



News

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Arkansas Outdoors for December 17, 2008

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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.

Last nature center opens in Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK – In the midst of the famous Peabody ducks, a world class lure collection, and state and local dignitaries, the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center official opened for business today. A crowd of over 200 people were on hand to officially open the fourth and final Arkansas Game and Fish Commission nature center made possible by the 1/8th-Cent Conservation Sales Tax.

Witt Stephens Jr. of Little Rock has been a long-time advocate for Arkansas wildlife and conservation. He served on the AGFC from 1993-2000 and helped champion the sales tax, which was approved by voters in 1996.

"I think I speak on behalf of many individuals when I say that the opening of this facility is a truly great event for Little Rock, this region and the entire state of Arkansas," Stephens said. "I am certainly proud and very honored to be associated with such a remarkable resource for our state."

The dedication ceremony featured Gov. Mike Beebe, AGFC Director Scott Henderson, Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines and AGFC Chairman Freddie Black.

The center, at 602 President Clinton Ave., will focus on the



wide variety of outdoor recreation, conservation issues and the state's fish and wildlife resources, according to Henderson.

"The nature center is designed to host school groups and engage children and adults in active learning experiences," Henderson said. "We expect to see approximately 300,000 visitors a year," he said. A group of school children were in attendance to help with the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

There are so many unique and interesting features to our state, Henderson explained. "Our goal is to provide an environment that will educate individuals with casual interest and those individuals who want to explore deeper into its history. Plus, we've really worked hard to make it fun for all ages," he said.



The 16,232-square-foot facility is on 3.4 acres on the bank of the Arkansas River in Little Rock's River Market District. The diversity of Arkansas's natural landscape, habitats and wildlife will be featured through the six natural regions of the state: Ozark Plateau, Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas River Valley, Coastal Plain, Mississippi Delta and Crowley's Ridge.

A 10-minute multimedia presentation filmed in high definition – is one of the center's highlights. It will appear on a large screen that 60 people will be able to view. Each member of the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame will be featured between showings. The show also focuses on the AGFC and the role it plays in conservation.

When the show's over, visitors will pass through an old trapper's cabin, which appears nestled in the woods.

Visitors will follow water as it passes through a continuous series of living habitat exhibits – from a replicated mountain spring into the river's main channel cypress swamps, delta marshlands and a bottomland hardwood forest. Each segment has been isolated with flow-through barriers that contain each habitat's population of fish.

- **Ozark Plateau** – Since this area is rural and includes the Ozark National Forest, the region will be represented with a pool with large rocks and river-bottom pebbles at the base of a series of springs and falling water. Visitors will hear the natural sounds of the region, including elk bugling, turkeys gobbling, squirrels barking, whip-poor-wills and wood thrushes.
- **Ouachita Mountains** – Geologic forces crushed the mid-continent region in Arkansas, forming one of few east-west ranges in North America. Because of this orientation, pine and hardwood forests alternate on the north and south faces of ridges. These trees will be represented with a stream along a rock-lined course.
- **Arkansas River** – A large aquarium with moving water will display larger fish found in the river. The river itself will be seen just yards from the center. The site has great blue herons, belted kingfishers and waterfowl as regular visitors. White pelicans stop by during fall migration.
- **Coastal Plain** – Cypress tree bases and knees will recreate a swamp and bayou environment.
- **Mississippi Delta** – Visitors will first be engaged in this vast bottomland forest region by a large, fallen tree with a snake among its roots. Large fish, turtles, ducks and geese will be featured in this wetland marsh region. Natural sounds of the delta – such as Chuck-will's-widows call and frogs – will be heard.
- **Delta Country/Big Woods** – Interpretation of the Big Woods conservation story will be incorporated into this exhibit with information about the AGFC's role in preservation and management.
- **AGFC Divisions** – The AGFC's three major divisions – Law Enforcement, Wildlife Management and Fisheries – will be highlighted in display cases where visitors may learn about the roles of agency personnel through interactive components.

A lounge area will offer visitors a chance to pick up a map, select brochures and sit down with a view of the Arkansas River. Outside is a variety of bird-feeding stations set among shrubbery and a gently flowing seep. An interactive state map will highlight Arkansas's natural resources using a laser projector system. The system is funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

"There's something for everyone to enjoy at the nature center," Henderson said. "One of the things we've really strived to do with our exhibits and our curriculum is provide an atmosphere and experience that interests all people who are intrigued by the geology, wildlife and natural history of Arkansas."

"Arkansans told us in 1996 that they wanted more educational opportunities and experiences for wildlife-related and other outdoors topics," Henderson said. "Thanks to the passage of the 1/8th-Cent Conservation Tax, we were able to

give Arkansans wonderful facilities like the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center.”

The center will be open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and Sunday 1-4:30 p.m. Admission will be free. For more information, visit www.centralarkansasnaturecenter.com or call (501) 907-0636.

The other three nature centers are the Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center, which opened in 2001 in Pine Bluff; the Forrest L. Wood Crowley’s Ridge Nature Center, which opened in 2004 in Jonesboro, and the Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, which opened in 2006 near Fort Smith.

Women make strong showing in December elk hunt

COMPTON – The just-ended December elk hunt in the Buffalo River country was notable from several aspects.

Women hunters dominated the successes.

It closed the 11th year for elk hunting in Arkansas, an event of the Arkansas outdoors that draws thousands of applicants for the coveted free hunting permits from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

And the latest hunt reinforced the accepted theory that elk hunting continues to get more difficult as the big animals increase their wariness in the rough, mountainous habitat where they live and thrive.

Although the December 2008 hunt had the most permits issued yet, it resulted in the fewest elk taken by hunters of any of the previous sessions, excepting the 2000 December hunt shortened by an ice storm to just two days.

Eleven elk fell to hunters on public land this time, and two of these were illegal kills. One other elk was taken on private land. One public land permit winner died before the hunt, and another did not participate.

The illegal kills were accidents. One hunter shot an elk, and the bullet went through and killed another standing behind. The other was by a hunter with an antlerless permit, and a 2X2 bull elk with misshapen, downturned antlers was killed across a field. Both hunters were issued warning citations by AGFC wildlife officers and were required to pay for processing of the elk, with the meat donated to needy families in the area.

Of the 12 elk taken, four came early by men and boys, then the rest of the were taken by women. The eight women who won permits were the most yet in the 11 years of elk hunting.

No large herd bulls were downed this time. Largest of the elk was a 5X6 bull taken on private land the opening morning by Levon Ogden of Fayetteville, hunting on family-owned land.

Nathan Creasey of Siloam Springs and Wyatt Jones of Pine Bluff, both with youth permits, took bull elk, with Creasey scoring on a 5-5 bull and Jones on a 4X2 bull. Glenn Tatham of Bismarck brought down a 5-5 bull.

The legal after the first day kills were by women – cow elk by Sherry Kentner of Benton, Payton Burgess of Pine Bluff and Virginia Sullivan of Oil Trough, antlerless male calf elk by Christy Wheeler of McCrory and Aida Cabrera of Forrest City and a 4X5 bull by Loretta Trammell of Mountain View.

The private land elk quotas for Zone A and Zone B were not met.

Another private land hunt is coming up Jan. 12-16. This one is in Searcy County, where some landowners have complained of damage by elk but have not been willing to let the public land permit hunters on their properties. The application period for permits has closed. Applicants had to have written permission from a landowner to apply. This



hunt will have a quota of five antlerless elk and two either sex elk.

The application period for the 2009 public land elk hunts will be the month of May. Applications can be obtained then at AGFC offices and online.

New coyote regulations also provide opportunities for taking feral hogs on WMAs

LITTLE ROCK - As the modern gun deer season winds down, sportsmen may want to consider taking advantage of increased opportunities available for coyote hunting on Wildlife Management Areas owned by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. This year the coyote hunting season has been expanded on most Commission-owned WMAs and is open during daylight hours from July 1 through Feb. 28, and reopening the first day of spring turkey season and running through June 14 with no bag limit. Firearms restrictions on these areas have been relaxed and hunters can now use rifles up to .30 caliber to take coyotes during the entire season.

While the extended coyote season applies to all WMAs, hunters on areas managed cooperatively with other agencies are still restricted to the use of either a .22 caliber rifle or whatever equipment is legal for other open seasons. Hunters should refer to the Commission's 2008 Hunting Guidebook for complete regulations.

Regulations approved this summer also make it legal for feral hogs to be taken during any open daytime hunting season on WMAs using the weapons legal for that hunt, including the large caliber firearms approved for use in the coyote season on Commission-owned areas.

Feral hogs, which are not native to the state, have become an increasing problem in Arkansas since they compete for food with game species, damage fields, levees, crops and timber, and can also carry diseases that can result in significant negative economic impacts on domestic livestock. Because of the damage they cause, the Commission would like to totally eradicate them from all of its WMAs and would encourage private landowners not to tolerate free-ranging feral hogs on their property either. Blake Sasse, the Commission biologist leading feral hog control efforts, said, "We're not interested in managing them for sustainable populations like we do for other wildlife species. We do not consider the existence of feral hogs on Commission property compatible with our mission to wisely manage our native wildlife species and their habitat. Commission personnel will be gearing-up with new equipment and using a wide variety of trapping and shooting methods to remove feral hogs from all Commission-owned WMAs. We see the efforts of hunters as another key component contributing to the success of our eradication efforts."



The Commission would especially like to encourage people to shoot feral hogs on these areas with very high hog populations: Cut Off Creek WMA (Drew County), Gulf Mountain WMA (Van Buren County), Petit Jean WMA (Yell County), Dr. Lester Sitzes Bois d' Arc WMA (Hempstead County). Though hog populations are not as high on the following WMAs, the Commission would also urge more feral hogs to be shot on Gene Rush WMA (Newton and Searcy County), Harold E. Alexander WMA (Sharp County) and Shirey Bay Rainey Brake WMA (Lawrence County).

If you visit a WMA just to shoot feral hogs, you can do so long as you possess a hunting license, except during special permit hunts when only permit holders may take them. Feral hogs which

have been killed by a hunter can be taken from the area or left where they were shot. Hogs may not be taken with the use of dogs or bait, and cannot be trapped or removed alive from the area.

Taking a hog won't be easy, even on these problem areas since they move around a lot and are usually only active during the day around dawn and dusk. When scouting for feral hogs concentrate on low, wet areas where they may have a wallow and also search for areas of thick brush where they may be sleeping during the day. Hog sign, such as tree trunks with mud rubbed on them or large areas of ground they have rooted up in search of food, is usually easy to find in an area they are using frequently. In order to take as many as possible, consider using a multi-shot, high-powered rifle, though they can also be brought down with more primitive weapons.

Make sure feral hogs are dead before approaching them as their tusks can cause serious injury. Smaller-sized hogs can be good eating, but you should wear plastic or rubber gloves while dressing the carcass and cook the meat thoroughly.

Want to become a wildlife rehabilitator?

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas is blessed with an abundance of wildlife and their offspring. Throughout the year, it is not uncommon to come across unattended baby wild animals. During this time, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission gets flooded with calls about abandoned animals and what to do with them.

Many people discover apparently lost or abandoned wildlife young and take them in, thinking they are doing the right thing. This almost always does more harm than good as in most cases the animal hasn't actually been abandoned. However, for those animals that have already been separated from their mothers or those that have been injured, there are a few people in Arkansas, known as wildlife rehabilitators, there to help.

AGFC nongame mammal coordinator Blake Sasse says that the state's rehabilitators tend to get overloaded with requests to take animals, especially in the spring, and more rehabilitators are needed. The Commission only has 68 permitted wildlife rehabilitators and the Fish and Wildlife Service has only licensed 13 people in Arkansas to rehabilitate birds. The most commonly cared for animals are opossums, squirrels, and rabbits, most of which are taken in as babies.



"Rehabilitators spend an enormous amount of their time and money to help Arkansas wildlife," Sasse said. "It takes a strong person to be a rehabilitator because about a quarter of the animals you handle don't make it and even when you're successful you have to put them back into the wild after working with them for weeks," he added.

Here's a few things that potential rehabilitators need to think about before signing up.

Should I become a rehabilitator?

Anyone thinking of becoming a wildlife rehabilitator should spend time considering whether this is an avocation that is right for them. Some factors to consider are:

- Do you have adequate space separate from people and pets in which to house and care for wildlife?
- Do you have the money needed to buy food and supplies to care for wild animals?
- Are you prepared to see and care for animals with serious injuries or disease? Are you prepared to euthanize animals for which treatment cannot be effective?
- Can you keep from getting emotionally attached to animals in your care so that you will be able to release them when they're ready?
- Do you have the time to care for wild animals? It may require 1 or 2 hours or more each and every day in order to provide adequate care.
- Is it legal in your town? Some towns have rules prohibiting the possession of any wildlife.

What do I need to do?

In order to get an Apprentice Wildlife Rehabilitator permit from the Commission you will need to find a currently permitted wildlife rehabilitator that will agree to assist in your training, a veterinarian that will provide support, and those that live inside a city will need a letter from the city saying that your facility wouldn't violate any city ordinances.

You can find permit applications and complete regulations at the AGFC wildlife rehabilitation web site at <http://www.agfc.com/wildlife-conservation/rehabilitators.aspx> or by calling Blake Sasse at 877-470-3650. Those wishing to work with birds can call Commission biologist Karen Rowe at 877-873-4651 and she can provide information about getting a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service for bird rehabilitation.

Stocking restriction lifted on Greers Ferry tailwater

HEBER SPRINGS – Just a few weeks after improved dissolved oxygen conditions on the Bull Shoals and Norfork tailwaters allowed the AGFC to lift stocking restrictions on those trout waters, the same restriction has been lifted on the Greers Ferry tailwater. The restrictions on Greers Ferry were lifted on Dec. 16.

The improvement in dissolved oxygen on the tailwater is directly related to the destratification of GreersFerryLake, which began on Dec. 11. Matt Schroeder, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Trout Management Biologist, explained that destratification is a result of decreasing temperature and increasing density of the top layer (epilimnion) of Greers Ferry. "When surface temperature and density of the epilimnion reach that of the bottom layer (hypolimnion) the lake mixes or turns over," Schroeder said. "Once these two layers are mixed with the aid of wind, the bottom layer of the lake is again recharged with dissolved oxygen," he added.



Greers Ferry Tailwater was the last of the trout waters to have a stocking restriction in place. Now, normal stocking schedules will resume for all trout waters around the state.

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. 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.

Jan. 6 – Public meetings set for input on 2009-10 hunting regulations. Hunters may voice their opinions about hunting regulations and seasons at one of 11 public meetings across the state. 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, AR 72205. Comments can also be made on the AGFC Web site at 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:

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

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

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

Jan. 24 - 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 – Outdoor Sportsmen Banquet, Greenwood High School basketball arena, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jan. 31 - 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 – 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 - 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 - 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 – 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 - 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 - 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."

Feb. 28 - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at the Arkansas River in North Little Rock at the Alltel Arena access. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations, visit our website at http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Paul Schweyer of Barling, paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

March 7 - 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."

Mar. 14-15 – Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Lakes Millwood (Yarborough Landing) and Earling (Hwy. 53 to Lake Earling Park's Public Ramp) in southwest Arkansas between Hope and Texarkana. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. This will our yearly charitable tournament whereas we suspend the normal rules and "go for the double catch" to donate to a local charity to help feed the hungry. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations, visit our website at http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Paul Schweyer of Barling, paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

March 19 – 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 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

April 18– Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Lake Maumelle launching from the Jolly Roger Marina. For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. For an ACA application form, constitution and bylaws, local conditions and information along with the rules and regulations view our website at http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php or Lee Fields of Russellville at (479) 331-0399 or (870) 577-7289 or by email at leefields@centurytel.net, or Paul Schweyer of Barling, paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

May 21 – AGFC Commission monthly meeting at the AGFC Little Rock central office, 2 Natural Resources Dr., beginning at 9 a.m.

June 18 – 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.