



## News

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### Arkansas Outdoors for September 17, 2008

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#### Today's Topics

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### Snakehead eradication meeting Sept. 18 in Brinkley

BRINKLEY – The eradication of northern snakehead fish, an invasive species discovered in eastern Arkansas this past spring, will be the subject of a town hall meeting and public hearing at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Brinkley Convention Center.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will be on hand to present information about the fish, an invasive species from Asia that could threaten native fish populations in Arkansas and elsewhere in the lower Mississippi River basin.

The first part of the meeting will outline the need to protect the Piney Creek watershed from the fish, which eat sport fish and can survive in a wide variety of habitats and temperatures. AGFC biologists will present information and answer questions during the first part of the meeting. The second part of the meeting will be a hearing open to public comments about the Piney Creek Environmental Assessment that is required under the National Environmental Policy Act.



Northern snakeheads were discovered in the Piney Creek drainage in Lee and Monroe counties in April. Since then, AGFC has been assessing the infestation and developing a plan to control their spread to waterways outside the Piney Creek drainage.

An eradication plan originally scheduled for October has been postponed until late winter or early spring 2009. Recent heavy rainfall associated with tropical storm systems Gustav and Ike has caused higher-than-normal water flows in Piney Creek, limiting AGFC's ability to effectively implement the eradication plan. Weather conditions also have delayed rice harvest in many fields adjacent to Piney Creek, another factor that has hampered AGFC's ability to move ahead with the eradication project this fall.

"These storms have really thrown us a curveball," said Mike Armstrong, AGFC fisheries division chief. "We had a small window after the rice harvest and before landowners started pumping up fields for duck season, and the heavy rainfall we've experienced has closed that window."

"The rice fields adjacent to the creek have to be dry for us to proceed with the eradication project, and right now they're not," Armstrong added. "The water flowing through Piney Creek is also much higher than it needs to be for us to effectively execute our eradication plan."

Although the eradication project has been delayed, Thursday's meeting will be the final opportunity for the public to comment on the Piney Creek Environmental Assessment. Comments on the Environmental Assessment will become part of the public record as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Environmental Assessment is available at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/>. Copies may be requested by calling (501) 513-4470; by fax, (501) 513-4480; by e-mail, [Mark\\_Sattelberg@fws.gov](mailto:Mark_Sattelberg@fws.gov); or by mail, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 110 S. Amity Road, Conway, AR 72032.

For more information about the meeting, call Keith Stephens at the AGFC Little Rock office at (501) 223-6342 or Mark Sattelberg at the USFWS Conway Field Office at (501) 513-4470.

## Commercial fishing public meeting Sept. 25 in Brinkley

BRINKLEY – The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed commercial fishing regulations at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at the AGFC Brinkley Regional Office.

AGFC staff will present information about proposed changes for 2009, including a reduction in the paddlefish minimum-length limit from 36 to 35 inches on the Mississippi River. The proposed change would make Arkansas's length limit consistent with Mississippi and Tennessee as part of a three-state management plan for Mississippi River paddlefish.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on proposed changes during the meeting.

More information on the meeting and proposed changes is available by calling the AGFC Fisheries Division at (501) 223-6371.



## Roads reopened on Choctaw Island and Trusten Holder WMAs

MONTICELLO – The Arkansas Game and Fish has reopened two Wildlife Management Area roads that had been closed due to floods from Hurricane Gustav.

The main road leading to Choctaw Island WMA was opened last week. While the roads are open, the contractor has not completely finished his work, according to regional supervisor Roger Milligan. "We felt we were at a point that the roads could be opened with a minimal amount of distractions to the contractor in trying to finish his work while allowing the public to utilize the area once again," Milligan said.

The primary access road for Trusten Holder



WMA in Arkansas County, as well as Big Island, had to be closed immediately following Gustav's departure. A 48-inch culvert washed out on the access road as a direct result from hurricane runoff. That road has also reopened.

Milligan said that he wanted to make sure the public is aware that the roads have been repaired. "We know these closings have been troublesome and frustrating to many people however, we have worked diligently to get these roads opened as soon as we possibly could to minimize the lack of opportunities for the public to access these areas for their preferred outdoor activities" he explained.

## Over 94,000 pounds of fish stocked in state's waters

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission crews stocked over 344,000 fish in Arkansas lakes and rivers during August, according to Mike Armstrong, chief of fisheries. The total stocking of fish weighed in excess of 94,000 pounds.

### August stockings:

Beaver Tailwater, Carroll County, 8,567 catchable rainbow trout  
Cane Creek Lake, Lincoln County, 870 catchable channel catfish  
Lake Columbia, Columbia County, 35,000 threadfin shad  
DeGray Lake, Hot Spring County, 2,590 fingerling hybrid striped bass  
Ed Gordon WMA Pond, Conway County, 300 catchable channel catfish  
Flakeboard Pond, Hot Spring County, 400 catchable channel catfish  
Lake Grampus, Ashley County, 920 catchable channel catfish  
Holder Cabin Lake, Carroll County, 250 catchable channel catfish  
Interstate Pond #2, Monroe County, 300 catchable channel catfish  
Little Red River, Cleburne County, 29,675 catchable rainbow trout  
Mirror Lake, Stone County, 2,500 catchable rainbow trout  
Lake Monticello, Drew County, 750 catchable channel catfish  
Lake Monticello, Drew County, 40,000 threadfin shad  
Norfolk River, Baxter County, 9,895 catchable rainbow trout  
Lake Ouachita, Garland County, 51,830 fingerling striped bass  
Spring River, Fulton County, 14,120 catchable rainbow trout  
Storm Creek Lake, Phillips County, 1,300 catchable channel catfish  
Lake Valencia, Pulaski County, 600 catchable channel catfish  
Lake Wallace, Drew County, 900 catchable channel catfish  
White River, Baxter, IZard, Marion and Stone Counties, 143,408 catchable rainbow trout



## AGFC to host deer management workshops

LITTLE ROCK – Do you have questions about managing deer on private lands? The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has the answers. The AGFC will be hosting two deer management workshops in September to help private landowners better manage their deer herds.

As outlined in the goals of the [2007 Strategic Deer Management Plan](#), the AGFC will be conducting the public workshops to help landowners with several topics.



The first workshop will be on Sept. 23 in Sheridan followed by another workshop on Sept. 30 in Fayetteville.

The Sept. 23 workshop will be held at the Epperson Center in Sheridan beginning at 6 p.m. Speakers and topics will include: AGFC deer biologists – General Deer Biology; AGFC private lands biologists – Deer Management Assistance Program; Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry representatives – How to Donate Game to the Needy; AGFC law enforcement – Credible Witness Program; private timber company representatives – Combining Deer and Forest Management. Information booths will be set up by groups such as the Arkansas Bowhunters Association, Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance and the Quality Deer Management Association

The second workshop will take place Sept. 30 at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center Arena at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Speakers and topics will include: AGFC deer biologists – General Deer Biology; AGFC biologists – Management of Wedington WMA; US Forest Service personnel – Deer management on National Forests; Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry representatives – How to Donate Game to the Needy; AGFC Law Enforcement – Credible Witness Program

Information booths will be set up by groups such as the Arkansas Bowhunters Association, Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance and the Quality Deer Management Association

For additional information, contact the AGFC at (501) 223-6359.

## **Ouachita River clean-up postponed due to flooding**

MALVERN – The Ouachita River Sweep, a clean-up program originally scheduled for Sept. 20 at various spots along the Ouachita River in Arkansas, has been postponed until spring 2009 because of flooding.

## **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. 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."

Sept. 28 – Skeet shooting contest, 2 p.m., Point Remove Lodge in Hattiesville. The University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton Foundation is sponsoring the three person contest. For more information call Mary Clark at (501) 977-2011 or Kristi Stain at (501) 977-2085.

Sept. 30 – "Metro Fishing Hotspots" will be presented by AGFC fisheries biologist Clifton Jackson at the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock. The program will be held from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. The nature center is located at 602 Clinton Ave. in the River Market District of downtown Little Rock. For more information, call (501) 907-0636.

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. 4 - Keith Sutton of Alexander, one of the country's best-known fishing writers, will be the featured speaker for a special crappie fishing seminar sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. His talk, "Learn New Tricks for Catching Big Slabs," will begin at 9 a.m., Oct. 4 at South Arkansas Community College, 300 S. West Ave., in El Dorado. "Crappie are the most popular panfish in Arkansas," said Sutton. "But many anglers find them hard to catch outside the spring spawning season. This seminar, for both beginning and experienced fishermen, will provide simple tips anyone can use to catch more crappie year-round." Sutton, a native Arkansan, has been an avid crappie fisherman for almost four decades. His first-hand knowledge of the sport, and tips he's learned from pro crappie anglers nationwide, form the basis for his latest book, "The Crappie Book: Basics and Beyond," which was released last year by Stoeger Publishing in Accokeek, Maryland. The seminar, funded by the 1/8th-Cent Conservation Sales Tax, is free to the public. Refreshments and door prizes will be available. For more information, call AGFC regional education coordinator Laura Rogers at (870) 818-6378.

Oct. 11 – Turkey/hoot owl calling contest, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Desha County Fairgrounds in McGehee. For more information, go to [www.mcgeheechamber.com](http://www.mcgeheechamber.com) or call (870) 222-3880.

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 website or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pochontas 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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