



News

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Arkansas Outdoors for November 12, 2008

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National Trails Symposium coming to Little Rock this weekend

LITTLE ROCK - Outdoor enthusiasts from across the country will be making a trek to Arkansas for the National Trails Symposium beginning the weekend. The theme of the symposium is "Innovative Trails - Transforming the American Way of Life" and will be held Nov. 15-18.

During the symposium, which is open to the public and being held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, dozens of speakers and presenters from across the country will cover top trail issues. The event is an opportunity for trail advocates and users to hear and network with experts in the national trails community.

NTS is a biennial conference hosted by American Trails, a nonprofit organization based in Redding, Calif. that works to protect America's network of interconnected trails.

"By bringing the symposium to Arkansas, American Trails is offering an opportunity for Arkansans to build a better local and statewide trails system and community," said Terry Eastin, Co-Chair of NTS and Executive Director of Mississippi River Trail, Inc. "Infusing pivotal trail supporters and developers with the quality education available in America has always been the main goal of bringing the symposium here."

Eastin said speakers from around the nation and world compete to be allowed to present at the gathering. With over 50 education sessions and around a dozen mobile workshops (at various central Arkansas sites), there will be a topic of interest for everyone.



Along with the symposium, two keynote luncheons will take place. Richard Jackson, Professor and Chair, Environmental Health Science, UCLA School of Public Health and co-author of Urban Sprawl and Public Health, will give a talk: Trails: Prescription for Better Health on Sunday Nov. 16. The Medical Mile of the Arkansas River Trail will be

featured too. The closing luncheon, Getting Kids on Trails! will take place Tuesday, Nov. 18 featuring Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods. Those not registered for the symposium can still attend the luncheons for a small fee. The Louv luncheon will be \$35.00 (including the meal) or \$10.00 for the lecture. The fee for Dr. Jackson's luncheon is \$25 (including the meal).

Before the symposium kicks off, a public awareness event, Building Public Awareness for Trails, will take place on Saturday Nov. 15 inside the Governor's Exhibit Hall I and in Riverfront Park. The free event is sponsored by Lewis and Clark Outfitters and is an opportunity for those interested to come and learn more about the symposium and the importance of trails.

"With pending trails legislation to establish a permanent \$2 million dollar a year Arkansas trails grant fund, there will never be a better time to come out, be seen, be heard, and help support these wonderful community assets for economic development, better health and conservation of natural resources," said Eastin.

Major private Arkansas sponsors for the National Trails Symposium include Heart Clinic Arkansas, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield and St. Vincent Health System. Key Arkansas public agencies have also provided sponsorship through the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock and Pulaski County. Federal funding has been provided through the Federal Highway Administration, National Parks Service, the USDA Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Registration for the symposium is available online at: www.americantrails.org/2008/register.html. Full or one day registration continues up to the start of the symposium. However, people are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Rooms are still available in a few of the host hotels. For more information, contact American Trails at symposium@americantrails.org or call (530) 547-2060. For a detailed scheduled of events, visit www.americantrails.org.

Guided birding tours planned at Lake Chicot State Park

LAKE VILLAGE - Starting Dec. 1, Lake Chicot State Park in Lake Village will offer birding lake tours. Participants will be taken on guided tours into the cypress swamp and the surrounding area for the opportunity to see many of Arkansas's winter migrants.

Dates and times for the tours vary. For more information, contact Lake Chicot State Park at (870) 265-5480 or visit www.ArkansasStateParks.com.



Dates have been changed for Jardis Point mobility impaired deer hunt

GILLETT - Dates for the Jardis Point portion of the Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area Special Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt have been changed, as recommended by officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

At the time the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's 2008-09 Arkansas Hunting Guidebooks were published, this special hunt was scheduled to begin at noon, Nov. 26 through noon, Nov. 28. Due to potential conflicts with the Thanksgiving holidays, the Corps of Engineers officials requested to change the hunt dates to noon, Nov. 24 through noon, Nov. 26.

The Corps has notified all permit holders of the season date changes.



This Special Mobility Impaired Deer

Hunt is administered entirely through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the application process. All applicants must meet the qualifying criteria established by the Corps which is different from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's mobility impaired access permit criteria.

All other hunters are reminded that all other hunting seasons are closed during this Special Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt on the Jardis Point portion of the Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area.

Birding tour scheduled Dec. 13 on Lake Charles

POWHATAN - Lake Charles State Park near Powhatan will host a birding lake tour on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Spend the morning on Lake Charles searching for the feathered creatures that call the area home. Don't forget to bring binoculars. For more information, phone (870) 878-6595 or visit www.ArkansasStateParks.com.



Millwood Lake drawdown postponed until summer

ASHDOWN - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, has postponed the drawdown of Millwood Lake until the summer.

A drawdown similar to one begun last November was scheduled to begin this month. Because of the postponement, it will begin in early July 2009. The delay also has been coordinated with Arkansas State Parks.

The drawdowns are intended to control unwanted and damaging aquatic vegetation that is in moderate to heavy concentrations in parts of the reservoir. The excessive vegetation not only creates hazards for boaters and anglers, but it also accelerates silting of the lakebed and damages the lake environment.



For more information call Steve Spicer at (870) 898-3343 or e-mail him at steven.e.spicer@usace.army.mil.

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 5: 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: Dec. 13-15.

Zones 9, 12, 16, 16A and 17: Dec. 29-31.

Zones 4, 4B, 5 and 5B: Closed.

The statewide Christmas holiday modern gun deer hunt will be Dec. 26-28.

Duck:

Nov. 22-Dec. 1,

Dec. 6-Dec. 24

Dec. 26-Jan. 25.

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

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:

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.

Bear:

Archery: Zone 1: Oct. 1-Nov. 30

Zone 2: Sept. 15-Nov. 30

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

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

Nov. 13 – Independence County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Batesville Country Club. For more information contact Shannon Huff at (870) 612-3757 or black_mallard@hotmail.com.

Nov. 14 – Clay County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Corning Airport. For more information contact Shane Mansker at (870) 219-2056 or ag_pilot1@hotmail.com.

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. 15 – Hurricane Lake Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Carmichael Center in Searcy. For more information contact Larry Winningham at (501) 268-5085 or shelma@sbcglobal.net or Roger McClain at (501) 412-2621 or deerhunter72568@yahoo.com.

Nov. 15 – Delta Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, McGehee Country Club. For more information contact Troy Meaux at (870) 818-5658 or temeaux@yahoo.com.

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. 20 – Paragould Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, National Guard Armory. For more information contact Jarrod Kersey at (870) 476-2549 or dexum@grnco.net.

Nov. 20 – Pine Bluff Razorback Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Harbor Oaks Country Club. For more information contact Bryan Hornsby at (870) 267-3885.

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 – Brookings Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Brookings Landing. For more information contact Eric or Carolann Wilmes at (870) 236-4225 or ufoundcarolann@hotmail.com.

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 – Poinsett County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Trumann Recreational Complex. For more information contact Chris Gairhan at (870) 530-2899 or cgairhan@yahoo.com.

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. 6 – Cypress Bayou Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Beebe National Guard Armory. For more information contact Barry Wolfe at (501) 681-4286 or wolfe.barry@gmail.com.

Dec. 12 – Hughes Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Hughes Fire Station. For more information contact Bobby Cupples at (901) 489-7263.

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. 13 – East Arkansas Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Southland Greyhound Park. For more information contact Jason Rodgers at (870) 225-6642 or agoinc4450@aol.com.

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."

Dec. 31 – Razorduck Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Foothills Indoor Arena in Clarksville. For more information contact Cheryl Feikema at (479) 754-3924 or cherdene@suddenlink.net.

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. 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. 10, 2009 – Booneville Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, First Baptist Church in Booneville. For more information contact Josh Boersma at (479) 518-4250 or boersma66@yahoo.com.

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. 17, 2009 – Black River Chapter of Ducks Unlimited membership banquet, Rolling Hills Country Club in Pochontas. For more information contact Joey Pfeffer at (870) 378-1926 or joey.pfeffer@afbic.com.

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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