

Arkansas OUT *of* DOORS

The Official Publication of the Arkansas Wildlife Federation | Vol. 54, No. 2, Summer 2026



Gallery of Winners: 2026 Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest

**Arkansas
Wildlife
Federation**
SINCE 1936



BETWEEN THE BLADES

A journey through the varied grasslands of Arkansas and the history that shaped these now imperiled ecosystems.

STREAM SNORKELING IN ARKANSAS

A cool summer adventure exploring the diverse wildlife that thrives beneath the surface of Arkansas' clear flowing streams.



p6

An expert led journey through the varied grasslands of Arkansas, like this open oak woodland at the Lake Conway Wildlife Management Area, Ouachita Mountains Ecoregion, Faulkner Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Theo Witsell.)

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ON THE COVER: "Watchful Eyes" by Ally H. winner of second place in twelfth grade in the 2026 Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest.



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Arkansas OUT of DOORS

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ARKANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Through our annual Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest, thousands of students pick up pencils, paints, and pastels to capture the native wildlife and landscapes that inspire them. What they create reflects how the next generation sees and values the natural heritage we all share. Their artworks show curiosity, care, and a genuine connection to the outdoors, whether they live in a rural area or right in the middle of town.

One of my favorite things about this contest is the diversity of students who participate. Kids from every corner of the state and all backgrounds and experiences come together through art to celebrate Arkansas native wildlife. Art opens doors, invites inclusion, and gives young people a way to explore a relationship with nature.

As you enjoy the 2026 gallery of winning artwork inside this issue, I hope you'll see what we see - a bright future for wildlife conservation in Arkansas! These students remind us that protecting wildlife isn't just about policy or strategy, it's about people, and about inspiring the next generation to care.

Thank you for supporting this work and for helping us keep Arkansas wild!

Clinton L. Coleman

Clinton Coleman
Board President



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- ✿ 10% off NWF catalog merchandise.
- ✿ **BONUS:** When you certify your property for wildlife, a portion of your nominal application fee goes to support your state organization, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation!

Get started today at www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife





Between *the blades*

Remnant tallgrass prairie at the Lake Conway Wildlife Management Area, Ouachita Mountains Ecoregion, Faulkner Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Allison Wilson.)

An Overview of Arkansas Grasslands

By Theo Witsell

Grasslands, in the broad sense, include a variety of open ecosystems where grasses, along with associated sedges, rushes, and wildflowers, are the dominant vegetation in terms of total cover, biomass, or both.

By this definition, savannas, which include scattered trees, are included under the grassland umbrella. Open woodlands, which might be considered grassland-adjacent, also support many grassland plants and animals.

Unlike the Great Plains, which have rainfall totals low enough to sustain vast treeless prairies, we get enough rain in Arkansas that you might ex-

pect forest everywhere. Yet there were millions of acres of grasslands in the state at the time of Euro-American exploration and settlement.

Most of these Arkansas grassland landscapes, however, were patchworks of treeless grasslands, savannas, and open woodlands, and occurred where there was some combination of site characteristics (soil depth, fer-

tility, moisture, slope, landscape position, etc.) and ecological pressures (summer drought, fire, grazing, flood regime, etc.) that tipped the ecological balance toward grassland.

Arkansas had millions of acres of grasslands historically, but most types are nearly gone today, or at least highly altered. The many species of wildlife they supported, from bison, elk, and prairie chickens, to bobwhite quail, crawfish frogs, and native pollinators, have declined with them. As a result, grasslands are among our highest-priority ecosystems for conservation action.



Biologists monitoring vegetation in a high quality riverscours grassland on the Maumelle River, Ouachita Mountains Ecoregion, Pulaski Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Ben Thesing.)

Here is a brief overview of Arkansas' major grassland types.

PRAIRIES

Prairies are deep-soiled grasslands dominated by perennial grasses and wildflowers. They are the classic ecosystems most people visualize when they think of grasslands.

Prairies were most common and extensive on large, level to gently rolling landforms such as plains, plateaus, and wide valleys. Trees were historically absent or sparse (less than 10% cover) and often restricted to waterways or drainages.

Prairies in Arkansas were maintained in part by some combination of fire, grazing by megafauna like bison and elk, and soil factors - often a restrictive clay fragipan (compact soil layer) that creates extreme seasonal wet/dry cycles of soil moisture.

At the time of Euro-American settlement in the early 1800s, there were five major prairie regions in Arkansas: the Grand Prairie in east-central Arkansas, the Springfield Plateau in northwestern Arkansas, the Arkansas Valley (as well as some of the broader valleys in the northern Ouachita Mountains), southeast Arkansas (Ashley and Drew counties), and the Blackland Prairies of southwestern Arkansas.

GLADES AND BARRENS

Glades are naturally treeless areas where bedrock is exposed or comes very near to the surface of the ground. They typically occur intermixed with barrens, which are prairie-like grasslands over thin, rocky or clayey soils, and were typically surrounded by open woodlands historically.

While glades and barrens are extremely dry in the summer, many types can be wet in the winter and spring. All types are hotspots for rare and endemic (limited to a particular area) plants and animals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Theo Witsell is co-founder and Chief Conservation Officer for the Southeastern Grasslands Institute, a program of Austin Peay State University. He lives in Little Rock, AR.

Theo Witsell providing native grassland identification, restoration, and management instruction during Arkansas Wildlife Federation's Private Lands Leadership Academy. (Photos by Terri Lane.)





Shale Barrens at Middle Fork Barrens Natural Area, Ouachita Mountains Ecoregion, Saline Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Theo Witsell.)

Glades and Barrens are classified based on the type of geology that they occur on. In Arkansas, major types include limestone, dolomite, sandstone, shale, chert, novaculite, chalk, nepheline syenite (a type of igneous rock similar to granite), and highly saline clays. Each type has distinctive plant communities, with many species shared among types with similar pH.

Grasslands on limestone, dolomite, and chalk are calcareous, or alkaline,

while grasslands on sandstone, chert, novaculite, and nepheline syenite are *usually* acidic. Grasslands on shale can be either calcareous or acidic depending on the presence and amount of limestone in the shale.

SAND GRASSLANDS

Sand grasslands occur on deep sand deposits and are kept open by a combination of very low soil fertility and drought conditions in the summer.

At least five distinct types occur in

Arkansas. All are rare, but the most well-known are upland sandhill barrens in the Coastal Plain (mostly in Ouachita, Miller, and Nevada counties) and large river sandbar grasslands along the Arkansas, Red, and Mississippi Rivers.

The three other types are very rare and restricted in distribution. Seasonally flooded lowland sand prairies are found in Ashley and Union counties in and around the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge.



Sandhill barrens at Poison Springs Natural Area, West Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion, Ouachita Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Allison Wilson.)



The endemic Ozark Pocket Gopher (*Geomys bursarius ozarkensis*), a subspecies of the Plains Pocket Gopher, is found only in the recently discovered Ozark sand barrens in southern Izard County, Arkansas. (Photos by Matt Conner.)



Sandstone glade and barrens in the Sylamore District of the Ozark National Forest, Ozark Highlands Ecoregion, Stone Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Theo Witsell.)



Glades are home to unique species, including the Eastern Collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris collaris*), a species of greatest conservation need in Arkansas. (Photo by Kory G. Roberts.)

These linear grasslands formed on sand deposited on the beaches of Paleolake Monroe, a large extinct lake that occupied part of the Ouachita River valley during the Pleistocene.

Rare dune grasslands historically occurred on wind-blown sand dunes in parts of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain in eastern Arkansas. These are poorly understood, with only a few degraded examples known today.

Lastly, a very interesting Ozark sand barrens community was discovered in recent years in the valleys of several tributaries of the White River in southern Izard County. This Ozark type, in addition to supporting several rare plant species more typical of the Coastal Plain, is also home to the endemic Ozark Pocket Gopher (*Geomys bursarius ozarkensis*), a subspecies of the Plains Pocket Gopher described in 2000 and known only from these valleys.

RIVERSCOUR

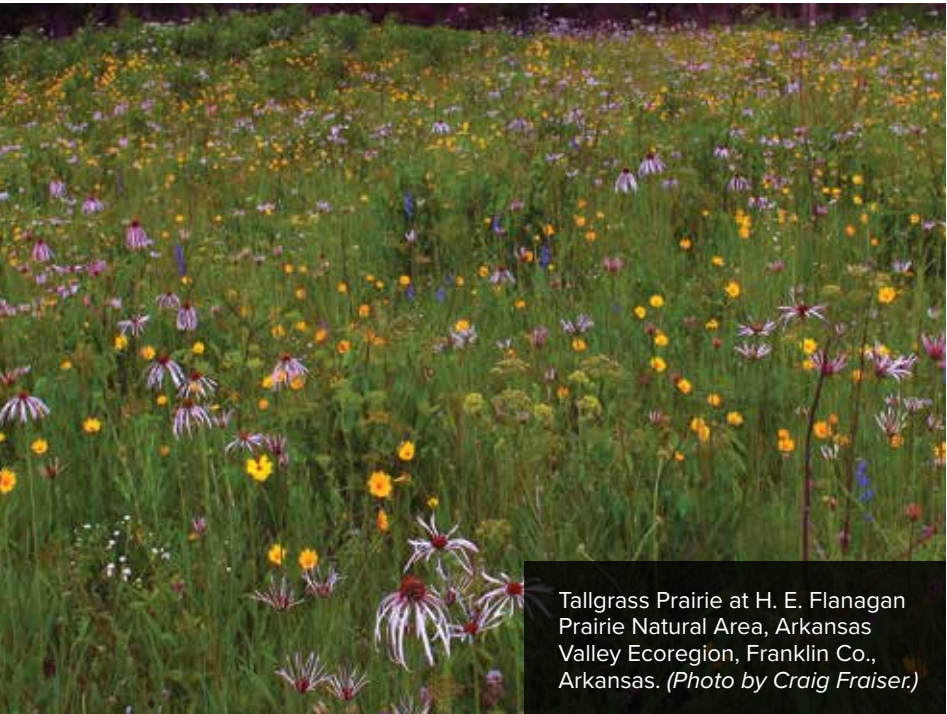
Riverscour is a unique blend of grassland and shrubland habitat along some high-gradient streams and rivers that combines characteristics of glades, barrens, floodplains, and wetlands.

Rather than being maintained by fire or grazing, riverscour is main-

tained by violent, high-energy flood events that remove trees and other woody plants from specific “sweet spots” where the substrate (cobble, boulders, and bedrock) is stable enough to stay put long term and grasslands to persist.

Riverscour has a very high concentration of rare and endemic plant species. In Arkansas, riverscour is most common in the Ouachita Mountains, with significant areas along the Cosatot River, Rolling Fork, Robinson Creek, the Ouachita River and tribu-

Arkansas had millions of acres of grasslands historically, but most types are nearly gone today, or at least highly altered.



Tallgrass Prairie at H. E. Flanagan Prairie Natural Area, Arkansas Valley Ecoregion, Franklin Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Craig Fraiser.)



Marsh at Warren Prairie Natural Area, West Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion, Bradley Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Theo Witsell.)

taries, the Fourche LaFave and South Fourche LaFave rivers, and the forks of the Saline River. Smaller areas of riverscours are found along several streams in the Boston Mountains.

MARSHES

Marshes are wet grasslands that hold water, at least seasonally, deep enough to exclude trees. They occur in various landscapes across the state, from abandoned channel scar depressions on floodplains and river terraces, to small stream valleys where beaver impound water courses, to sinkhole depressions in the Ozarks.

Marshes are ecologically productive and are important habitats for many types of wildlife, especially wetland birds, many reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and insects.

ACIDIC SEEPS AND FENS

Seeps and fens are open wetlands fed by groundwater and are considered grasslands in the broad sense.



Fen at Healing Springs Natural Area, Ozark Highlands Ecoregion, Benton Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Theo Witsell.)

Acidic seeps, sometimes called bogs, have acidic, low-nutrient water and soils like peat, sand, and gravel.

Acidic seeps are found in both the

mountains and the sands and gravels of the Coastal Plain. Fens have mineral-rich, alkaline water and soils that emerge from high-pH geology like limestone or dolomite. Both acidic seeps and fens are rich in sedges, grasses, rushes, wildflowers, and shrubs, including many rare species not found in other habitats.

SAVANNAS

Savannas are grasslands with scattered trees covering no more than 30% of the total area. They were once extensive matrix communities in many of the larger, flat to gently rolling elevated landscapes across the state. Intact savannas are nearly gone today but are highly restorable in many areas.

Extensive savannas were found historically in the Grand Prairie of eastern Arkansas, the Springfield Plateau of the Ozarks, the high terrace plains of the Arkansas and Red River valleys, and the high Pleistocene-aged plains on terraces along the Ouachita and Saline rivers in the Coastal Plain.

Fire was critical for the maintenance of most Arkansas savannas and those that weren't converted to pasture, crops, or development grew up in trees following fire suppression.

OPEN WOODLANDS

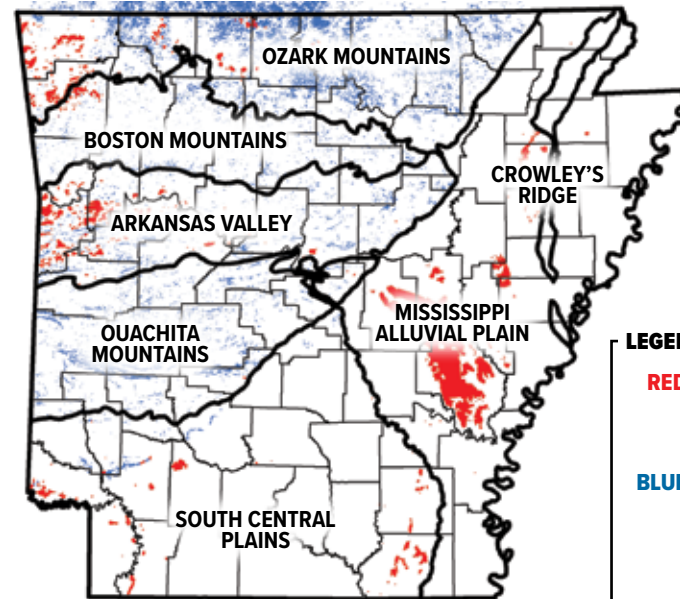
Open woodlands, while arguably not grasslands, are transitional communities between savannas and closed forests, with widely-spaced trees and a diverse ground flora rich in grassland species. They covered extensive areas of Arkansas historically but occupied specific positions in the landscape. See this issue's Get the Picture feature for more on open woodlands.



Saline savanna at Kingsland Prairie Natural Area, West Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion, Cleveland Co., Arkansas. (Photo by Theo Witsell.)



Grasslands support a wide diversity of wildlife, including the Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). Both are species of greatest conservation need in Arkansas. (Meadowlark photo, USFWS public domain.)



LEGEND:
RED = Historical Prairies
 (mapped from GLO survey plats 1815-1830)
BLUE = Glades and Barrens
 (mapped by Paul Nelson, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture)

Historical Prairies and Glades and Barrens in Arkansas



Q&A with Amanda Bryant

Arkansas is home to the American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), a native species found across the Southeast United States. We reached out to Amanda Bryant, Conservation Herpetologist in the Fisheries Division at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, to learn more about alligators in Arkansas.

Q What is the history of alligators in Arkansas?

A Alligators are native to Arkansas, and we have records of them being hunted in the state from the early 1800's. Unfortunately, alligators were nearly extirpated (completely removed) from Arkansas by the 1960's due to overhunting and habitat loss.

In the 1970's and 80's, restocking efforts helped bring alligators back to the state. Alligator populations in Arkansas are much less dense than populations in places like Louisiana and Mississippi, however, we've maintained a stable population since that reintroduction.

Amanda Bryant is the Conservation Herpetologist with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC). She earned a B.S. in Environmental Biology/Zoology from Michigan State University in 2015 and spent five years working as a field biologist studying amphibians and reptiles before completing her Ph.D. in Aquatic Resources and Integrative Biology at Texas State University. Her doctoral research focused on how different agricultural practices affect stress physiology and disease ecology in frogs. She joined AGFC in 2024 after completing her Ph.D.

Where are alligators found in Arkansas today, and how has their range changed over time?

Alligators are most common throughout the southern half of Arkansas, but there are small numbers that persist farther north along the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers. The range of alligators in Arkansas has remained mostly unchanged since their reintroduction in the 1970's and 80's. Occasionally, individual alligators spread farther north, but colder winters and less ideal habitat typically keep them from establishing there.

Alligators were once critically endangered. What factors led to that, and what is their conservation status today?

The two big factors that led to alligators being federally listed as endangered were habitat loss due to wetland draining and overhunting. They were downlisted to threatened status in 1977 and recovered in 1987. Now, alligators are listed as "Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance" because of their similarity to other protected species like the American crocodile. (*American crocodiles are not native to nor found in Arkansas. They live alongside alligators in southern Florida.*)

What conservation efforts helped bring them back, and what role did Arkansas play in that success story?

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) passed its first regulations protecting alligators in 1961, and in 1967 Congress passed legislation listing them as an endangered species. Listing them as endangered protected them from unregulated hunting, but because the species was almost entirely removed from Arkansas by that point, additional actions were needed to re-establish the species into their home range here in the state.

Between 1972 and 1984, AGFC partnered with the Louisiana Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to translocate 2,841 sub-adult alligators to Arkansas. Most of these animals were released on private land at the request of the landowners, so the people of the state of Arkansas also played a huge role in the success of bringing Alligators back to The Natural State.

What are some of the biggest threats facing alligators today?

Historically, alligators experienced vast habitat loss due to agriculture expansion. Today, urbanization is the leading cause of habitat conversion which brings changes in hydrology, pollution risks, and a greater increase in human-wildlife conflict.

How do biologists determine alligator populations and why is that important?

Estimating populations is the foundation of accurate and sustainable management. Spotlight surveys are the most widely used method for estimating alligator populations, and that's what we use in Arkansas. Some states also use helicopter surveys and nest surveys depending on the type of information they're trying to collect.

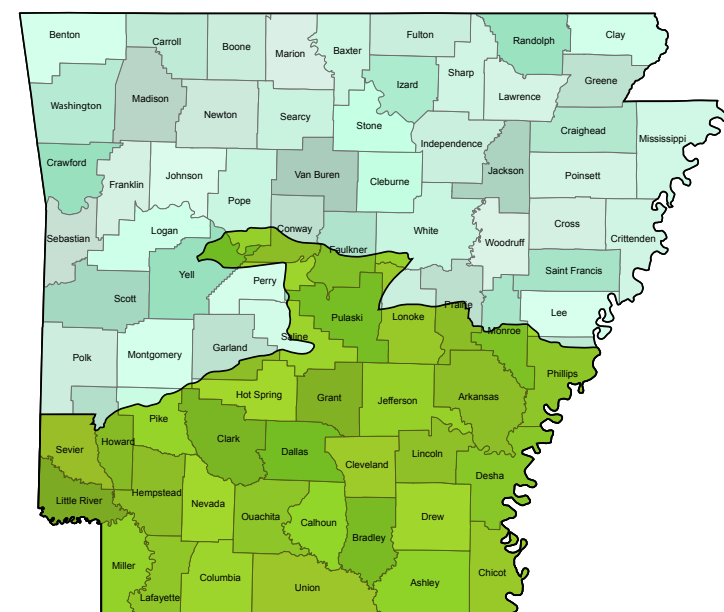
Spotlight surveys take place at night. Trained observers count pairs of alligator eyes and estimate the size of those individuals. Having this population and demographic data is important because it tells us how many animals we have that can contribute to the population, and how many young animals are surviving.

If we find only large animals in a population, that can indicate low survivorship of young animals - something is going on that needs to be addressed. And if we start seeing fewer large animals, that's an indication that we may be overhunting animals in that area.

What types of habitats do alligators need to survive and thrive, and what role do they play in the ecosystem?

Alligators thrive in vegetated wetland habitats like backwaters, sloughs, swamps, and along the shallower edges of lakes and reservoirs. Alligators play several different roles in their ecosystems depending on their age and sex.

CURRENT DOCUMENTED RANGE OF AMERICAN ALLIGATORS IN ARKANSAS



BE GATORWISE

EDUCATE. RESPECT. COEXIST.

ASSUME ALLIGATORS ARE PRESENT. Alligators can live in any water body within their range, even in places you’ve never seen them before.

NEVER FEED ALLIGATORS. It is illegal and dangerous to feed, bait, or entice wild alligators in Arkansas.

DON’T DISPOSE OF FISH OR FOOD SCRAPS IN WATER. This is one of the most common ways people unintentionally feed and attract alligators.

NEVER HARASS, CAPTURE, OR HANDLE ALLIGATORS. Approaching alligators is illegal and can increase your risk of injury or death.

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PEOPLE AND PETS. Keep pets on a leash, away from the water’s edge. Closely supervise children near water.

ALWAYS MAINTAIN AWARENESS IN OR NEAR WATER. Learn to notice signs of alligators. Only swim during daylight hours and avoid areas with dense vegetation.

Learn more at www.gatorwise.org

Female and young alligators tend to live in shallower water around nesting areas, while male alligators often utilize deeper water. In shallower wetlands, alligators create their own type of habitat known as “gator holes.” Gator holes are deeper and hold more water than the surrounding wetland, contributing vital habitat for mammals, birds, amphibians, and some fish during dry seasons and droughts. During wet seasons, gator holes become reconnected to larger water bodies and can act as nursery habitats for smaller fish.

Alligators are apex predators at the top of the food web, so they intake a lot of energy and nutrients. Because they use wetland, riverine, and reservoir/lake habitats throughout their lives, alligators transfer those nutrients and energy from really productive and nutrient rich habitats like wetlands, to less nutrient-rich habitats like lakes. This nutrient transfer helps lakes produce more plants, which in turn helps produce more insects and thus more fish. Alligator nests are also diverse and useful microhabitats for insects, birds, and smaller reptiles.

For all these reasons, alligators are considered ecosystem engineers and a keystone species (one that plays an outsized role in maintaining the ecosystem) in their habitats.

AGFC is a GatorWise partner. Explain what that is, and what people should know about coexisting with alligators.

GatorWise is a cooperative program developed by fisheries and wildlife agencies across the southeast. The goal of GatorWise is to give people actionable things they can do to be more confident in their ability to recreate safely and share habitat with alligators.

The biggest thing for people to keep in mind is to assume alligators are present when you are in areas of the state with alligators. That immediately puts you in the frame of mind to maintain your awareness. The other big thing is to never feed or dispose of scraps in areas with alligators. Feeding, either intentionally or from dumping scraps, is one of the biggest contributing factors to alligators wanting to be near people - which leads to conflicts.

What are the most common misconceptions people have about alligators?

That they are out to get you or inherently want to hurt people. The vast majority of human-alligator incidents are caused by risky or inattentive human behavior. That’s why initiatives like GatorWise are so important in keeping people safe. If we can mitigate these risky behaviors, we can prevent most of these incidents.

Arkansas has a regulated alligator hunting season. When did that start, how does hunting fit into the state’s overall management strategy, and how are hunting limits determined?

Our first regulated hunt happened in 2007. Alligator populations are lower in Arkansas than in other states, so the risk of overhunting is higher than it would be somewhere like Louisiana, for example. The goal is to provide hunting as a sport opportunity while maintaining our alligator populations at a level that is sustainable. We determine alligator hunting limits based on the population data we gather from annual spotlight surveys.

Hunting also helps to reduce human-wildlife conflicts because it gives private landowners the opportunity to get a hunting tag to harvest nuisance alligators on their property, as long as they are in an appropriate alligator management zone.

Moving forward, what are the biggest priorities for alligator conservation and management in Arkansas and how can the public help support those efforts?

Our biggest priority right now is to improve our population estimates. Spotlight surveys are a great and versatile

tool for managing populations, but there’s always room for improvement in our methods. Several other southeastern states are embarking on similar efforts, so it’s an exciting time in the alligator management world.

AGFC also just started a new private-public alligator hunt program. Through this program, private landowners with alligators on their property can offer their land to be included in the public land hunt draw, similar to the WRICE duck hunting program AGFC offers. We’re hoping this increases hunting opportunities for people applying through the public land lottery and relieves private landowners the burden of dealing with short-term hunting leases.

Applications for this year’s hunt are closed, but private landowners interested in applying can keep an eye out on our website for when applications re-open at www.agfc.com/hunting

Tell us a surprising or memorable moment you’ve had during your time working with alligators in Arkansas?

We recently partnered with a doctoral researcher from Clemson University, Miriam Boucher. She is studying the diet, mercury accumulation, and PFAS (human-made chemicals often called “forever chemicals”) accumulation in alligators across their range. The results of her research will be available next year.

Several AGFC employees helped with that project, and it

was one of the best experiences I’ve had working in the field. I enjoyed seeing so many of my colleagues experience working with and touching these impressive, incredible animals. It was very rewarding and I can’t thank Miriam and her team enough for coming out and working with us.

As the Conservation Herpetologist at AGFC, what other species do you work with beside alligators?

I spend most of my time working on our Species of Greatest Conservation Need throughout the state. That includes things like monitoring populations of the Ozark hellbender (large, endangered salamander), working on captive propagation and headstarting of western chicken turtles (the rarest turtles in Arkansas), partnering with the Little Rock Zoo and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation on translocating Eastern collared lizards to support our native populations, and more.

Anything we didn’t ask that you’d like to address?

If you see an alligator that is acting strangely or seems habituated to people (approaching people, boats, or boat ramps when people are present) please contact the USDA APHIS nuisance wildlife hotline at 833-345-0315. They will help decide if moving that animal to an area with no people is warranted. Please never attempt to harass or remove animals yourself.



Amanda (fourth from left) and colleagues at AGFC assist visiting Clemson University doctoral researcher, Miriam Boucher (second from left).



WILDLIFE OF ARKANSAS STUDENT ART CONTEST Gallery of 2026 Winners

Each year, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation invites students in grades K-12th to submit their original artwork depicting Arkansas-native wildlife, plants, and landscapes. The contest is free and open to public, private, and homeschooled students who reside in Arkansas.

Over 1,900 students from across the state submitted their original artwork this year. A panel of professional jurors shared the difficult task of selecting the winners based on creativity, skill, and interpretation of the theme.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were select-

ed for each grade, as well as honorable mentions. Best in Show awards were selected from among the winners in each grade category: Elementary School (K-4th grade), Middle School (5th-8th grade), and High School (9th-12th grade).

The Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest is administered by Arkansas Wildlife Federation. Lead sponsors for the contest include the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the National Wildlife Federation.

For more information, visit
www.arwild.org/art-contest/.



Winners of the 2026 Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest were recognized at a reception hosted by Arkansas Wildlife Federation at the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock. An exhibit of winning artwork is touring public locations statewide through the end of this year.

Not only did the 2026 Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest bring a host of native species and amazing young artists to my attention, but it marked my tenth year serving as a juror for such an important event. Each spring I have had the distinct opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna that The Natural State has to offer through the gift of viewing art by talented young artists.

When viewing hundreds of artworks spanning from Kindergarten through High School Seniors, one aspect stands out: Arkansans have an abundance of pride for their state. There is no lack of vivid color and active imagination. There is a clear love for our landscape, a care taken in the mark-making to express the details of each bit of fur, feathers, and scales, and a joy exuding from the careful considerations of each composition.

Teachers and students across Arkansas collaborated between the fine arts and sciences in order to create these many outstanding artworks. The most successful

pieces went beyond research, past mere observation and illustration; they delved into experiential learning, forging lifelong connections between a young artist and their environment. Everyone who participated is not just a student; they are a steward. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for participating. As Arkansas Artists, the panel of jurors could not have been more overwhelmed by the sheer amount of love shown to the creatures and geography that have no voice. Your willingness to tell the stories of the Diana Fritillary, the PuffAdder, and the White-Tailed Deer, year after year, is a testament to your dedication to our Arkansas Wildlife.

Jurors Statement by Jessie Hornbrook
Associate Professor of Art, Printmaking
BEA Coordinator
Department of Art and Design
University of Central Arkansas



FIRST PLACE, KINDERGARTEN
Kristopher Arender
Curious Fox



THIRD PLACE, KINDERGARTEN
Millie Kasinger
Flower Bird



HONORABLE MENTION, KINDERGARTEN
Dennie Carnett
Goldie The Squirrel



SECOND PLACE, KINDERGARTEN
Cora Hussey
Diana Fritillary



FIRST PLACE & BEST IN SHOW, 1ST GRADE
Delanie Jones
Coneflower Beauties



SECOND PLACE, 1ST GRADE
Talon Sizemore
Nectar Hunt



THIRD PLACE, 1ST GRADE
Adhika Gopu
A Splash of Wings



HONORABLE MENTION, 1ST GRADE
Collin Ward
Redheaded Woodpecker



HONORABLE MENTION, 1ST GRADE
Ruby Wolhuter
Coneflower Bee



FIRST PLACE, 2ND GRADE

Addison Ives

Widow in the Ferns



SECOND PLACE, 2ND GRADE

Kes Ferguson

Nighttime Watch



THIRD PLACE, 2ND GRADE

Aadriti Edapalapatty

The Hungry Fish-Chasing Food in the Water



FIRST PLACE, 4TH GRADE

Kai Ferguson

Red Fox Kits



SECOND PLACE, 4TH GRADE

Amarie Brooks

*Local Red-tailed Hawk in Flight with
Turkey Vultures*



THIRD PLACE, 4TH GRADE

Jaxon McFall

Bluebird



HONORABLE MENTION, 2ND GRADE

Jessie Jewell

The Lark Sparrow



HONORABLE MENTION, 2ND GRADE

Sawyer Hall

Bald Eagle



FIRST PLACE, 3RD GRADE

Aurora Dawn Shufelt

Daydreamin' in the Meadow



HONORABLE MENTION, 4TH GRADE

Daniel Jewell

Fox Squirrel



HONORABLE MENTION, 4TH GRADE

David Coleman

Bluebird



HONORABLE MENTION, 4TH GRADE

Nycole Bean

Woody Woodpecker



SECOND PLACE, 3RD GRADE

Sanav Reddy Goli

Noodle Doodle



THIRD PLACE, 3RD GRADE

Cannon Stewart

Baby Otter



HONORABLE MENTION, 3RD GRADE

Jalene Daniels

Squirrel



FIRST PLACE, 5TH GRADE

Lillian Brewer

Spring Vibrations



SECOND PLACE, 5TH GRADE

Swojasvi Ammanabrolu

Playful Raccoons



THIRD PLACE, 5TH GRADE

Charleigh Chavez

Underwater Otter



HONORABLE MENTION, 5TH GRADE
Harley Hill
Opal in the Water



SECOND PLACE, 6TH GRADE
Brynleigh Nelson
Whisper on the Water



FIRST PLACE & BEST IN SHOW, 7TH GRADE
Mohitha Somaraju
Mothers Nature's Thunder



SECOND PLACE, 7TH GRADE
Nicole Ping
Season of Gathering



HONORABLE MENTION, 5TH GRADE
Harper Aldridge-Knowles
Forest Watcher



THIRD PLACE, 6TH GRADE
Shelby Thompson
Autumn Stalker



THIRD PLACE, 7TH GRADE
Scion Larson
The Pillbug Explorer



FIRST PLACE, 6TH GRADE
Brooklyn Cotton
Rubies in the Night



HONORABLE MENTION, 6TH GRADE
Phoebe Maddox
Wings of the Cavern



HONORABLE MENTION, 6TH GRADE
Drew Eslick
Barred Owl



HONORABLE MENTION, 7TH GRADE
Harper Tapp
3 Toed Turtle



HONORABLE MENTION, 7TH GRADE
Zylla Romero
S - Possum



THIRD PLACE, 8TH GRADE
Paula Srinivasa
Luna Moth



FIRST PLACE, 9TH GRADE
Emily Porter
Adorned by the Stars - At the Break of Dawn



FIRST PLACE, 8TH GRADE
Judy Youssef
The Bobwhite Quail in the Green Foliage



HONORABLE MENTION, 8TH GRADE
Asher Reed
Hellbender Habitat - A Stream's Secret Home



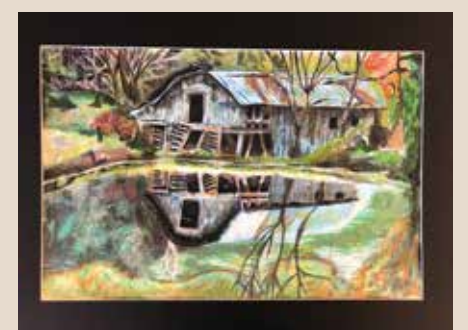
SECOND PLACE, 9TH GRADE
Sarah Smith
Wild Arkansas



SECOND PLACE, 8TH GRADE
Ja'Miya Hawkins
Ozark Waterfall



HONORABLE MENTION, 8TH GRADE
Barrett Jackson
Jumping Spider



THIRD PLACE, 9TH GRADE
Kendall Kemp
Old Barn



HONORABLE MENTION, 9TH GRADE
Lotus-Pearle Ross
Eastern Cricket Frog



HONORABLE MENTION, 9TH GRADE
Gray Girdler
Black Bear



FIRST PLACE, 10TH GRADE
Savannah Kenreich
Olivia the Opossum



FIRST PLACE & BEST IN SHOW, 11TH GRADE
Hasumi Hosono
Crawdad



HONORABLE MENTION, 11TH GRADE
Riley Craft
Feathers



SECOND PLACE, 12TH GRADE
Ally Henson
Watchful Eyes



HONORABLE MENTION, 11TH GRADE
Kaely Orick
The Otter Side of the River



FIRST PLACE, 12TH GRADE
Anna Dallas
Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Buckeye Butterflies



SECOND PLACE, 10TH GRADE
Jack Moore
Watcher In the Sky



THIRD PLACE, 10TH GRADE
Sophie Sloan
Young Buck



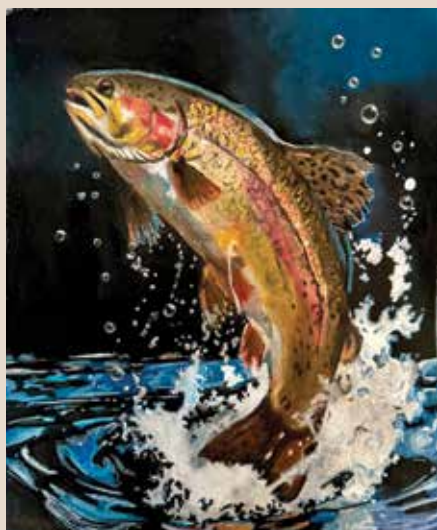
SECOND PLACE, 11TH GRADE
Mary Rose Cañete
A Sunday Afternoon Of Peace & Tranquillity



THIRD PLACE, 12TH GRADE
Layla Avery
Ospreys



HONORABLE MENTION, 12TH GRADE
Audrey Altom
Wood Carving



HONORABLE MENTION, 10TH GRADE
William Bryce Presley
Brown Trout



HONORABLE MENTION, 10TH GRADE
Kate Dallas
Eastern Collared Lizard



THIRD PLACE, 11TH GRADE
Lauren Hatch
Channel Catfish



HONORABLE MENTION, 12TH GRADE
Payton Whittington
Mocking on Top of the World



HONORABLE MENTION, 12TH GRADE
Jade Ross
Female Domination

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By Sim Barrow, Director of
Community Conservation
at Arkansas Wildlife
Federation

STREAM SNORKELING IN ARKANSAS



(Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)

Let's face it, hiking in Arkansas in the summer can be less than enjoyable. Even on the most well-maintained trails, ticks and chiggers are nearly impossible to avoid, and the heat and humidity are quite oppressive. Fortunately, it's possible to enjoy watchable wildlife outdoors in summer while staying cool. Just grab your mask and snorkel and head to the nearest river or stream!



STREAM SNORKEL?

Stream snorkeling is an excellent way to observe aquatic wildlife in their natural environment with minimal disruption. Arkansas' abundant, clear flowing streams provide the opportunity for an eye-level view of life under the surface.

Snorkeling in a stream can be as adventurous as free diving into deeper pools below towering bluffs or as relaxing as laying in a riffle watching minnows swim the shallows. Either way, stream snorkeling lets you explore the outdoors in summer while staying cool.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Snorkel masks are readily available in local stores and simple to use, but a proper fit is essential for avoiding pesky leaks. A well-fitting mask should maintain a good seal without being uncomfortably snug. To test the fit, try to breathe in through your nose while holding the mask to your face, ensuring it creates a good seal.

You will also need a snorkel (the breathing tube that allows you to breathe air from above the surface while keeping your face submerged). "Dry" snorkels include features that prevent water from getting into the tube but can be a bit bulkier.

Fins are optional. While they can make swimming significantly easier, they can also be a hindrance in shallow water. And you might want a waterproof flashlight to explore under rocky outcrops.

Safety should always come first. Children and less confident swimmers should wear a properly fitted life jacket. Floatation belts can allow you to comfortably float while keeping your face in the water. Choose the option that is best for you and your abilities and always go with a buddy for safety!

WHERE TO SNORKEL

No matter where you are in Arkansas, prime snorkeling is likely within reach. The best snorkeling waters should have good clarity, high water quality, and safe access. This can vary with weather conditions.

Clear streams may become murky after heavy rains and fallen leaves can darken the water, reducing visibility. Water quality is an important factor because clean water supports more wildlife biodiversity and is safer for human use.

Once you know the stream is clear, clean, and can be accessed safely, look for areas with submerged structures like boulders, bluffs, and logs which attract fish and other aquatic wildlife. Be sure to note the swiftness of the current before entering, which can make it difficult to effectively and safely explore the area.



Although they are well-camouflaged, male darters like this rainbow darter (*Etheostoma caeruleum*) display striking colors during the breeding season. (Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)

RIFFLES, RUNS, & POOLS

Stream morphology refers to the unique physical shape and structure of a stream including its depth, width, and flow patterns. These characteristics work together to form a sequence of riffles, runs, and pools, each attracting a different variety of aquatic life to explore.

Riffles are shallow, rocky stretches

of the stream where the water flows fast enough to carry sediments and organic debris downstream, leaving behind the gravel and cobblestones which make up the stream bottom.

Wildlife found in riffles are adapted to live in this swift current, including aquatic insects like stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies that take shelter among the rocks. These invertebrates (animals lacking a backbone) are water quality indicators because they cannot live in polluted waters. They are also a critical source of food for other wildlife living in this ecosystem.

Riffles are also home to several species of fish, including darters. These small, slender-bodied fish rest on the stream bottom, darting away when disturbed. While darters are well-camouflaged, males of some species display surprisingly vibrant breeding colors.

Darters are a highly diverse group of fishes with multiple endemic (having extremely limited geographic range) species found only in Arkansas and neighboring states, and nowhere else on Earth.

In the Ozark region, you can also find sculpins in riffles. Like darters, they are small bottom-dwelling fish that are exceptionally well-camou-



The Northern hogsucker (*Hypentelium nigricans*) is a widespread sucker that lives in the runs and riffles of clear, flowing streams. (Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)



During spawning season, the pebble mound nests of the hornyhead chub (*Nocomis biguttatus*) are also used by a variety of minnows including these dusky stripe shiners (*Luxilus pilsbryi*). (Photo by Isaac Szabo.)

flaged. Sculpins have wide mouths and enlarged pectoral fins.

Still more secretive are madtoms, which are small catfish that live in clean, fast-flowing streams. By day they hide under rocks and gravel, emerging at night to feed on aquatic insects. If you encounter a madtom while snorkeling, take care to avoid their painful venomous sting!

Runs are sections of a stream or river that have a steady current and make up most of the stream's morphology. Deeper than riffles, runs support larger fish including longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*), schools of sunfish like the longear sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*), and a wide range of minnows, suckers, stonerollers, chubs, and more.

Although many of these fish will

flee as you approach, you can still get close enough to observe fascinating behaviors in this fish community, especially if you catch a spawn event.

Most species of stream-dwelling fish in Arkansas spawn between April through June, but some continue into July and August. When spawning, minnows like the southern redbelly dace (*Chrosomus erythrogaster*) and striped shiner (*Luxilus chrysocephalus*) display strikingly vivid breeding colors.

Many male minnows, like stonerollers (*Campostoma spp.*), chubs (*Nocomis spp.*), and suckers (*Moxostoma spp.*) develop bony projections on their heads called tubercles. In addition to these interesting features, there are fascinating nest associations to observe

Stream morphology refers to the unique physical shape and structure of a stream including its depth, width, and flow patterns. These characteristics work together to form a sequence of riffles, runs, and pools, each attracting a different variety of aquatic life to explore.



among these species as well.

For example, the hornyhead chub (*Nocomis biguttatus*) builds a pebble mound nest by picking up and carrying nearby rocks in its mouth. This mound becomes a communal nest for a wide range of minnow species. Other fish may also visit the mound to eat the eggs.

Stonerollers (*Campostoma spp.*) also construct nests. They dig depressions in the gravel which are also used by other minnows. In another case, the bowl-shaped nests of green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), which are aggressively protective of their nests, allow redbelly shiners (*Lythrurus umbratilis*) to spawn with them.

While spawning, these fish are often too busy to notice your approach, allowing you to observe their behavior uninterrupted. Just be mindful of the current so that you aren't carried further downstream than you intended.



Aquatic invertebrates like this stonefly (*Acro-neurea sp.*) rely on the swift current and gravel bottom of riffles for habitat. (Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)

Sculpins like this knobfin sculpin (*Cottus immaculatus*) can be found in riffles in Ozark Mountain streams. (Photo by Isaac Szabo.)



Deeper water and calmer currents make pools an excellent habitat for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and other large fish. (Photo by Isaac Szabo.)



Freshwater mussels like this Louisiana fatmucket (*Lampsilis hydiana*) are the unsung heroes of the freshwater stream ecosystem. Unfortunately, many are imperiled due to water pollution. (Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)

As streams flow over boulders, logs, or other obstructions, they begin to carve deep **pools** on the downstream side. The current slows within pools, and over time, they become anchors in the stream ecosystem. Pools provide a sheltered place for fish and other wildlife including smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), and freshwater mussels.

QUIET CARETAKERS

Although easily overlooked, mussels are vital to stream health and have surprisingly interesting life histories. In fact, Arkansas boasts the greatest diversity of freshwater mussels west of the Mississippi River. Mussels are bivalves that collect food particles from the water as they siphon it through their bodies, acting as a natural filter.

Unfortunately, mussels are among the most imperiled group of wildlife due to their sensitivity to water pollution. Nearly half of all species in the state are considered “species of greatest conservation need.”

Unfortunately, mussels are among the most imperiled group of wildlife due to their sensitivity to water pollution. Nearly half of all species in the state are considered “species of greatest conservation need.” Seeing mussels while snorkeling is a sign you’re in quality aquatic habitat!

In addition to their importance for stream health, freshwater mussels ex-



Many minnows like this shiner develop vibrant breeding colors and tubercles during spawning season. (Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)

hibit an incredible reproductive strategy. Because they are largely immobile, and because they must disperse their offspring so that they can replenish upstream populations, mussels need help moving their young. For this they rely on hungry fish.

Mussels hold their eggs in their shells until they hatch into the larval “glochidia” which are an immature parasitic life stage. At this point, the parent mussel forms a sophisticated mantle flap outside of its shell which it agitates in the water to lure a near-

by fish to bite. These lures can bear a striking resemblance to an injured minnow, tricking the fish to strike.

Once bitten, the flap breaks open to release the glochidia into the fish’s mouth and gills where they clamp down and are carried away until they complete development into their free-living stage. Don’t worry – the fish is typically unharmed by the process!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Trade your hiking shoes for a mask-and-snorkel this summer! Stream snorkeling offers a rare opportunity to experience Arkansas’ underwater world firsthand, revealing a diversity of fish, mussels, crayfish, turtles, frogs, and more!



(Photo by Dustin Lynch, ANHC.)



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Wild News of Note

Recognition and transition at National Wildlife Federation

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation appreciates and congratulates GERALYN HOEY, National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Director of Conservation Partnerships, on receiving the 2026 Kent Salazar Director of Conservation Partnerships Award at the recent NWF 90th Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. The award recognizes outstanding lead-



ership and service in strengthening the Federation's network of state and territorial affiliates.

We've benefited firsthand from GERALYN's dedication. She has served as our DCP and trusted partner at Arkansas Wildlife Federation for many years, providing guidance, support, and leadership that have helped strengthen and carry our conserva-

Arkansas Wildlife Federation welcomes John DeFillipo, National Wildlife Federation's new Director of Conservation Partnerships for Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

tion efforts across the state.

As part of a recent realignment within NWF, GERALYN will be serving a new suite of states, and we extend a warm welcome to John DeFillipo who will serve as our new National Wildlife Federation Director of Conservation Partnerships moving forward. AWF looks forward to continuing its strong partnership with NWF and working closely with John to advance our shared commitment to conservation, wildlife, and the natural resources that make Arkansas special!



Geraldyn Hoey accepts the 2026 Kent Salazar Director of Conservation Partnerships Award from the National Wildlife Federation. (Photo by Laura Kilgus, 9Ten Photography.)

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A CENTURY-FORWARD SUMMIT FOR SOUTHERN FORESTS
Weaving the next 100 years of Southern forests: biodiversity, resilience, and shared prosperity

4sciencesake.com/forestry-forward

Registration open for the Forestry Forward 2026 Summit

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation is proud to serve as a supporting host for Forestry Forward 2026, a landmark summit focused on shaping the next century of southern forests. Centered on advancing biodiversity, resilience, and shared prosperity, the event will be held September 23-24, 2026, in Texarkana, Arkansas.

Bringing together leaders and stakeholders from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma, this four-state summit will explore innovative solutions for the future of our forests. With many southern forests facing challenges related to overstocking and limited diversity, Forestry Forward 2026 will foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among landowners, conservationists, industry professionals, policymakers, and community leaders.

Designed to inspire action and fresh thinking, the summit will focus on the ideas and opportunities that

emerge when diverse perspectives come together around a shared vision.

Registration is limited to the first 200 participants. To learn more and register, visit Forestry Forward – 4sciencesake.com.

Fishing & boating in Arkansas: summer updates and reminders

Arkansas anglers and boaters have a pair of timely reminders from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) as summer recreation reaches its peak. AGFC recently released its updated 2026-2027 Arkansas Fishing Guidebook, which includes current fishing regulations, season information, species identification resources, and details on recent regulation changes affecting anglers across the state. Review the latest rules before heading to the water to ensure compliance and stay informed. The guidebook is available online.

At the same time, AGFC game wardens are stepping up efforts to promote boating safety. The agency is reminding boaters to wear life jackets, avoid operating watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and ensure all required safety equipment is onboard before leaving the dock. Boaters are strongly encouraged to complete boater education courses and familiarize themselves with Arkansas boating regulations.

Scan here to download the Arkansas Fishing Guidebook 2026-27 Fishing Guidebook. pdf - Google Drive



For boater education resources, visit <https://www.agfc.com/education/boater-education/>.



FIREFLY FIELD NOTES

Fireflies, or lightning bugs, are a summertime favorite in Arkansas. These glowing beetles produce light through bioluminescence, with males flashing at night to attract females.

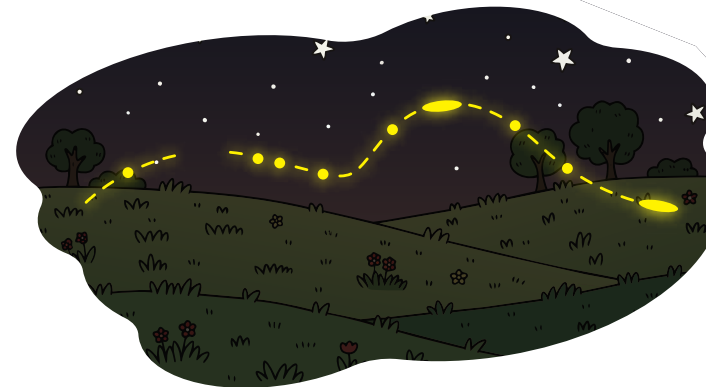
GO
ON A
FIREFLY
WATCH!

Takashi Ota <CC BY 2.0>

Go outside after sunset and watch for fireflies. Take a pen or pencil and your nature notebook and record the following observations:

- ◆ Where are you watching? (backyard, park, field, forest, etc.)
- ◆ What's the weather like? (warm, cool, windy, cloudy, etc.)
- ◆ How many fireflies can you see? (1, 2-10, 11-50, more than 50)
- ◆ What color are their flashes? (yellow, green, orange)
- ◆ How high up are they? (near the ground, in the bushes, in the trees)

- ◆ Observe their flash pattern, including flash duration (how long a flash lasts), flash interval (time between flashes), and flash period (how long the pattern continues)
- ◆ See if you can draw the flash pattern using the following key:
 - Single Flash
 - Double Flash
 - Triple Flash
 - Longer Flash
 - Interval



DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 30 species of fireflies in Arkansas! Sadly, many of them are declining due to loss of habitat and pesticides. **Remember – watch, don't catch! Fireflies belong in nature.**

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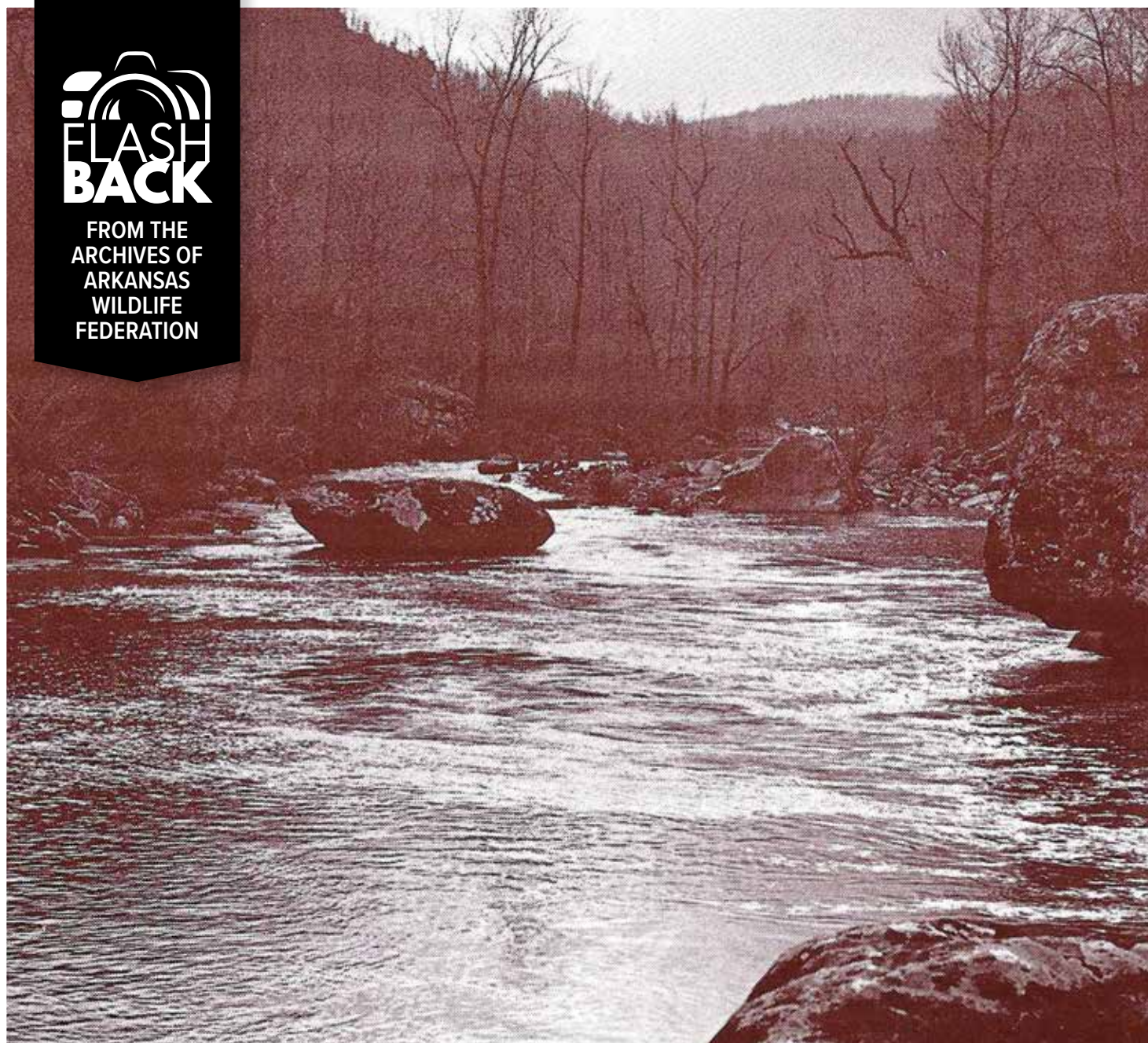
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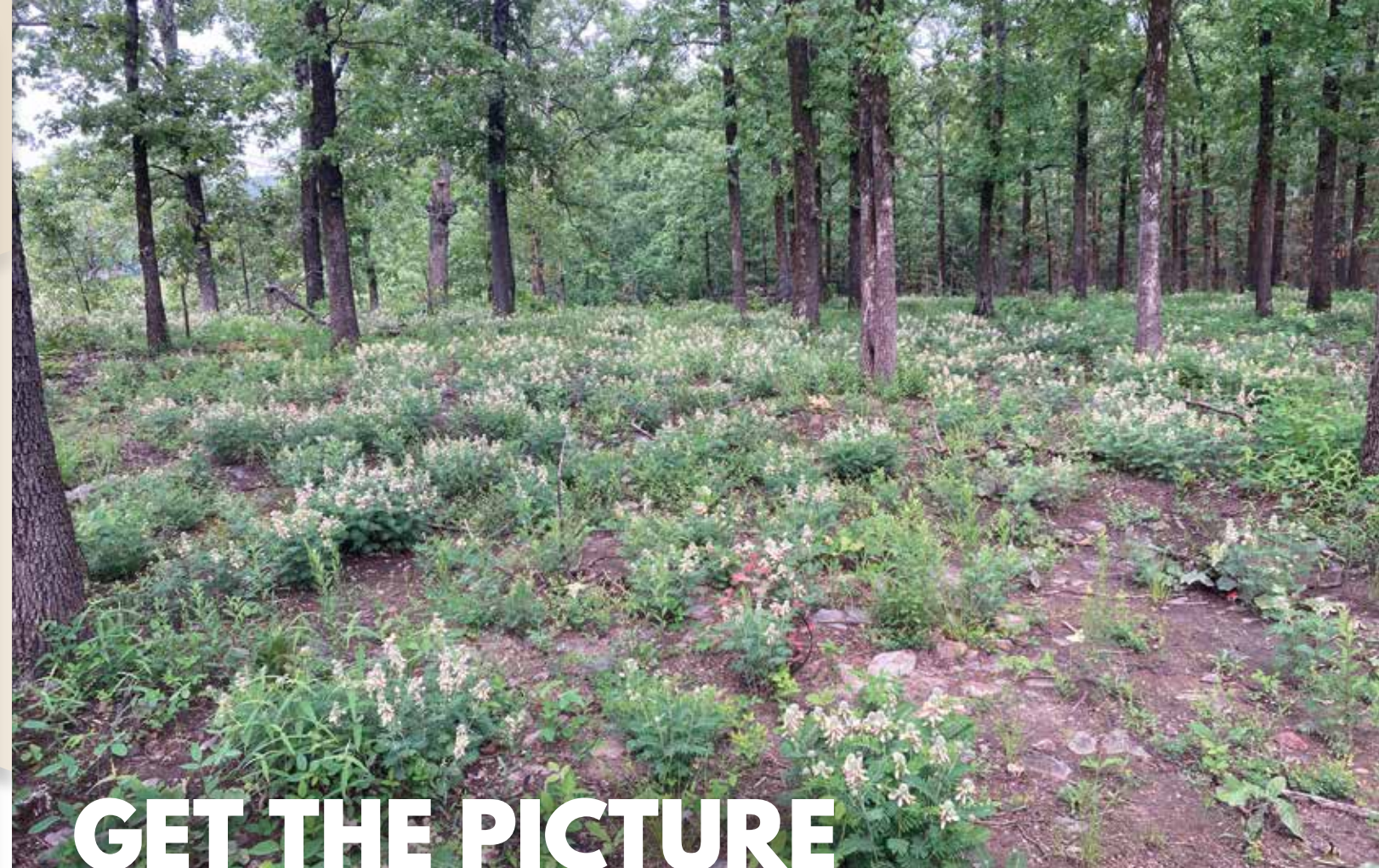
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August 1976: The Ozark Society is awarded Conservationist of the Year by the Arkansas Wildlife Federation. Photo from the awards program captioned, “One-half mile upstream from mouth of Bobtail Creek within the proposed Richland Wilderness Area.”

Preserving the Wild:

Fifty years ago, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation named The Ozark Society its 1976 Conservationist of the Year in recognition of the organization’s role in preventing the damming of the Buffalo River and securing wilderness protections across the Ozark–Ouachita region. Today, The Ozark Society remains a leading advocate and collaborative partner in preserving wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and unique natural areas.



GET THE PICTURE

Spring on the Prairie Words by Theo Witsell

I took this photo in an excellent-quality post oak woodland at the Lake Conway Wildlife Management Area (WMA), formerly the Camp Robinson Special Use Area, in Faulkner County, Arkansas on May 15th. The main wildflower showing off in the understory is Goat’s Rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*), a tough, long-lived perennial of intact dry open habitats. Its leaves and roots contain rotenone, which protects the plant from herbivory and led to its use by Native Americans as a fish poison. But its flowers and seeds, along with the clumpy cover it provides, make it a tremendous wildlife plant.

It’s one of 111 native species in the Fabaceae, the bean and pea family, known from Arkansas. Most have symbiotic relationships with nitrogen-fixing soil bacteria, which allow them to thrive in rocky, dry, thin, acidic soils. More than half of these

occur in the woodlands at the WMA, including all eight of our native bush-clovers (*Lespedeza spp.*), and 14 of our 16 native beggar-ticks (*Desmodium spp.*), all species of outsized importance to wildlife.

But you won’t see Goat’s Rue, or the hundreds of other native plant species found in the woodlands of the WMA, blooming like this in most of the closed-canopy post oak “forests” in the Arkansas landscape today. This is due to too little light making it through the canopy and mid-story trees and the build-up of decades of interlocking post oak leaves covering the ground like a mulch blanket. It’s the familiar old one-two punch that has knocked down our open woodland biodiversity.

Historically, these woodlands were kept open by periodic fires, which mostly occurred in the late summer through the early winter, timing

most compatible with the life cycles of the ground flora. The result was a tremendous abundance and diversity of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers – what one of my mentors in habitat restoration, Martin Blaney, so eloquently calls “groceries on the ground” for wildlife. A century of targeted forest management including prescribed fire at the WMA offers a rare window into this ecology of the past, and hopefully the future.



Theo Witsell is co-founder and Chief Conservation Officer for the Southeastern Grasslands Institute, a program of Austin Peay State University. He lives in Little Rock, AR.



KEEP ARKANSAS WILD

This issue of *Arkansas Out of Doors* celebrates diversity in some special ways.

First, our annual *Wildlife of Arkansas Student Art Contest* brings together young people from every corner of the state, each interpreting the natural world through their own lens. Year after year, this contest draws one of the most diverse groups of participants of any initiative we offer. Students of different backgrounds, communities, and lived experiences find common ground in the wildlife they choose to portray. It allows every child to see themselves as part of Arkansas' conservation story.

And that story includes some urgent chapters. Grasslands are among the most ecologically diverse and endangered ecosystems in our state and country. In this issue, you'll find an expert-led journey through the varied grasslands of Arkansas and the history that shaped them. Grasslands support an incredible array of wildlife, from pollinators and songbirds to small mammals and rare plants. Restoring and protecting these landscapes is a top conservation priority for protecting biodiversity and preserving our natural history.

As you enjoy the 2026 gallery of winning student artwork and dive into the conservation stories and information within these pages, I hope you'll feel inspired by the breadth of life that depends on Arkansas' wild places. Conservation is strongest when it reflects the full diversity of our communities, and when it welcomes new voices, new perspectives, and new generations into the work.

Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping Keep Arkansas Wild!

Terri Lane, Director
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
tlane@arwild.org



Restoring Arkansas habitat. *Recovering Arkansas wildlife.*

Arkansas Wildlife Federation (AWF) is a proud partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

This long-standing collaboration catalyzes on-the-ground habitat restoration across The Natural State, including upland forests, wetlands, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams. Conservation projects are designed to benefit federal trust species including migratory birds, endangered, threatened and at-risk species.

To learn more about the Partners Program, visit fws.gov/office/arkansas-ecological-services or reach the Partners Program at 501-513-4470.





FOR NINE DECADES, the Arkansas Wildlife Federation has stood for one simple idea - that Arkansas wildlife and wild places are worth protecting. Since our founding in 1936, we've proudly served as the official state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation—and this year, both organizations are celebrating 90 years of conservation leadership. Together, we've worked to protect wildlife, restore habitat, and inspire generations of Arkansans to care for the natural world.

A New Look for a New Chapter

To mark this milestone year, we've introduced a refreshed AWF logo—one that reflects the landscapes, species, and spirit we work to protect. The new design honors our long history while embracing a modern, forward-looking identity. It's a symbol of where we've been and where we're headed, carrying our mission into the next generation of conservation.

Join the \$90 for 90 Years Campaign

As we celebrate 90 years of impact, we're inviting supporters to help fuel the next 90. Our \$90 for 90 Years campaign is a simple, meaningful way to support the education and advocacy efforts that keep Arkansas wild. Every contribution helps ensure that the wildlife and habitats we cherish today will thrive long into the future.



BECOME PART OF THE LEGACY

We invite you to join or renew your support at arwild.org/donate/ or use this form to the right. **>>>**
Your support keeps our mission moving forward and helps protect the wild Arkansas we all love!

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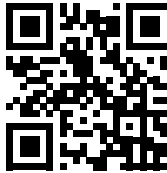
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