



# News

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## Arkansas Outdoors for December 10, 2008

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### Today's Topics

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### Arkansas Outdoors to take week off during holidays

EDITOR'S NOTE: Arkansas Outdoors and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Fishing Report will not be produced on Dec. 24 because of the holiday season. The next issue of the AGFC's electronic news release package will be on Wednesday, Dec. 31. The weekly waterfowl report will be issued through the holidays, however.

## Application period for WMA turkey hunt begins Dec. 15

LITTLE ROCK – Beginning Monday, Dec. 15, Arkansas turkey hunters may apply for limited permits on several Arkansas Game and Fish Commission wildlife management areas for the 2009 spring turkey season.

This year, the AGFC is accepting permits only online at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com). Applicants may also apply by calling the AGFC at (800) 364-4263 ext. 6359 or by contacting a regional office during normal business hours. The application period is open through Jan. 15, 2009.

Online applications must be submitted on or before Jan. 15, 2009, to be eligible for the computer drawings. Selected applicants must pay a \$10 processing fee. Applicants under 16 must have a hunter education card. The AGFC will be sending out draw notifications by email for applicants who list an email address when applying online. All drawn applicants (whether they list an email address or not) will also be mailed a notification to the address listed on the application. Applicants can go to the Web site and type in their applicant ID number (either driver's license, Social Security or hunter education number) and date of birth to view the information.



Quota permit hunts are planned on Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA, Camp Robinson and Bell Slough WMA, Choctaw Island WMA, Cut-Off Creek WMA, Dr Lester Sitzes Bois d'Arc WMA, Gulf Mountain WMA, HE Alexander

Spring River WMA, Holland Bottoms WMA, Lafayette County WMA, Mclroy Madison County WMA, Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA, Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA, Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA and Cache River NWR, Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMA, Sulphur River WMA, and Sylamore WMA. Permit hunts will also be available on Felsenthal, Pond Creek and Holla Bend national wildlife refuges.



Several WMAs in Arkansas will hold youth turkey hunts, and they include Bayou Meto WMA, Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA, Big Lake WMA, Choctaw Island WMA, Cut-Off Creek WMA, Gulf Mountain WMA, Harold Alexander Spring River WMA, Holland Bottoms WMA, Lafayette County WMA, Mclroy Madison County WMA, Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA, Moro Big Pine Natural Area WMA, Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA and Cache River NWR, Rick Evans Grandview Prairie and Hope Upland WMA, Sulphur River WMA, Trusten Holder WMA, U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WMA, WE Brewer Scatter Creek WMA and Wedington WMA..

Youth and quota permit hunts for Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA are separate from the permit hunts on Felsenthal NWR. To apply for a Felsenthal NWR or Pond Creek NWR spring turkey permit, contact the Felsenthal NWR at

(870) 364-3167 or [www.fws.gov/felsenthal](http://www.fws.gov/felsenthal). To apply for a Holla Bend NWR spring turkey permit, contact Holla Bend NWR at (479) 229-4300 or [www.fws.gov/southeast/hollaend](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/hollaend).

The spring 2009 turkey season will begin with the youth hunt on March 28 to 29 for zone 17 and April 4 to 5 for the rest of the state. A hunter education card is not required for the general youth hunt, only the permit youth hunt. Youths without a hunter education card during the general youth hunt must be under direct supervision of a holder of a valid hunting license at least 21 years of age.

The rest of the season will be April 11 to May 1 in zones 1, 2, 3, 4B, 5, 5B, 6, 7, 7A, 8, 9 and 10; April 11 to 24 in zones 4, 4A, 5A and 9A and April 4 to 25 in zone 17. Zone 1A is closed.

The bag limit for the spring season will be two legal turkeys in all zones. Hunters will not be able to harvest more than one legal turkey per day and no more than one jake. Hunters will also be limited to two turkeys per season. There is a one legal turkey limit for both the youth and quota permit hunts. Turkeys taken during a youth or quota permit hunt count as part of the season bag limit.

## Youth, women lead successful December elk hunt

COMPTON – Levon Ogden of Fayetteville took the first elk of the 2008 December hunt in Buffalo River country – then youngsters and women took over.

Ogden's success came Monday, opening day, on the private-land zone B segment of the hunt. Nathan Creasey of Siloam Springs and Wyatt Jones of Pine Bluff downed bull elk.

Creasey took his elk Monday as dusk was approaching. It was a 5x5 bull (five points on each side of the antlers). He was hunting on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Gene Rush Wildlife Management Area.

Creasey and Jones had either-sex youth permits. Jones scored Tuesday morning with a 2x4 bull, also on the Gene Rush WMA.

Payton Burgess of Pine Bluff and Sherry



Kentner of Benton had permits for antlerless elk, and they both tagged cow elk Tuesday in the same field on Gene Rush WMA.

Burgess had to do some extra work for her elk.

She is a junior accounting major at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, and could not miss classes as the semester wound up. She commuted from Tech to a campground at Carver along the river.

She shot her cow elk with a .25-06 rifle, smiled broadly, told the details and prepared for final exams, which started the next morning.

Kentner had taken an elk in a Western hunt. This time, she downed a good-sized cow elk with a .270 rifle.

Ogden used an unusual game plan for his hunt, which had been successful the year before.

He and brother Nathan spent the night in a box stand on their family property near Sweeden Creek Natural Area in Madison County. They had done that a year before when Nathan got a bull elk.

This time, three bulls appeared at daylight. Two quickly moved out of sight, and Nathan told Levon, "You take him," referring to the third bull. Levon did with one shot from his .300 Magnum rifle. It was a 5x6.

The December elk hunt for public-land hunters and those with private-land permits continues until sundown Friday.

## Public meetings set for input on 2009-10 hunting regulations

LITTLE ROCK - Hunters may voice their opinions about hunting regulations and seasons at one of 11 public meetings across the state Tuesday, Jan. 6.

The meetings are part of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual hunting regulations process. They are held to give hunters and other interested parties the opportunity to make comments and proposals for the 2009-10 hunting seasons.

Comments may be verbal or written. Written comments may be submitted at one of the meetings or mailed to the AGFC, Hunting Regulations Proposals, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR72205. Comments can also be made on the AGFC Web site at



[http://www.agfc.com/hunting/misc\\_hunting/public-meeting.aspx](http://www.agfc.com/hunting/misc_hunting/public-meeting.aspx). The deadline for comments is Jan. 31.

The 11 meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. AGFC personnel will make an initial presentation and accommodate those wishing to speak. Visitors may arrive and leave at any time during the meeting. Meeting sites and AGFC office telephone numbers are:

### **Brinkley**

AGFC Regional Office  
1201 N. Highway 49  
(877) 734-4581

### **Camden**

Camden Fairview High School  
1750 Cash Road  
(877) 836-4612

### **Fayetteville**

University of Arkansas  
Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena  
1335 W. Knapp St.  
(866) 253-2506

**Fort Smith**

Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center  
8300 Wells Lake Road  
(877) 478-1043

**Hope**

Fair Park Community Center  
Fair Park Drive  
(877) 777-5580

**Hot Springs National Park Community College Auditorium**

101 College Drive  
(877) 525-8606

**Jonesboro**

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center  
600 E. Lawson Road  
(877) 972-5438

**Little Rock**

2 Natural Resources Drive  
(800) 364-4263

**Mountain View**

Ozark Folk Center Auditorium  
Highway 382  
(877) 297-4331

**Pine Bluff**

Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center  
1400 Black Dog Road  
(877) 367-3559

**Russellville**

AGFC Regional Office  
1266 Lock and Dam Road  
(877) 967-7577

## Butterfly adorns 2009 conservation license plate

LITTLE ROCK – Looking for a Christmas present for that special someone that has everything? How about a leaping largemouth bass, a mallard drake in flight, a woodpecker listening for grubs or a trophy white-tailed deer? Those are a few images on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's conservation license plates, which debuted with a popular white-tailed deer in 2000.

The 10th plate in the annual series is the Diana fritillary butterfly and will be available beginning Jan. 1. Proceeds from Arkansas's conservation plates are used for conservation-related college scholarships and other conservation education needs.

Animals depicted on the plates have no connection to the use of money raised by the plates. Proceeds from the ivory-billed woodpecker plate, for example, are not used for ivory-billed woodpecker habitat.



High school seniors, college students and graduate students studying conservation or wildlife law

enforcement may apply for a conservation scholarship. Applicants must be full-time students and Arkansas residents with a 2.5 grade-point average. Applications must be submitted by June 1 for fall semesters. For a list of all the requirements, call the AGFC Human Resources Division, (501) 223-6300.

The idea of specialty plates to raise money for causes has been around for decades, although Arkansas's conservation series has taken off, perhaps because each year brings a new plate. Excellent artwork hasn't hurt, either.

Applying for a conservation license plate is easy. Start by downloading a form from the Office of Motor Vehicles specialty plates Web site, [www.arkansas.gov/dfa/motor\\_vehicle/mv\\_plates.php](http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/motor_vehicle/mv_plates.php). Read the instructions, fill out the form and proceed by mail or in person.

By mail – Send the form to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Special License Unit, P.O. Box 1272, Little Rock, AR 72203.

In person – Apply at any of these DFA offices: Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Texarkana, West Memphis, Harrison, Russellville, Conway, Mountain View, Van Buren, El Dorado, Magnolia, Monticello, Hot Springs (airport office) or the Charles Ragland Taxpayer Services Center, 1900 W. Seventh St., Little Rock.

A conservation plate may be purchased with a gift certificate available at AGFC headquarters, 2 Natural Resources Dr. in Little Rock.

The license plates cost \$35 (\$25 goes to the AGFC Conservation Scholarship Education Fund; \$10 goes to DFA), above the cost of a current plate. Plate purchasers have the option of keeping the same expiration date as the plate being replaced or beginning the AGFC plate with a full year's registration.

## **Eagle awareness weekend scheduled for Jan. 9-10**

**BULL SHOALS** - The bald eagle is not only our national symbol, but also a symbol of our ability to save and conserve species. Each winter, the Ozarks plays host to over 100 bald eagles migrating to and through this prime eagle wintering ground.

Bull Shoals-White River State Park annually celebrates their arrival with Eagle Awareness. This will be your chance to get out and see eagles, various other birds of prey, and migratory birds in the wild as expert rangers, naturalists and park interpreters take you within viewing distance. In years past, most visitors to this event have spotted eagles in the wild. Other common sightings on the tours include ospreys, waterfowl, herons, loons, owls, and other winter wildlife. Also, see birds up close and personal as local falconers and bird handlers from the Little Rock Zoo show them off within arms reach.



This year's feature programs will be presented by Dr. Dan Scheiman of Audubon Arkansas, falconer Rusty Scarborough, falconer Howard Davis and the Little Rock Zoo, who will showcase a live mature bald eagle and other birds of prey.

Bull Shoals-White River State Park sponsors Eagle Awareness in conjunction with the Bull Shoals Theater for the Arts, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Gaston's White River Resort, Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock and many other area merchants.

Scheduled activities include guided eagle tours on Bull Shoals Lake and the White River, waterfowl and

eagle spotting van tours, guided birding walks, evening owl prowls, children's programs, and live bird demonstrations.

All activities are Free except for lake and river tours. No reservations will be taken; fees will be collected at the docks prior to boat launch. To register a large group for special performances Jan. 7-8, contact [Julie.Lovett@arkansas.gov](mailto:Julie.Lovett@arkansas.gov) or (870) 445-3629.

For more information contact the park at (870) 445-3629 or by e-mail at [bullshoalswhiteriver@arkansas.gov](mailto:bullshoalswhiteriver@arkansas.gov), or visit the Web at [www.ArkansasStateParks.com/bullshoalswhiteriver](http://www.ArkansasStateParks.com/bullshoalswhiteriver)

## 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 - Zone 4A, 5A, 13, 14 and 15: Nov. 8-Dec. 7.

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 to 28.

Duck:

Dec. 6-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Jan. 25.

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

Statewide Canada goose season:

Dec. 26, 2008 - Jan. 30, 2009 (bag limit two).

White-fronted goose season:

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

Spotted Skunk, Weasel Hunting:

Closed

Fall Turkey:

Archery: All Zones: Oct. 1, 2008-Feb. 28, 2009.

Bear:

Modern Gun: 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.

Zone 4 private lands: Jan. 12-16. The quota is five antlerless elk; two either-sex permits also will be issued.

#### 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

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](mailto:agoinc4450@aol.com).

Dec. 17 – Grand opening of the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center in downtown Little Rock.

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. 20 – As part of the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center grand opening ceremonies,

six professional anglers will be on hand from 1 to 4:30 to meet and greet fans, sign autographs, take pictures and interact about fishing. Larry Nixon, George Cochran, Scott Suggs, Rob Kilby, Mike Wurm and Penny Berryman will be on hand for the festivities. The newest nature center is located in the River Market District in downtown Little Rock.

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](mailto:cherdene@suddenlink.net).

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

Jan. 9-11 – Marine Expo at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Admission is \$5 for adults with children under 12 years admitted free. For more information contact Ken or Kelly Griffey at (501) 765-1423 or (501) 225-6177.

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](mailto: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 Pocahontas. For more information contact Joey Pfeffer at (870) 378-1926 or [joey.pfeffer@afbic.com](mailto: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. 6-8, 2009 – Arkansas Sportshow presented by the Rotary Club of Jonesboro. The Sportshow will be held at the Convocation Center on the campus of Arkansas State University. For more information, go to <http://www.arsportshow.com/home.php>.

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.

**For the latest in Arkansas Game and Fish Commission information go to [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) or call the Wildlife Information Hotline, (800)440-1477.**

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