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Arkansas Outdoors for October 1, 2008

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Leftover WMA deer hunting permits go on sale Oct. 6

LITTLE ROCK - Leftover Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Management Area deer hunting permits will be on sale at several AGFC regional offices and the Little Rock office beginning Monday, Oct. 6, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A limited number of the \$10 permits for modern gun, muzzleloader and youth hunting are available. They are the leftovers from the Commission's permit process this year and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each buyer must furnish date of birth, address and current driver's license number or Social Security number for each hunter. There is one change to note this year. This year the AGFC will not require a hunter's education card in order for a youth 15 and under to purchase a permit. A buyer may purchase permits for up to four individuals for each type of hunt. Permits are not transferable or refundable. Cash, check, debit or credit cards and money orders are accepted for payment.

The Little Rock office is at 2 Natural Resources Drive, off Markham Street just east of Interstate 430, (800) 364-4263. Regional offices and toll-free phones: Hope, (877) 777-5580; Brinkley, (877) 734-4581; Monticello, (877) 367-3559; Hot Springs, (877) 525-8606; Russellville, (877) 967-7577 and Camden, (877) 836-4612.



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This information is also available on the AGFC Web site, www.agfc.com, or call the Wildlife Hotline at (800) 440-1477.

Wildlife Management Area	Hunt Date	Leftover Permits	Sales Location
Modern Gun Youth Permit Hunt			
Hope Upland WMA	Nov. 1-2	32	Hope
Howard County WMA	Nov. 1-2	89	Hope, HS* and LR*
J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA	Oct. 18-19	32	Russellville
Lake Greeson WMA	Nov. 1-2	80	Hope, HS* and LR*
Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA	Nov. 15	107	LR* and Brinkley
Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA	Nov. 1-2	248	LR*, Monticello and Camden
St. Francis National Forest WMA	Nov. 15	33	Brinkley
U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA	Dec. 26-28	90	Brinkley and LR*
Muzzleloader Permit Hunts			
Bayou Meto WMA	Oct. 11-15	49	LR* and Brinkley
Camp Robinson WMA 2nd Hunt	Nov. 16	218	LR*
Cut-Off Creek WMA	Oct. 11-15	131	Monticello and LR*
Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois d'Arc WMA	Oct. 11-15	89	Hope and LR*
Fort Chaffee WMA 2nd Hunt	Nov. 30	97	Fort Smith
Howard County WMA	Oct. 18-26,	32	Hope
	Dec. 13-15		
Lake Greeson WMA	Oct. 18-26,	318	Hope, HS* and LR*

	Dec. 13-15		
Little Bayou WMA	Oct. 11-15	11	Monticello
Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA	Oct. 18-23	168	LR*, Monticello and Camden
Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA	Oct. 18-22	31	Brinkley
Sheffield Nelson Dagmar WMA	Oct. 18-22	13	Brinkley
Modern Gun Permit Hunts			
Bayou Meto WMA	Nov. 1-5	73	LR* and Brinkley
Camp Robinson WMA 2nd Hunt	Nov. 29-30	39	LR*
Choctaw Island WMA (Mobility Impaired Hunt)	Oct. 31-Nov. 3	36	Monticello
Cut-Off Creek WMA	Nov. 1-5	176	Monticello and LR*
Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois d'Arc WMA	Nov. 1-5	44	Hope
Fort Chaffee WMA 2nd Hunt	Nov. 23	61	Fort Smith
Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA	Nov. 8-13	163	LR*, Monticello and Camden
Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA	Nov. 28-Dec. 3	218	LR*, Monticello and Camden
Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA	Dec. 13-18	235	LR*, Monticello and Camden
Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA	Dec. 26-31	243	LR*, Monticello and Camden
<i>HS*-Hot Springs</i>			
<i>LR*-Little Rock</i>			

Determined Hot Springs hunter takes bull elk

COMPTON – Robert Burks of Hot Springs knew he needed to take the first opportunity at an Arkansas elk. He did, and he scored.

Burks was one of four persons who won a permit to hunt bull elk in the September portion of the 11th Arkansas elk hunt. After two days of hard hunting in rugged mountain country along the Buffalo National River, Burks and his helpers saw an elk for the first time on Wednesday.

But it wasn't a chance for a shot. They worked the same area later in the day, and this time the bull elk popped into view about 30 yards from Burks.

He quickly got his .270 rifle up, fired and the elk staggered but didn't go down. He fired again and again hit the bull. It went down, tried to get up, and a third shot from Burks finished it.

The elk he took was a modest one – 3X4 antlers, meaning three points on one side and four on the other. Burks checked the elk at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission check station at Compton where it tipped the scales at 433 pounds.

Burks was hunting with his 13-year-old son C.J. and his long-time hunting buddy John Oliver. Burks said, "I've hunted deer, lots of deer, but this is my first time to hunt elk. I never saw an elk until today. The others went down to Boxley Valley to look at those elk (which are in a no hunting zone), but I didn't go. I didn't want to see an elk until I was ready to shoot it."

The hunting friends, Burks and Oliver, have applied for the Arkansas elk permits 11 straight years, ever since elk hunting began on a limited basis in 1998. Burks was successful this year. He attended the required hunter orientation session on Sunday, and his group camped in the Erbie area along the Buffalo River.

Burks is retired after being injured in a forklift accident. He said, "We walked I don't know how many miles up and down hills Monday, Tuesday and most of Wednesday, then we found this elk just a short distance from our camp."

He added, "You need motorized shoes up here to elk hunt."

And he had a bit of help. Son C.J. had practiced elk calls and called in the bull elk. His caller? A length of old heater hose from a truck.

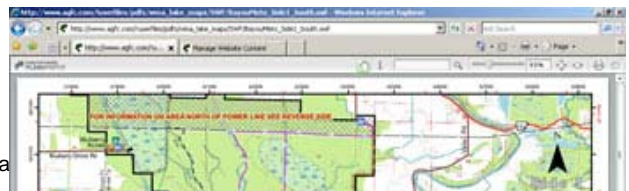
Burks and his crew grinned with the AGFC biologists as they finished their work with the bull elk and headed back to the Erbie camp. "First thing we are going to do after we dress that elk is to cut out the backstraps and have some real good eating," Oliver said.



New map products available from the AGFC

LITTLE ROCK - Arkansas offers some of the best hunting and fishing opportunities around. Over the years, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has constructed, acquired and purchased land and lakes to provide outdoor enthusiasts with places to hunt, fish and enjoy the great outdoors.

With over 100 lakes and wildlife management areas spanning thousands of a



State's great outdoors.

The agency's Geographic Information System division has produced a number of new wildlife management area maps on the AGFC Web site. The new maps offer a variety of sizes to fit every outdoor enthusiasts needs. To view the new maps, go to: <http://www.agfc.com/data-facts-maps/maps/wildlife-mgt-areas.aspx>.

The agency's Web site also features an interactive map at: <http://apps.geostor.arkansas.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=agfc>. It's an easy way to find lakes, nature centers, AGFC regional offices and hatcheries in Arkansas.

Another new product available to the Arkansas hunter is a 2008-09 Zone Map Pocket Guide. The free guide contains the state's turkey, bear and deer zones along with season dates and game tags. The pocket guide is available by calling (501) 223-6352 or by email at information@agfc.com. Make sure you provide a mailing address. The maps also are available at the AGFC central office in Little Rock and around the state at the agency's regional offices.

NWTF teams up with Arkansas disabled veterans

NORTH LITTLE ROCK - The National Wild Turkey Federation's Wheelin' Sportsmen program and the Arkansas State Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further help disabled veterans.

Through the partnership, the Arkansas DAV and Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF have agreed to help enrich the lives of America's disabled men and women by informing veterans about local outreach events and providing free copies of the NWTF's Wheelin' Sportsmen magazine to local DAV chapters and Veterans Affairs hospitals.

Founded in 1920, DAV is an organization focused on building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. Its Arkansas State Chapter consists of 32 local chapters with more than 18,000 members total. Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF is an outreach program that provides outdoor recreation opportunities to those with disabilities.

"This partnership is the perfect combination of two groups that continually strive to improve the lives of disabled veterans," said Arkansas DAV Adjutant Sean Neff. "The opportunity to get these veterans back in the outdoors enjoying their favorite activities is priceless."

Whether it is shooting, hunting, fishing or archery, there is no limit to the outdoor opportunities Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF can bring to people with disabilities who are eager to get outside and participate in a more active lifestyle.

"We're looking forward to making an already great partnership even better," said Illana Burkhart, Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF assistant national coordinator. "It's extremely rewarding to see the smiles on peoples' faces as they harvest a turkey or catch a fish, especially since some may have thought they would never have the chance to enjoy these things again. But by working together, the DAV and Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF are making it happen."

To learn more about the DAV or to find a local chapter, visit the [DAV's Web site](#). To find a Wheelin' Sportsmen chapter or outreach event in your area, visit the [Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF Web site](#).



Join the Great Arkansas Wren Survey

LITTLE ROCK – Audubon Arkansas and the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University are asking Arkansans to become citizen scientists in search of a rare and declining Arkansas bird – the Bewick's Wren. "Arkansans have the opportunity to contribute significantly to a very important conservation issue," said Dr. James Bednarz, Professor of Wildlife Ecology at ASU. "By learning where Bewick's Wrens live and which habitats they prefer, we can make informed decisions about how best to manage for the species," he added.

The Bewick's Wren (pronounced Buick, like the car) was a once-common songbird in Arkansas. Unfortunately, the Bewick's Wren is now a species of high conservation concern throughout much of its range and especially east of the Mississippi River. Arkansas is the frontline for stemming the songbird's decline, since the eastern edge of its range currently runs through our state.

Scientists speculate that the decline of the Bewick's Wren is due to habitat loss as well as competition with the House Wren for nest sites. Researchers at Audubon Arkansas and ASU need help from ordinary citizens to search for wrens across the state.



While the project's focus is on conserving the Bewick's Wren, participants will also count Carolina and House Wrens. These species resemble the Bewick's Wren, but are much more common and live in a wider variety of habitats. The Carolina Wren, which looks most like the Bewick's Wren, is a common backyard bird, often visiting feeders. The rare Bewick's Wrens tend to shy away from developed areas, but may visit or even nest in yards if conditions are suitable.

To learn more about how you can help, visit the Arkansas Wren Survey web site at <http://ar.audubon.org/wren>. The survey is free, fun and open to anyone of any age and experience level who can spend at least 4 hours at least twice per year looking and listening for wrens in appropriate habitat.

Participants also can chat with each other, share stories and findings, and ask questions through the project's e-mail discussion group, ARWREN. Funding is provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission through the State Wildlife Grant program.

For more information contact: Dr. Dan Scheiman, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Arkansas. dscheiman@audubon.org or telephone (501)244-2229.

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.

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. 27-Oct. 6 (bag limit two).

Statewide Canada goose season:

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:

Oct. 4-19

Dec. 13, 2008-Jan. 2, 2009

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:

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, 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

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 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/ 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 www.ArkCats.Org website, or contact ACA president James Freeman of Pochontas 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 - 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: the 2009 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 "Urban Deer Hunting."

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 "Wild Game Cooking."

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. 13 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "The Art of Carving."

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

Dec. 27 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Holiday Squirrel Hunt."

Jan. 6, 2009 – AGFC hunting regulations meetings, 7 p.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.

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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