archery."

**Oct. 5** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 11 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Early Season Goose Hunting."

**Oct. 11** – A one-day course on Bears and Bear Hunting is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 11, at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Biologists with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will lead discussions on bear biology and management along with the history of bears and hunting strategies. The class will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center, and it is free. Space is limited, so advance registration is needed. This can be done by phone at (501) 450-5274 or online at [www.uca.edu/AOEP/](http://www.uca.edu/AOEP/) and click on Community Education.

**Oct. 11** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Deer Hunting 101."

**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 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, Coordinator Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or by email at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net).

**Oct. 18** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Fall Fishing."

**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. 22** – 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.

**Oct. 24-26** - Want to learn more about trapping? A workshop is being held Oct. 24-26 to give interested people tips and techniques for trapping in Arkansas. The workshop is sponsored by the Arkansas Trappers Association, Southwest Arkansas Fur Takers, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and North American Fur Auctions. Both

advanced and beginner classes will be available. The workshop will be held at Camp Clearfork near Mount Ida on Highway 270. Lodging and meals are provided. Camping facilities and motels are located nearby as well. Groups are welcome. The cost for those 17 years of age and under is \$10. For those 18 and over the price is \$20. Reservations must be received by Sept. 30. For more information call Wallace Funderburk at (870) 867-2642.

**Oct. 25** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Snakeheads."

**Nov. 1** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Youth Deer Hunting."

**Nov. 8** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Getting Ready for Duck Season."

**Nov. 15** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Ducks, Ducks and More Ducks."

**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.

**Nov. 22** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Wings Over the Prairie Festival."

**Nov. 29** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "How 'Bout Them Hogs?"

**Dec. 6** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Christmas Gift Ideas." The Grand Prize will also be awarded to some lucky viewer.

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

**Jan. 9-11, 2009** –Marine Expo at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

**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.

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