

Conservation Education Centers

The idea of creating conservation education centers was born when Amendment 75 (the Conservation Sales Tax) was approved in 1996 and increased the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's revenue. Part classroom, part museum and part playground, the centers help people of all ages better understand their natural surroundings.



Nature Centers

The AGFC also owns and operates nature centers across the state. These centers are another outlet the Education Division uses for hands-on experience and education. Each center focuses on the natural elements and ecosystems found in its region of the state.

Arkansas nature centers:

Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center
Pine Bluff
(870) 534-0011
www.deltarivers.com

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center
Jonesboro
(870) 933-6787
www.crowleysridge.org

Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center
Barling
(877) 478-1043
www.rivervalleynaturecenter.com

Open summer 2008
Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center
Little Rock



Keeping the Natural State natural.

For general information about conservation education facilities, contact:

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 223-6300
www.agfc.com

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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Keeping the Natural State natural.



Ponca Elk Education Center
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Since 2002, the Ponca Elk Education Center has been telling the tale of the Rocky Mountain elk's introduction to the Ozarks. All aspects of our state's largest mammal are covered through exhibits and interactive displays.

Classrooms and a meeting room provide youth groups and school kids on field trips space to learn about the life cycle of the elk, which graze along the Buffalo River. The building overlooks Ponca Creek, which provides a natural setting for learning.

Getting there Ponca is on Arkansas Highway 43 in Newton County, a quarter-mile north of the Arkansas Highway 74 intersection.

Call for info (870) 861-2432.



Rick Evans Grandview Prairie Conservation Education Center
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Almost 5,000 acres of blackland prairie in the Rick Evans/Grandview Prairie Wildlife Management Area surround classrooms, a shooting range, lodging, a pond and more.

Modern means of farming and ranching severely damaged the prairie, which is being restored. The process is the centerpiece of the center's educational message. Grandview Prairie also features a staff of fishing, hunter education and boating education instructors.

Getting there Grandview Prairie is in Hempstead County. From Interstate 30, follow U.S. Highway 278 two miles west and turn on Arkansas Highway 73. Continue 14 miles to Columbus, turn north on Hempstead County Road 35 and go two miles to the gate.

Call for info (800) 983-4219.



Potlatch Conservation Education Center at Cook's Lake
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This is the heart of one of America's largest tracts of bottomland hardwood forest. The center is a joint venture with the Commission, the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A classroom built in 2001 is used for school field trips and teacher training.

The staff includes experts who teach compass and map reading, water-quality testing, natural history and other programs based on indigenous flora and fauna.

Getting there From Stuttgart in Arkansas County, follow Arkansas Highway 146 about 12 miles east and turn south on Arkansas Highway 33. Go half a mile and turn east on 33 Spur (Cook's Lake Road). Continue about two miles and turn on the gravel road between New Salem Baptist Church and the white house. Go half a mile, turn right through the silver gate and continue to the lodge.

Call for info (870) 241-3373.



Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation

Free-flowing streams are scarce commodities in America and none of them is more captivating than Crooked Creek, popular with smallmouth bass fishermen.

Conservationist Fred Berry secured these 421 acres, including 2.75 miles of creek frontage. The area is developing into a wildlife viewing site, complete with blinds, interpretive trails and an outdoor classroom. Call ahead for access information. High-water levels may restrict entry.

Getting there From the intersection of Arkansas Highway 14 and U.S. Highway 62 in Yellville, travel west eight-tenths of a mile to Marion County Road 4002. Turn left and go one mile to the center's parking lot.

Call for info (870) 449-3484.