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Arkansas Outdoors for October 15, 2008

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Today's Topics

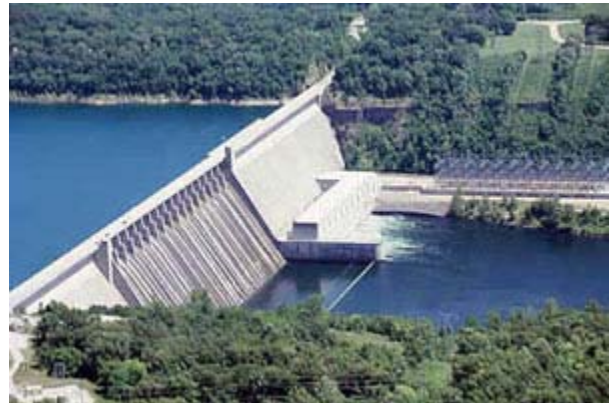
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AGFC monitors dissolved oxygen levels below Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Greers Ferry Dams

LITTLE ROCK - Spring rains provided many benefits for the state's fisheries. The abundant rainfall provided additional water to local fisheries, improved the survival rates of young bass within the lakes and provided sufficient amounts of cold water to support the trout fisheries below Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Greers Ferry Dams.

Along with those benefits come challenges brought on by the spring rains. Flooded boat ramps and campgrounds were just two of the problems related to the heavy rains. Another challenge that many may not be aware of and one that usually follows a high rainfall spring is reduced water quality in tailwater trout streams.

This season's low dissolved oxygen conditions are occurring in the Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Greers Ferry tailwaters. These conditions can result in slowed feeding, lower catch rates and reduce survival. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Southwestern Power Administration are working together to monitor water quality.



Under the Operation Action Plan for 2008, the AGFC will cease stocking trout in any river where the dissolved oxygen is less than six parts per million during the period of time planned for the trout to be stocked. Trout are not stocked in areas with low dissolved oxygen to avoid stressing the fish as they are stocked. It also allows the remaining trout the best opportunities for survival should conditions continue to decline.

AGFC Cold Water Coordinator Melissa Jones said that trout stocking activities have ceased in the upper 24 miles of the Bull Shoals tailwater, the upper 4 miles of the Norfolk tailwater and the upper 6 miles of the Greers Ferry tailwater. "This policy helps reduce the risk of mortality of stocked trout and to get the best use of the trout stocked by the AGFC," Jones explained.

Trout that are not stocked in the scheduled locations will be held at

the hatchery until conditions get better, Jones said. "As things improve, stocking will resume. Conditions this year are worse than normal because of the unusually large amount of rainfall this spring," she said. AGFC biologists expect these conditions to continue through this fall until sometime in December when surface water cools and a winter wind is able to remix and re-aerate the lake.

The actual area where trout are stocked will vary according to measured conditions. The trout management program staff will continue to monitor the situation and work to protect the health of the state's trout fishery and ensure anglers can enjoy a good fishing experience.

Muzzle-loader newcomers need to learn the basics

LITTLE ROCK – "How do you load this thing"? Silly question, but it will be asked here and there as Arkansas's muzzle-loading season for deer gets underway.

It is also the black powder season for bear. Check your Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Hunting Guidebook for specifics.

Nearly everyone who has recently purchased or borrowed a muzzle-loading rifle for the first time has practiced with it. Many of these neophytes are now comfortable with the gun or at least not apprehensive about taking it to the woods.

Call it a front-end loader, smoke pole, charcoal burner, whatever, nearly any muzzle-loading rifle you buy these days will be effective on Arkansas deer. That is, depending on the person using it – but that's also the case with modern guns, the cartridge rifles.



For starters, there is nothing to beat tutelage from someone who has used a muzzle-loader. That person can take you step by step through the process, and that person will emphasize that shooting a muzzle-loader does not end with pulling the trigger and hearing the boom. There is the essential cleaning process that you don't find with modern guns.

First, acquire and look over the ingredients of muzzle-loader shooting. These are rifle, powder, bullet, patch, lubricant, percussion cap. Learn and become comfortable with the sequence of loading. It's not difficult, but don't try to skip or shortcut any of the steps.

Note the last item listed, the percussion cap. That goes on last. Never put a cap on the firing mechanism until the gun is loaded with powder and bullet.

They call it a ramrod, the long wood or plastic stick that is housed under the rifle's barrel. Forget the "ram" phrase. The instructions are to tamp the powder into place. This means a firm but gentle push with the ramrod, not a slamming of it.

Patch and lubricant will depend on the items you have purchased. Follow instructions that came with the rifle, if you bought it new.

If the recommended powder load is 60 grains, put 60 grains of powder into the barrel. More is not better, whatever you may have heard. A heavier than recommended load of powder is dangerous, of course, and it also affects accuracy in many cases. Stick with what the manufacturer says.

All right, you load the black powder rifle, you hunt all day, and you don't shoot a deer. What next? Unload it before getting into a vehicle, and unloading doesn't mean just removing the cap from the firing nipple.

You have two choices, and many hunters simply fire the rifle safely into the ground to unload it. An alternative is to use a bullet puller after the cap is removed then work out the patch and the powder. Some modern muzzle-loaders make these easier with removable breech plugs.



When the gun is unloaded, if it has been fired, and you are home or in camp, you clean out the barrel thoroughly with soap and water. A brush or swap on the end of the ramrod or on a cleaning rod is needed.

Work through the process from start to finish just a few times, and it becomes routine. Then muzzle-loader season becomes

more enjoyable in addition to your hunting more days and perhaps bringing home good meat for the table.

Five county workshop for farm producers offered

RUSSELLVILLE - Farmers have new and expanded federal and private land programs available to them to restore wildlife habitat on the farm and at the same time receive significant farm income and financial incentives on acres enrolled. The programs offer supplemental income through programs like the Farm Service Agency's Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Easements, GreenTrees and others.

A farm producer workshop will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Building, 1805 East Parkway in Russellville to provide specific program information that may prove helpful to many farmers. A meal will be provided to farmers attending the meeting for those that pre-register to secure a seat and meal.

Sponsors of the workshop include the Pope, Logan, Johnson, Conway and Yell County Conservation Districts and the County Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, Ducks Unlimited and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The goal of the workshop is to educate farmers on the Continuous Conservation Reserve, EQIP, Carbon Credit Programs and the Ducks Unlimited Conservation Easement program. These programs can create wildlife habitat on the farm along with supplemental farm income from yearly conservation rental payments, carbon tree payments, tax credits and incentives and establish habitat conditions for future alternative incomes through leasing the hunting rights.



There is a ground swell of farmers enrolling either field edges or whole fields, primarily on marginally productive croplands into CRP, according to AGFC private lands coordinator David Long. "Currently, several thousand acres have been enrolled in these continuous CRP practices by farm producers in these counties. They range from filter strips and quail buffers to whole fields being restored to wetlands and trees," Long explained.

Many cropland acres across these counties currently are only marginally profitable for agriculture production, according to Mike Whitis, District Conservationist with the Pope County Natural Resources Conservation Service. "These are usually either drought or flood prone, have low yields, can't be irrigated, cropland edges with reduced yields next to timbered areas or just hard to farm for other reasons."

The timing could not be better for farmers to investigate these financial conservation programs, according to Gary Churchill, Pope County Executive Director with the Farm Service Agency. "These programs pay yearly rental payments for up to 15 years, \$100 per acre signing incentives, carbon tree planting payments, and/or provide a tax credit through conservation easements. We are joining our conservation partners to host this workshop to educate producers regarding the many options and let them decide which program may work for them," Churchill said.

Long said another private lands program that can be piggy-backed with whole CRP SAFE tree enrollments and other tree planting practices is entitled- GreenTrees, which inter-plants mixed hardwoods with cottonwood plantings. "GreenTrees, a privately funded program, pays producers planting hardwood and cottonwood seedlings, and offers a substantial cash sum per acre within the first year of enrollment as immediate income and covers tree-planting costs not covered by CRP SAFE," Long said. "The program also offers additional future income from the harvested cottonwood and mixed hardwood trees, plus the landowner may receive a percentage of the carbon credits that are sold in the future," Long added. Only specific soils that are conducive to cottonwood or hardwood planting are eligible for the GreenTrees program and those attending the workshop will be able to talk directly with the program's Arkansas representative.

To register for the workshop, call the Pope County Conservation District at (479) 968-3881, extension #3 no later than close of business Monday, Oct. 20. Seating is limited so, pre-registration is critical to reserving a seat.

It just takes a phone call to buy your hunting, fishing license

LITTLE ROCK - Are you pressed for time with hunting seasons due to open soon? Buy your licenses with a free phone call.

Licenses can be charged to Discover, MasterCard or Visa and can be bought by phoning (800) 364-GAME. In the Little Rock telephone area, call (501) 223-6349.



The basic hunting license is officially the Wildlife Conservation License and costs \$10.50. An option is the \$25 Sportsman's Permit which covers all forms of Arkansas hunting for residents except \$7 state and \$15 federal duck stamps are needed for waterfowl hunting. All hunting licenses and duck stamps expire June 30. Hunting licenses must be in your possession in order to hunt big game.

Subscriptions to Arkansas Wildlife, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission magazine, can also be bought when ordering licenses by phone. The magazine is \$8 a year, which includes the popular Arkansas Wildlife calendar.

'Record Book' means Boone and Crockett for Arkansas deer

LITTLE ROCK - In reliving their past deer hunting season, some Arkansans may wonder if the bragging-size buck they downed "will make the record books."

There are two record books - Boone and Crockett for gun hunting and Pope and Young for archery hunting. "State record" for whitetail deer means listings in these two books, said Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff members.

Symmetry is the big thing in Boone and Crockett scoring. That means that one side of the antlers should look just like the other side. If it doesn't, inches are deducted. Whitetail deer are put in two classifications, typical and non-typical. A typical rack means the points and tines are growing upward. It's non-typical when there are tines growing downward or at odd angles and when there is noticeable palmation (space between points filled in).



All the measuring is in inches, and the final figure for both Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young is a sum of these measurements. The number of points isn't scored. But the more points on an antler, the more there is to measure.

And the old axiom of "if you can get a ring on it, it counts as a point" doesn't hold true with Boone and Crockett. The rules for measuring a point are (1) it must be at least one inch long and (2) its length must be greater than its width at the base.

A hunter should measure his own deer to see if it reaches the standards, which are 170 points for typical racks and 195 points for non-typicals. A rack surpassing these figures will make it into the record book. But racks which fall a little short may be eligible for Boone and Crockett's annual awards program; this has minimums of 160 points for typical racks, 185 for non-typicals. An instructional sheet for measurements can be obtained by phoning the Game and Fish Commission's Wildlife Management Division office at (501) 223-6359.

The required measurements: tip-to-tip spread, greatest spread, inside spread, total length of all abnormal points, length of main beam, length of each point, circumferences of main beam at (1) base, (2) between first and second point (3) between second and third point and (4) between third and fourth point, if present. If the matching points are different in length and circumference, the difference is subtracted from the total.

The measurers use steel tapes for their work.

Almost 150,000 pounds of fish stocked in state's waters

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission crews stocked over 544,600 fish in Arkansas lakes and rivers during September, according to Mike Armstrong, chief of fisheries. The total stocking of fish weighed almost 150,000 pounds.

September stockings:

- **Lake Ann**, Benton County, 1,130 yearling channel catfish
- **Lake Atkins**, Pope County, 1,118 catchable channel catfish



- **Lake Avalon**, Benton County, 670 yearling channel catfish
- **Beaver Lake**, Washington and Benton Counties, 34,690 yearling blue catfish
- **Beaver Lake**, Washington County, 26,415 fingerling striped bass
- **Beaver Tailwater**, Carroll County, 10,237 catchable rainbow trout
- **Bell Lake**, White County, 320 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Berryville**, Carroll County, 400 catchable channel catfish
- **Bobcat Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Bobs Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Booneville City Lak**, Logan County, 904 catchable channel catfish
- **Old Booneville City Lake**, Logan County, 323 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Brittany**, Benton County, 350 yearling channel catfish
- **Cabot Community Pond**, Lonoke County, 600 catchable channel catfish
- **Caddo District Ponds**, Montgomery County, 200 catchable channel catfish
- **Caddo River**, Montgomery County, 605 catchable channel catfish
- **Cane Creek Lake**, Lincoln County, 6,840 yearling blue catfish
- **Lake Catherine**, Garland and Hot Spring Counties, 2,301 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Columbia**, Columbia County, 1,533 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Conway**, Faulkner County, 36,866 yearling Florida bass
- **Lake Conway**, Faulkner County, 5,760 adult bluegill bream
- **Cotter Big Spring**, Baxter County, 300 catchable rainbow trout
- **Cove Lake**, Logan County, 493 catchable channel catfish
- **Cox Creek Lake**, Grant County, 595 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Dardanelle**, Johnson County, 47,000 yearling largemouth bass
- **Lake Dardanelle**, Johnson County, 27,000 yearling grass carp
- **Lake Dardanelle**, Johnson County, 10,000 black crappie
- **Lake DeGray**, Hot Spring and Clark Counties, 5,397 catchable channel catfish
- **DeQueen Lake**, Sevier County, 782 catchable channel catfish
- **Dierks Lake**, Sevier County, 690 catchable channel catfish
- **Doe Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Entergy Park Lake**, Garland County, 400 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Erling**, Lafayette County, 970 yearling grass carp
- **Family Park Lake**, Garland County, 900 catchable channel catfish
- **Field Trial Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Flowers Lake**, St. Francis County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **FmHA Pond**, Woodruff County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Forrest City Sports Complex Pond**, St. Francis County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Galla Creek Reservoir**, Pope County, 646 catchable channel catfish
- **Glaise Creek**, White County, 610 catchable channel catfish
- **Grandview Conservation Pond**, Hempstead County, 500 catchable channel catfish
- **Greers Ferry Lake**, Cleburne County, 4,500 adult bluegill bream
- **Greers Ferry Lake**, Cleburne County, 35,000 yearling largemouth bass
- **Gurdon Lake**, Clark County, 300 catchable channel catfish
- **Hidden Lake**, Carroll County, 300 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Hinkle**, Scott County, 1,272 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Hinkle**, Scott County, 21,000 yearling largemouth bass
- **Honey Lake**, White County, 300 catchable channel catfish
- **Hope City Lake**, Hempstead County, 400 catchable channel catfish
- **Hurricane Lake (Big)**, White County, 300 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Village Community Lake**, Chicot County, 500 catchable channel catfish
- **Little Belle Lake**, Sevier County, 250 catchable channel catfish
- **Little Missouri River**, Clark County, 398 catchable channel catfish
- **Little Red River**, Cleburne and White Counties, 25,090 catchable rainbow trout



- **Loch Lomond Lake**, Benton County, 4,770 yearling channel catfish
- **Mallard Pond**, White County, 300 catchable channel catfish
- **Mamas Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Mammoth Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **McGehee City Park Lake**, Desha County, 200 catchable channel catfish
- **Mirror Lake**, Stone County, 2,000 catchable rainbow trout
- **Murphy Park Lake**, Washington County, 500 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Norfolk**, Baxter County, 20,890 fingerling striped bass
- **Norfolk River**, Baxter County, 10,092 catchable rainbow trout
- **North Fork Lake**, Montgomery County, 180 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Norwood**, Benton County, 350 yearling channel catfish
- **Lake Ouachita**, Montgomery and Garland Counties, 9,935 catchable channel catfish
- **Ozark City Lake**, Franklin County, 1,353 catchable channel catfish
- **Pheasant Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Pine Tree Station**, St. Francis County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Pinnacle Mountain Pond**, Pulaski County, 720 catchable channel catfish
- **Pleasant View Park Pond**, Pope County, 300 catchable channel catfish
- **Poteau Mountain Lake**, Scott County, 300 yearling channel catfish
- **Prairie Grove Lake**, Washington County, 600 yearling channel catfish
- **Quail Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Rabbit Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Rattlesnake Pond**, Prairie County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Rayburn**, Benton County, 450 yearling channel catfish
- **Saline River**, Grant County, 1,055 catchable channel catfish
- **Sebastian County Lake**, Sebastian County, 300 yearling channel catfish
- **Shadow Lake**, Sebastian County, 300 yearling channel catfish
- **Shady Lake**, Polk County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Sherwood City Pond**, Pulaski County, 200 catchable channel catfish
- **Spring River**, Fulton County, 11,970 catchable rainbow trout
- **Twin Lakes "B"**, Pulaski County, 450 catchable channel catfish
- **Veterans Park Pond II**, Benton County, 600 catchable channel catfish
- **Wells Lake**, Sebastian County, 1,000 catchable channel catfish
- **West Memphis City Park Lake**, Crittenden County, 1,316 catchable channel catfish
- **Lower White Oak Lake**, Ouachita County, 1,270 catchable channel catfish
- **Lower White Oak Lake**, Ouachita County, 30,000 fingerling threadfin shad
- **Upper White Oak Lake**, Ouachita County, 1,204 catchable channel catfish
- **White River**, Stone, Baxter, Marion and IZard Counties, 97,417 catchable rainbow trout
- **White River**, Marion County, 20,000 yearling rainbow trout
- **Lake Wilhelmina**, Polk County, 600 catchable channel catfish
- **Wilkins Pond**, St. Francis County, 150 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Willastein**, Pulaski County, 310 catchable channel catfish
- **Willow Beach Park Lake**, Pulaski County, 1,320 catchable channel catfish
- **Lake Windsor**, Benton County, 2,200 yearling channel catfish



Three Arkansas contenders get ready for historic WBT Championship in their home state



HOT SPRINGS - Three of the 20 pros who qualified for this month's historic Women's Bassmaster Tour Championship set for Oct. 23-25 on Lake Hamilton are from Arkansas.

Jan Heavener of Sherwood, Tammy Richardson of Glenwood and Lucy Mize of Ben Lomond are looking

forward to representing their home state at the event on Hamilton, a 7,200-acre impoundment of the Ouachita River on the southern edge of Hot Springs.

"It's a beautiful lake with a big population of spotted bass," said Heavener, who is a first-time WBT Championship qualifier. "I fished it a few years ago, but I really don't know the lake. I was there in the hot summer just to learn my way around, and I've been back to practice the past few weekends."

Mize, a one-time WBT event winner who has qualified for all three of the circuit's championships, said she'll scout Hamilton for a few days before the cutoff, a practice approach with which she's most comfortable.

"I have fished Lake Hamilton, but not for several years," said Mize, who lives more than 100 miles from the championship fishery. "I have some areas in mind that I'll concentrate on. I think the lake plays to my strengths, but Hamilton is going to be a tough tournament."

Richardson, also a championship qualifier since the WBT's inception, spent about a week scouting the lake.

"I have so many other lakes closer to me — Ouachita, De Gray and Lake Greeson — that Hamilton isn't one I've fished a lot," Richardson said. "But I have competed on Hamilton in team tournaments. This time of year, the fish are in transition to fall patterns, and you can catch them deep and you can catch them shallow."

All three home-staters said a win in Arkansas would be the icing on the cake of the WBT Championship title, which includes a Triton/Mercury boat rig valued at \$55,000, plus \$5,000 cash.

The competition will be the biggest event of the WBT season on another count: It will result in the first woman to qualify for a Bassmaster Classic. The Toyota Tundra WBT Angler of the Year, the pro who has amassed the most points through the season, will qualify for the Classic. She will be up against 50 other anglers in the 2009 Bassmaster Classic, set for Feb. 20-22 on the Red River out of Shreveport-Bossier City, La.

The points leaders going into the Lake Hamilton event are Kim Bain of Alabaster, Ala., who has 890 points; Cindy Hill of Smyrna, Tenn., who has 876 points; and Juanita Robinson of Highlands, Texas, with 855 points.

While one of the points leaders could score both the Classic berth and the championship title, it's possible that the championship winner will be among the other 17 qualifiers.

The three pros from Arkansas know they are perhaps too far behind to catch the points leaders, but they're more than happy to be able to focus on taking the WBT Championship trophy.

"All I can do is get out there and try to win it," Heavener said. "Winning would be the highlight of my career, of anyone's career. To have it happen in my home state would be even more special."



For more details on the event, [click here](#).

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. 16 – Rice ‘n Wings Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Craighead County Fairgrounds in Jonesboro. For more information contact John Hardin at (870) 268-2410 or john.hardin@morganstanley.com.

Oct. 16 – Southwest Arkansas Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Hope Country Club. For more information contact Larry England at (870) 703-4944.

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 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 – Moro Creek Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, National Guard Armory in Fordyce. For more information contact Chris Rich at (870) 313-2588 or bigrich_20@yahoo.com.

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. 23 – Central Arkansas Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Clear Channel Building in Little Rock. For more information contact Jeff Marcussen at (501) 831-3818 or jmarcussen@baldwinshell.com.

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 – Magnolia Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, The Main Event Pavilion in Magnolia. For more information contact Greg Harrell at (870) 904-3710 or shane.r.adams@ampf.com.

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."

Oct. 27 – Drew County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Monticello Country Club. For more information contact Paul Griffin at (870) 723-4030 or golferpaul21@yahoo.com.

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. 1 – Logan County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Craighead County Fairgrounds in Paris. For more information contact Shane Vincent at (479) 963-6245 or Marcus Berry at (479) 970-2176 or shanev@hprd.k12.ar.us.

Nov. 1 – Ouachita County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Riverwoods in Camden. For more information contact Alan Dean at (870) 818-4195 or aland@gwhsi.com.

Nov. 6 - The Twin City Chapter of Delta Waterfowl will hold their annual banquet on at the Clear Channel Metroplex. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by banquet 6 p.m. and the auction at 7 p.m. Please contact David Frazier at (501) 772-4907 for tickets or additional information.

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

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. 10, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Bald Eagle."

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

Jan. 17, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Watchable Wildlife and Outdoor Photography."

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

Jan. 24, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Ladies Only Duck Hunt."

Jan. 31, 2009 – Outdoor Sportsmen Banquet, Greenwood High School basketball arena, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jan. 31, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Late Season Duck Hunt."

Feb. 7, 2009 - 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 Knife Making."

Feb. 14, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Run, Rabbit, Run."

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.

Feb. 21, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Bringing Back the Bobwhite Quail."

Feb. 28, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Zig-Jigging for Trout."

March 7, 2009 - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Raccoon Hunting."

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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