

## Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

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## May 27, 2009 Edition

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## Today's Topics

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## Preliminary deer harvest numbers second highest on record

LITTLE ROCK – It was a very good year for deer hunting in Arkansas. Hunters recorded the second highest harvest total on record. Preliminary harvest figures show that almost 183,700 total deer were checked during the 2008-09 season.

During last week's monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, commissioners were briefed on the state's recent deer season harvest. Brad Miller, AGFC deer program coordinator, told the commission the harvest was up over 13,800 deer from the 2007-08 season.

Hunters checked 194,687 deer in 1999, the most in a year since the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission began keeping records in 1938.

The largest increase came in the doe harvest where hunters took almost 74,400 female deer. That number was over 24 percent higher than last year. The buck harvest was down about 2 percent.



In other business, the commission:

\*Agreed to the purchase of two boating access sites on the South Fork Spring River in Fulton County. Presently, there is only one public access on the South Fork. The river meanders about 53 miles and is a popular wade-fishing and float-fishing stream in north Arkansas. Cost of the two tracts is \$32,800.

\*Accepted the donation of two vacant tracts in the Sneed's Creek Subdivision. The land will be used to develop a public access to the White River in Baxter County.

\*Agreed to a budget increase of just over \$6.2 million for clean-up and repair work in areas that received extensive damage during the winter's ice storm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be reimbursing the agency 75 percent of the cost and the remainder will come from Arkansas emergency funds and insurance.

\*Approved a proclamation by Gov. Mike Beebe to start free fishing days at noon, June 5 to end at midnight, June 7 and June 12-14. Licenses will not be required for fishing in Arkansas during that period.

### 17 cadets complete wildlife officer training

MAYFLOWER – Seventeen cadets have completed over 900 hours of intensive training to become wildlife officers with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The group studied at the H.C. (Red) Morris Training Center east of Mayflower on Lake Conway. Graduation ceremonies for the 2009 cadet class took place on Thursday, May 21 at the State Capitol.

Maj. Terry McGuire and Lt. Jason Parker direct the cadet-training program, with many other commission enforcement officers and other staff members serving as instructors. Other experts participate in the teaching of specialized topics. The 17 cadets were chosen from several hundred applicants. Requirements for wildlife officer cadets include college degrees or law enforcement experience.



The 20-week training course includes police fundamentals as related to wildlife work, training in proficiency with a variety of firearms, first aid and rescue basics, drug enforcement procedures and physical conditioning. The new wildlife officers have state commissions as officers with full police authority, as do the other 150-plus wildlife officers of the AGFC.

Assignment of the new officers will fill several existing vacancies in the Commission's enforcement ranks. They will be assigned to wildlife officer positions around the state, working at first under experienced officers.

The 2009 graduates, hometowns and their county assignments are:

**Blake Broomfield**, Alleene, Little River County  
**Jonathan Byrd**, Dumas, Desha County  
**Jason Collier**, Corning, Poinsett County  
**Jeffrey "Jeff" Cowan**, Melbourne, Craighead County  
**David Freyaldenhoven**, Little Rock, Saline County  
**Stuart Garcia**, Mountain Home, Jefferson County  
**Randall "Randy" Hainen**, Nashville, Howard County  
**Thomas Kendrick**, McCrory, Woodruff County  
**Phillip Livingston**, Sheridan, Lonoke County  
**John Partain**, DeQueen, Howard County  
**Eric Pratt**, Russellville, Lee County  
**Jeffrey "Clay" Raborn**, Springhill, La., Lafayette County  
**Charles "Randy" Rhodes**, Sheridan, Arkansas County  
**Richard "Bubba" Smith**, Stuttgart, Arkansas County  
**James Taylor**, Hazen, Prairie County  
**Kenny Taylor Jr.**, Arkadelphia, Hot Spring County  
**Joseph Williams**, Strong, Ashley County

### A pole is an effective tool for Arkansas bream fishing

LITTLE ROCK - One of the appeals of bream fishing is the simplicity of it. Cane poles, bobbers, crickets and worms are basics for bream fishing, and these merely scratch the surface.

Cane poles work fine for many bream fishermen, and you can cut these poles from canebreaks and dry them before using. Or simply buy them from fishing supply outlets in varnished form for just a few dollars.

A serious bream fisherman has one or more "bream poles" he or she considers as working tools, although the investment may be minimal. It or they are personal possessions, something that works and works for the angler.

Fiberglass and graphite poles cost more but often last longer. Length isn't critical. Most bream anglers use 8- to 10-foot poles. Fly rods work well as bream poles. Baitcasting, spinning and spincast rods and reels are fine, but seldom does a bream angler need to make a long cast. Bream fishing is a close range endeavor.

Bream are small fish with most weighing under a pound. Heavy fishing line isn't needed to catch them, but put an asterisk by this comment. Bream often live in territory clogged with snags, roots, debris and other obstacles, requiring anglers to often use heavier line to work the scrapping little fish through an underwater maze that would quickly snap lighter lines.

Ten-pound-test line, the kinds that comes on most moderately priced reels, works fine on bream poles, but some anglers who use small, light lures, even popping bugs, prefer lighter line, like 4- or 6-pound-test, especially if they can work open areas.



### Smaller sizes in lures can work well for crappie fishing

LITTLE ROCK - The report came from an Arkansas lake that crappie were hitting small long-billed Rebels.

Sure, most anglers who have worked bass-type lures in crappie waters have occasionally caught crappie on them. If it looks like a shad or a minnow, crappie will home in on it – sometimes.

More than 30 years ago when the Big O hit the fishing world in full stride as the hottest bass lure of the period, fishermen reported getting hits from crappie too. The Big O and its imitations then were offered in smaller sizes, and more crappie hit them.

A favorite of many anglers for years has been Rebel's Crickhopper, a small lure that resembles a cross between a cricket and a grasshopper. It comes in a variety of colors, and it will catch crappie as well as bream and other fish.



Another old favorite is the small size Beetle Spin. It is a conventional spinner bait but with a plastic body, not hair, than can be changed.

The lesson here may be to not limit your thinking in going after crappie. Most Arkansans think of minnows and jigs for crappie work. Yes, there are those who scoff at minnows. "I don't use anything except jigs." That's all right.

Others like to play around with different baits and lures. "Think outside the box" is the term for innovations like this.

A small lure that may look like a shad, a minnow or a crawfish just might draw a hit from a crappie when the more common attractions like jigs and minnows won't.

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### Fawns' survival chances are best when left alone

FAYETTEVILLE – It's a fairly common occurrence in late spring and summer most anywhere in Arkansas. Someone finds a deer fawn alone and asks, "What should I do"?

Wildlife biologists for years have had a standard answer – do nothing. The mother is nearby and will return to care for the baby.

Sara Caulk lives in the Mount Sequoyah section of Fayetteville, and recently spotted a fawn apparently just a few days old lying in grass near her home. She didn't approach it but went on the Internet for advice. And she got plenty of that.

A retired wildlife biologist suggested just leaving the fawn where it was. Caulk contacted Ruth Ann Chapman, a private lands biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission who lives in Washington County. Chapman echoed the advice of leaving the fawn alone, that the mother was probably out of sight nearby.



Caulk did as suggested, and she watched the clock. Twenty-six hours after she first saw the fawn in the tall grass, the mother came back to take care of the baby. The fawn was only about 18 inches high, Caulk said, but apparently in good condition.

She added, "The mom and baby are hanging out in our 'back 40' so we catch a glimpse of the little guy from time to time. With the rain that we've had, the underbrush has grown to such depths that it's over the baby's head in most places, and we're two benches up from where they usually hang out. At least there's plenty of browse for mom to stay healthy."

Wildlife biologists suggest not picking up or handling a baby deer found in the wild. It is a myth that the mother will abandon the baby if human smell is present, but moving the fawn to a supposedly safer location can interfere with the mother's finding it again.

In nearly all cases, the mother deer is close at hand to a baby deer, although the mother can easily hide from human view. A fawn nurses several times a day, with the mother going off to forage for food in between. An indicator of a fawn's condition is if it is lying in the grass with its head up, it probably is all right.

A possible exception to the leave-alone advice from biologists is when there is clear evidence that the mother deer is dead, such as from being hit by a vehicle on a road, with the fawn standing forlornly nearby. In this case, the suggestion is to immediately get in touch with a wildlife biologist or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. A list of rehabilitators is on the Internet at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com).

A final bit of advice: If the fawn is truly orphaned, don't try to feed it cow's milk. Get it immediately to professional help.

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### 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>

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### What's open for hunting

Current and approaching seasons in Arkansas:

**Spotted Skunk, Weasel Hunting:**

Closed

**Furbearers**

Raccoon night hunting: sunset, July 1-sunrise, Aug. 31.

Bobcat hunting: from the first day of spring turkey season through June 8.

Coyote hunting: from the first day of spring turkey season through June 14.

Badger, spotted skunk and weasel hunting: Closed.

**Spring Squirrel Season**

Statewide: May 16-June 14.

**Deer****Archery**

Statewide: Oct. 1-Feb. 28

**Muzzleloader**

Zones 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4A, 5A, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15: Oct. 17-25 and Dec. 19-21

Zones 9, 12, 16, 16A and 17: Oct. 17-25 and Dec. 29-31

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

**Modern Gun**

Zones 1, 1A, 2, 3, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A, 10 and 11: Nov. 14-Dec. 6

Zone 4: Nov. 14-15

Zone 5: Nov. 14-15 and Nov. 21-22

Zones 4A, 5A, 13, 14 and 15: Nov. 14-Dec. 13

Zones 4B and 5B: Nov. 14-22

Zones 9 and 12: Nov. 14-Dec. 20

Zones 16, 16A and 17: Nov. 14-Dec. 25

*Christmas Holiday Modern Gun Deer Hunt is Dec. 26-28 statewide.*

*The Special Youth Modern Gun Deer Hunt is Nov. 7-8 and Jan. 2-3 statewide excluding certain WMAs where a modern gun or muzzleloader permit is required to hunt.*

**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. 17-25

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

**Modern Gun**

Zones 1 and 2: Nov. 9-30

Zone 5: Dec. 5-13

Zone 5A: Nov. 28-Dec. 13

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. 7-8

Zones 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6 and 7: Closed

**Fall Turkey Season****Archery**

Statewide: Oct. 1-Feb. 28

**Firearms**

Zones 3, 5B, 6 and 17: Oct. 26-Nov. 1

Zones 1, 1A, 2, 4, 4A, 4B, 5, 5A, 7, 7A, 8, 9, 9A and 10: Closed

**Elk**

Zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and A: Sept. 21-25

Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, A and B: Dec. 7-11

Zone A: Sept. 21-25 and Dec. 7-11

Zone B: Dec. 7-11

**Quail**

Statewide: Nov. 1-Feb. 7

**Rabbit**

Statewide: Sept. 1-Feb. 28

**Fall Squirrel Season**

Statewide: Sept. 5-Feb. 28

**Spring 2010 Squirrel Season**

May 15-June 13

**Crow**

Statewide: Sept. 5-Feb. 20

**Furbearers (2009-2010)**

Gray fox, mink, red fox and striped skunk hunting: sunrise, Sept. 1-sunset, Feb. 28

Opossum Hunting: sunrise, Sept. 1- sunset Feb. 28

Bobcat hunting: sunrise, Oct. 1-sunset, Feb. 28 and from the first day of spring turkey season through the last day of spring squirrel season.

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. 4-sunset, Feb. 28

Raccoon night hunting: sunset, July 1-sunrise, Aug. 31

Raccoon day or night hunting: sunrise, Sept. 1-sunset, March 31

Muskrat, nutria, beaver hunting: sunrise, Sept. 1-sunset, March 31

Badger, spotted skunk and weasel hunting: Closed

Furbearer trapping (other than beaver, coyote, muskrat, nutria): sunrise, Nov. 14-sunset, Feb. 21

Coyote trapping: sunrise, Aug. 1-sunset, March 31

Beaver, muskrat, nutria trapping: sunrise, Nov. 14-sunset, March 31

**The 2010 deer season opening dates:**

**Deer (archery):** Friday, Oct. 1, 2010

**Deer (muzzleloader):** Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010

**Deer (modern gun):** Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010

**2009 Waterfowl Public Meetings:**

Tuesday, June 2, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

**2010 Spring Turkey Public Meetings:**

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

**2010-2011 General Public Meetings:**

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

For further hunting changes regarding bag limits, deer zone boundaries, game checking and other information go to [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com).

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**Coming up in the outdoors**

**May 30** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Arkansas Stream Teams."

**June 2** – Waterfowl hunting meetings. These meetings are part of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's hunting regulation setting process. They will be held to give hunters and other interested parties the opportunity to make comments and proposals on the 2009-2010 waterfowl hunting seasons. The meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Comments may be either verbal or written. Written comments may be submitted at one of the meetings or mailed to the AGFC, attn: Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Proposals, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, Ark. 72205. They can also be emailed to [information@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:information@agfc.state.ar.us). The deadline for comments is July 31.

Meeting sites, locations and phone numbers are:

**Little Rock** - AGFC Office  
2 Natural Resources Dr.

(800) 364-4263

**Hope** - AGFC Regional Office

7004 Highway 67 East

Perrytown

(877) 777-5580

**Fort Smith** - Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center

8300 Wells Lake Road

(877) 478-1043

**Brinkley** - Brinkley Convention Center

1501 Weatherby Dr.

(877) 734-4581

**Jonesboro** - Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

600 East Lawson

(877) 972-5438

**Stuttgart** - Phillips Community College

2807 Highway 165 South

(877) 367-3559

**Dumas** - First United Methodist Church

205 Puryear St.

(877) 367-3559

**Fayetteville** - Ozarks Electric Cooperative

3641 W. Wedington

(877) 967-7577

**Russellville** - AGFC Regional Office

1266 Lock and Dam Road

(877) 967-7577

**Hot Springs National Park** - Community College Auditorium

101 College Dr.

(877) 525-8606

**Calico Rock** - AGFC Regional Office

Highway 56 North

(877) 297-4331

**Camden** - AGFC Regional Office

500 Ben Lane

(877) 836-4612

**Paragould** - Paragould Community Center

3404 Linwood Dr.

(877) 972-5438

**June 5-7** - The 6th annual Arkansas Casting for Recovery Retreat will be held at Gaston's on the White River. This is a two-and-a-half day retreat is provided free of cost to 14 breast cancer survivors in Arkansas who are randomly selected after an application process. The women selected for this retreat will be given the opportunity to learn how to fly fish from well known female fly fishing instructors. Fly-fishing has been known to provide a gentle form of upper extremity mobilization and exercise while allowing for a healing connection to the natural world and relieving everyday stressors. The retreat also offers medical and psychosocial support and allows the participants to focus on wellness while providing an avenue for social support. To apply for this retreat, fill out an application form from [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org) or call (888) 553-3500. The deadline is March 27. For more information, call the state coordinator Kerri Russell at (479) 640-8319.

**June 6** - Benton County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Heritage Banquet at the Northwest Arkansas Quails Unlimited Building, Highway 72 West in Bentonville. Doors open at 4 p.m. There will be archery, the Daisy BB gun trailer and other opportunities for young people and others a like. For more information call James Barger at (479) 531-2359 or Bobby King (479) 295-1911 or Chris Hinkle at (479) 790-3260.

**June 7** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "North Pulaski County Catfishin'."

**June 13** - The Friends of the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery will again sponsor the annual Kids Fishing Derby at Quarry Park below Norfolk Dam on Saturday, June 13. This is the AGFC free fishing day and AGFC staff will be in attendance on the day of the derby to help out. We will have a prize for every child who fishes. The derby is open to all kids between the ages of 3 and 15. Lunch will be provided.

**June 13** - National Wild Turkey Federation Wild Turkey Woodlands Landowner Workshop at the Thomas and Rhonda Baker farm north of Pocahontas. This event is jointly sponsored by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, NWTF, the Arkansas Forestry Commission and the National Resources Conservation Commission. There is no charge and lunch will be provided. To register for the workshop, contact Dennis Daniel, NWTF regional biologist at (936) 208-9698. Deadline is June 10.

**June 13** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show

will be "Catchin' Largemouth Bass."

**June 20** - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Blue Mountain Lake (children under 16 are welcomed to attend). For more information contact our Paul Schweyer of Barling at [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) or (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474, or Lee Fields of Pope County at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net), (479) 331-0399 or cell (870) 577-7289 or go to [http://arkcats.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php).

**June 20** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Father's Day Special."

**June 25** – Want to know more about Arkansas bats? Check out "Bats: Fact and Fiction" at the Witt Stephens Central Arkansas Nature Center in Little Rock, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Learn about rabies, species of bats in Arkansas, which are on the endangered species list and many other topics. Blake Sasse, non-game mammal coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, will be on hand to give information on bats, their importance to the ecosystem and how to install bat houses. Call the nature center office at (501) 907-0636 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to register.

**June 25** – AGFC Commission monthly meeting in Lake Village. Topics include the early migratory bird season proposals.

**June 27** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Ridin' and Reelin'."

**June 30** - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Blue Mountain Lake (children under 16 are encouraged to attend). For ACA members: rod and reel, catch and release, and alive and well. Open tournament to the general public. 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](http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php) or Melissa Davis of Siloam Springs at (479) 957-5424 or by email at [cozydranch@yahoo.com](mailto:cozydranch@yahoo.com), or Paul Schweyer of Barling, [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) at (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474.

**July 4** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Chairman Freddie Black Looks Back on 7 Years."

**July 11** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Float Tube Fishin'."

**July 18** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Trout Fishin' on the White River."

**July 18** - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at Lake Norfolk (Gamaliel). Open tournament to the general public. For more information contact Paul Schweyer of Barling at [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) or (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474, or Lee Fields of Pope County at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net) or (479) 331-0399 or cell at (870) 577-7289 or go to [http://arkcats.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://arkcats.org/Home_Page.php).

**July 25** - Talkin' Outdoors at the Corner Café with Steve "Wildman" Wilson, 9 a.m. on KARK Channel 4. Topic of the show will be "Smallmouth Fishin' with Duane Hada."

**Aug. 8** – Scimitar Shrine Director's Staff Bass Tournament, Arkansas River behind Alltel Arena, 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$150 per boat with 75% payback. For more information call Chris at (501) 749-3025 or Tom at (501) 834-6005.

**Aug 15-16** - Arkansas Catfishing Association tournament at lakes Millwood and Earling in southwest Arkansas. Open tournament to the general public. Double catch donated to Hope in Action charity. For more information contact Paul Schweyer of Barling at [paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paulschweyer@sbcglobal.net) or (479) 452-1652 or (479) 719-0474, or Lee Fields of Pope County at [leefields@centurytel.net](mailto:leefields@centurytel.net) or (479) 331-0399 or cell (870) 577-7289.

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