

THE ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH FOUNDATION

UNPLUGGED & ENGAGED

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



MEET THE STAFF



DEKE WHITBECK
President

Deke and his family have deep roots in Arkansas. Born and raised in Little Rock, Deke graduated from the University of Arkansas with a finance degree. He is an avid sportsman and has a passion for conservation and its impact on Arkansas. Deke stepped into the role as President of the Foundation in November 2016 and implemented various new programs and events across the state supporting the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Deke and his wife, Sarah, have two beautiful daughters, Cate and Charley, and love spending time with the girls exploring Arkansas's outdoors.

Deke@agff.org



RUTH-KATHRYN KELLY
Director of Operations

Ruth-Kathryn "RK" Kelly is a native of West Memphis. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Information Sciences in 2009. She joined the AGFF staff in 2016, recently marking her 10th year of service. With over 16 years in the nonprofit sector, R.K. has a strong understanding of the unique dynamics of mission-driven organizations. Her professional background includes serving as Exec. Dir. of the Literacy Council of Crittenden County and as PR Coordinator for the West Memphis Chamber of Commerce. She resides in Conway with her husband, Bobby, and their two daughters.

Rkkelly@agff.org



TYLER LAWRENCE
Director of Events

Tyler was born and raised in Arkansas, growing up on the banks of the Little Red River near Pangburn. He holds a business administration degree from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Prior to joining AGFF, Tyler served as Regional Director for the National Wild Turkey Federation and has been involved with nonprofit conservation organizations throughout his career. Under Tyler's leadership, the Foundation has expanded fundraising events across the state. Tyler is a lifelong hunter and angler, passing on those passions to his two sons, Pierce and Beau. Tyler and his wife, Jennifer, live in Greenbrier.

Tyler@agff.org



JIBBIE TUCKER
Business Development

If Jibbie has a choice to be inside or outside, she will always choose outside. She enjoys the beauty of the Natural State and finds an excuse to be in it as much as possible. She was born and raised in Little Rock. She joined the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation in May 2022 to launch the new corporate partnership program and leads business development for the Foundation. Jibbie has two children, Breck and Presley. She is extremely proud of her kids and loves to share the appreciation of Arkansas's gorgeous landscape with them.

Jibbie@agff.org



MATT BAKER
Special Projects Coordinator

Matt, an Arkansas native, enjoys the state's outdoors, developing a love for hunting and fishing in Greenbrier where he spent most of his youth. Matt earned bachelor's degrees in accounting and psychology from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Formerly a business development officer in banking, he built connections and helped businesses grow. Now living in Conway with his wife Caroline, and their two dogs, Matt is excited to promote the Foundation's message to Arkansas youth while continuing to complement the progress AGFF has made over the past 40 years.

Matt@agff.org

OUR PURPOSE

Established in 1982, the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation is a non-profit organization **committed to supporting the mission of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.** The Foundation works with AGFC to ensure the future of quality hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities across Arkansas.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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WITT STEPHENS, JR., PRESIDENT EMERITUS
ANDY MILLER, IN MEMORIAM



THE FULL CIRCLE OF CONSERVATION:

The River Ranch Mentored Youth Hunt

The Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation continues to strengthen Arkansas’s outdoor legacy through unique partnerships that blend mentorship with boots-on-the-ground conservation. A premier example is the River Ranch Mentored Youth Hunt, an annual tradition led by AGFF Board Member Gary Dan Futrell.

Held in Southwest Arkansas, this event does more than just introduce the next generation to the woods; it creates a "full circle" of impact for the state’s wildlife and communities:

- **Mentorship & Heritage:** The hunt pairs young hunters with experienced outdoorsmen and Arkansas Game Wardens. These mentors provide firsthand lessons in hunting ethics and firearm safety, passing along Arkansas’s rich hunting heritage. For many participants, the day is defined by "firsts," including several students who harvested their first deer this past year.

- **Conservation in Action:** The event serves a vital biological purpose. Utilizing Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) tags, participants help manage the doe population at River Ranch to ensure a healthy ecosystem. Most recently, 18 does were harvested and donated to Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry, providing high-quality protein to local families in need.
- **Scientific Discovery:** The impact extends to the water as well. This year’s event included a youth fishing derby that resulted in over 70 fish caught and sampled by state biologists for critical data collection.
- **Supporting Our Wardens:** Beyond the field, the hunt is a key fundraiser for the Get It For Game Wardens program. Proceeds provide Southwest Arkansas Wardens with specialized equipment, training, and resources that allow them to better safeguard our state’s natural resources.

Gary Dan Futrell, a longtime champion of outdoor education, has built this event into a powerful bridge between young people and the officers who protect our lands. The Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation is proud to partner with leaders like Futrell to ensure that the "Big Picture" of conservation—mentorship, management, and community support—remains vibrant in The Natural State.



Game Warden Sgt Keith Teague shares a moment of mentorship with a young participant during the annual River Ranch Mentor Hunt.



“ In my 27-year career, this was one of the most gratifying days. We are honored to serve this community, and the opportunity for our Game Wardens to mentor these youngsters was incredible. Our thanks to the AGFF and Board Member Gary Dan Futrell for their vital support.”

NATE HELSUMS,
AGFC Captain, District A4

GENERATION CONSERVATION SUMMIT:

Foundation Raises Over \$200,000 for Inaugural Event; Launches Bob L. Martin Endowment

Thanks to generous sponsors, the Foundation successfully raised more than \$200,000 for the inaugural Generation Conservation Summit which was held in Hot Springs in November 2025. This achievement was fueled by the support of dedicated donors and corporate leaders, including Entergy, who served as a Founding Partner for the initiative. These investments are already being put to work, ensuring the Foundation can scale the program to reach students in every corner of the state.

The Summit serves as a premier gathering for K-12 students, teachers, and professionals to engage in hands-on outdoor learning. Hosted by the **Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**, the event allows students to compete in conservation challenges while being mentored by conservation professionals across the agency. The momentum continues to build for 2026, as the **Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas** and **Arkansas' Best Chevy Dealers** have signed on as the latest partners of the program. With a specific focus on outdoor safety, their involvement is vital to the success of the upcoming statewide finale, where students showcase advanced projects in habitat design and outdoor entrepreneurship.

In additional exciting news, the Foundation has officially launched the **Bob L. Martin Generation Conservation Endowment** to serve as the permanent cornerstone for

the program's future. **Now exceeding \$300,000, the fund ensures the summit's long-term sustainability** while providing year-round resources such as student scholarships and teacher stipends. Furthermore, the endowment provides schools with grants for educational kits and safety equipment, directly aligning with the safety-first mission of the Electric Cooperatives.

To date, over a thousand Arkansas students have participated in GenCon, which is meticulously designed to mirror the real-world operations of the AGFC. By exposing students to vital careers in wildlife management and technology, the Foundation and its partners are successfully cultivating the next generation of Arkansas conservation leaders.



“ Generation Conservation allows students to mirror the real-world work of the AGFC through hands-on challenges. We are incredibly grateful for the AGFF’s overwhelming support and the generous partners sponsoring this event. This partnership removes financial barriers, providing the resources necessary to build Arkansas’s next generation of conservation leaders.”

MARY BETH HATCH, AGFC
Education Chief

REMEMBERING ANDY MILLER

Foundation Establishes Youth Shooting Sports Education Fund in His Honor

The Andy Miller Youth Shooting Sports Education Fund was established by the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation to honor the life and legacy of Andy Miller following his passing in March 2026. The fund will honor his deep commitment to conservation and youth outdoor education in Arkansas.



Andy was a true conservationist and one of the Foundation's longest-serving board members, dedicating nearly 20 years of service to the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation Board. Throughout his tenure, Andy played a vital role in helping guide the Executive Committee through countless projects and initiatives, always bringing thoughtful leadership and a passion for Arkansas's outdoor heritage. He was especially instrumental in supporting and strengthening youth shooting sports programs, recognizing the important role they play in teaching responsibility, safety, and respect for the outdoors.

The Andy Miller Youth Shooting Sports Education Fund will help expand safe, responsible youth shooting sports opportunities across Arkansas by supporting coach and volunteer training, safety and range officer education, trap and skeet equipment, team gear, and program development for school-based shooting sports teams. The fund may also provide start-up grants for new teams, safety equipment, educational resources, competition support, and scholarships, helping ensure young Arkansans have the opportunity to learn shooting sports in a safe, structured environment that emphasizes sportsmanship and conservation values.

Through this fund, Andy's legacy will continue to inspire the next generation of outdoor leaders while strengthening youth shooting sports programs throughout The Natural State.

To make a gift in memory of Andy Miller, please visit www.agff.org/ways-to-give.



Tommy Browning (left) and the late Andy Miller, lifelong friends and hunting partners. Beyond their own adventures, their enduring bond helped shape the environment where Kayle's passion for the shooting sports first took root. Andy's legacy continues to shape the lives of young shooters across Arkansas.



AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE: Delivering Olympic success to Arkansas Coaches

For the donors and supporters of the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation, the mission has always been clear: getting our next generation **Unplugged and Engaged** in Arkansas's outdoors. This year, the AGFF Youth Shooting Sports Fund turned that mission into a world-class reality by fueling a landmark partnership between the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and **Olympic Silver Medalist Kayle Browning**, an AGFF Board Member since 2023. Through this collaboration, the AGFC's Youth Shooting Sports program brought together coaches from across the state for intensive training clinics at Browning's Cypress Creek Shooting Lodge. By combining the AGFC's program expertise with critical resources from the Foundation's dedicated fund, the partnership successfully funded the development of a "train-the-trainer" curriculum



series. This specialized series empowers the AGFC to train coaches with the specific skills needed to educate and mentor student shooters, effectively delivering an Olympic-level curriculum at the grassroots level.

A Masterclass in Mentorship

Kayle Browning developed a comprehensive technical program designed to move beyond basic safety and into elite competitive performance. The curriculum focused on several high-level pillars:

- **Technical Mastery:** Assessing skill levels and implementing personalized training plans focusing on fundamentals, accuracy, and consistency.
- **Physical & Mental Conditioning:** Exercises tailored to shooting—such as core stability—alongside mental strategies for focus under pressure.
- **Off-Range Development:** Specific drills and visualization techniques athletes can utilize at home to maintain progress.

The clinics also covered essential "pro-level" details, including equipment tuning, advanced optics maintenance, and methods for helping young athletes overcome performance plateaus. By leveraging Browning's perspective as both an Olympian and a Foundation leader, the program ensures Arkansas coaches are equipped to lead the next generation toward excellence.

U.S. Silver Medal Olympian and AGFF Board Member, Kayle Browning gives careful shooting instructions.



“Partnering with Olympic medalist Kayle Browning has been a landmark opportunity for our program. By bringing her world-class expertise to our grassroots coaches, we are ensuring every student receives elite-level mentorship. We are incredibly grateful to AGFF Board Member Kayle Browning for her impactful investment in our youth.”

SPENCER GRIFFITH,
Deputy Director AGFC

GET IT FOR GAME WARDENS: AN OVERVIEW

Supporting Arkansas's Game Wardens with Essential Equipment and Resources

Get It For Game Wardens is committed to raising funds to enhance the capabilities of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Enforcement Division. Established in 2021, the program focuses on identifying and securing specialized equipment and tools to ensure AGFC Game Wardens can carry out their duties safely and effectively. The program has garnered support from various organizations and individuals, raising more than \$500,000 since inception to purchase multiple E-bikes, medical backpacks, drones, thermal binoculars, boats, kayaks, K9 units and more!

BECOME A BACKER

Established in 2024, the Backer Membership Program brings together community leaders and businesses from across every AGFC Enforcement District to support the mission of Get It For Game Wardens. Backers play a crucial role in providing the funding needed to enhance the capabilities of AGFC Game Wardens.

Join as a Backer today and receive exclusive items to proudly show your support for our Game Wardens!

Member Benefits

- Limited Edition Backer Decal
- Backer Logo Ice Chest and Hat
- Annual dues: \$1,000

Learn More: www.getitforgamewardens.com



GIVING BIG SUPPORT FOR BIG FISH GAINS

Thank you to these corporate
donors for their impactful gifts to
the Legacy Lunker Program.



A LEGACY UNVEILED:

A Legacy Unveiled: Ribbon Cutting at Joe Hogan Hatchery Launches a New Era for Arkansas Trophy Bass

From a \$16 million facility renovation to a \$78,000 Xpress Boats grand prize, the inaugural season of the Legacy Lunker program is officially making waves.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) has officially ushered in a new era of trophy bass management with the launch of the **Arkansas Legacy Lunker Program**. This initiative invites anglers who land a largemouth bass weighing **10 pounds or more** to donate the fish to the agency for spawning. To support this vision, a significant investment was made at the Joe Hogan State Fish Hatchery in Lonoke. A **\$16 million renovation**—the largest in the facility's nearly 100-year history—has transformed the hatchery into a high-tech “fish factory” and a premier model of modern water conservation.

By modernizing the infrastructure, the AGFC created a controlled “hatch house” specifically designed to house and protect these massive donated trophies. A July 2025 ribbon cutting at the facility celebrated more than just new concrete and plumbing; it marked the activation of 10 specialized raceways, affectionately dubbed “**hawg troughs.**” These state-of-the-art tanks allow hatchery staff to precisely control lighting and water temperature. By keeping

water temperatures low, staff can prevent premature spawning, safely holding the fish until the entire batch of Lunkers is ready for a synchronized spawning cycle.

The inaugural 2026 season—running from January 1 through March 31—proved the program's immediate impact. During this window, 19 “Lunkers” were caught and transported. To ensure these prize fish were handled with care, AGFC staff drove **4,025 miles** to collect the trophies, which boasted a massive total weight of 205.63 lbs. The standout of the season was a massive **12.63 lb bass** caught by Levi Loe on DeGray Lake, which led the pack in a season that **averaged 10.82 lbs per fish**.

The genetic science behind the program is equally impressive. Partnering with **Red Hills Fishery in Georgia**, the AGFC utilizes their elite **TITAN MAXX™** line—a pedigreed Florida-strain bloodline identified through genomic markers to produce trophy-class growth. By pairing these “thoroughbred” males with donated Arkansas lunkers, the AGFC creates offspring with potential rarely seen in the wild. Once the spawning process is complete, the original trophy fish are returned to their home waters.

The momentum of the Legacy Lunker program continues to grow with the addition of the Arkansas' Best Chevy Dealers, the latest corporate partner to join the effort in supporting trophy bass management. To celebrate this success, the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation will partner with the AGFC to host the Legacy Lunker Banquet in October 2026. This event will recognize the 18 anglers who contributed to the program's first year. The stakes are high: one of those 18 lucky anglers will walk away with a 21-foot Xpress bass boat valued at \$78,000, ensuring the program's first year ends with a historic splash.



Bennett Bullard's lured in Lunker #15 — a 10.27-lb. largemouth bass caught on Lake Ouachita.



| SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

EVENTS IN THE NATURAL STATE

Events held by the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation are attended by over 6,000 donors each year, raising more than \$1.27 million to support the AGFC. There's something for everyone across the state, including fundraising banquets, golf tournaments, trap tournaments and more.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Jan 23-25 — Big Buck Classic, Little Rock

Fishing, archery & more with the Foundation

Feb 26 — Night of Conservation, Mt. Ida

Support Game Wardens at Mtn. Harbor Resort

April 10 — Mallards for Marion Trap Shoot, Jacksonville

Sponsor a youth trap team

May 16 — Commissioners' Cup, Lake Hamilton

Arkansas's premier youth fishing tournament

June 11 —Tin Cup Golf Tournament, Pine Bluff

Tee off with the Foundation in Pine Bluff

August 29 — Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet, Little Rock

Signature fundraiser recognizing champions of conservation across Arkansas

December 2 — Duck Season Social, Little Rock

Roundtable about duck hunting in Arkansas

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

May 7 — Into the Wild, Springdale

Fundraising banquet with wild game dinner

October 8 — Night of Conservation, Gravette

Exclusive dinner and discussion at Legacy Ranch

NORTH ARKANSAS

April 11 — Night of Conservation, Mtn. Home

Celebrating conservation in North Arkansas

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

September 12 — Larry Grisham Duck Stamp Classic, Jonesboro

Tee off to support the Foundation

SOUTH ARKANSAS

September 22 —South AR Outdoor Social, Magnolia

Celebrating conservation in South Arkansas

October — River Ranch Mentored Hunt, Nashville

ONLINE EVENTS

July 4 — Independence Day Giveaway

December 1 — 12 Guns of Christmas Membership

Renew AGFF membership for a chance to win

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Interested in utilizing your annual budget to sponsor multiple events throughout the year? Contact us today to select a sponsorship level for the events of your choice - make one payment and secure your spots for the entire year!

- Sponsor tables at select events
- Traveling banner to select events
- Sponsor recognition at select events
- Recognition on AGFF website
- Team spot for golf tournaments

For more information contact Tyler Lawrence, Director of Events, tyler@agff.org

FIND AN EVENT NEAR YOU

Check out agff.org/events or scan the QR code to find an event near you. Whether you're interested in attending a banquet with auctions and raffles, a golf or trap tournament, or want to support your local game wardens, we have something for you.

Visit AGFF.ORG/EVENTS for more information.



| SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation's Corporate Partnership Program is designed to showcase select companies that are dedicating resources to advance key conservation and education efforts throughout the state.

Each partner receives a **tailored sponsorship package** that aligns with their budget and marketing goals. From youth shooting sports to fishing education, the program offers a wide variety of AGFC conservation programs and projects for partners to support.

Corporate partners can collaborate with the AGFC on initiatives such as sponsorships, cause-marketing campaigns,

and employee engagement projects. These partnerships connect corporations with their stakeholders in meaningful ways through conservation efforts. By leveraging AGFC's brand affinity and popularity, the long-term goal is to sustain outdoor activities for future generations of enthusiasts.

For more information, please contact the Foundation Office agff@agff.org.

COMMITTED PARTNERS IN 2026

These corporate commitments show the communities and culture of Arkansas. Putting their support in the places where their customers and partners live and play. **For more information, please contact the Foundation Office agff@agff.org.**



“Greenway is proud to partner with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission as a Premier Conservation Sponsor. This partnership not only aligns with our company's commitment to give back to the communities in which we operate, but also allows us to support the AGFC by providing the products and services necessary to promote and protect our state's many valuable natural resources”

BILL MIDKIFF,
Greenway CEO

PLANNED GIVING

PLANNED GIFTS CAN ENCOMPASS:

- Gifts in living wills or trusts
 - Legacy endowments
 - Gifts of securities
 - Beneficiary designations
 - Gifts of personal or real estate property
 - Retirement plan assets
- Annual fund membership program
 - Capital gifts
 - Memorials and honorariums
 - Gifts in-kind
 - Corporate matching gifts

IMPACT FUND

The Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation's Impact Fund is a pivotal initiative aimed at bolstering conservation programs and habitat projects throughout Arkansas. The Impact Fund empowers donors to direct their contributions to specific outdoor areas they are passionate about, including wildlife habitat restoration, enhancing public access and advancing fish and wildlife research projects.

One of the standout features of the Impact Fund is its ability to leverage donations through matching programs, often achieving ratios as high as 3:1. This amplification means each donation can be significantly increased, enabling more comprehensive and effective conservation efforts.

A LEGACY IN THE MAKING:

The Arthur Henderson Life Estate

The Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation is honored to announce a monumental gift from Mr. Arthur Henderson: a 150-acre farm in Benton County. Structured as a Life Estate, this donation ensures Mr. Henderson's land will eventually serve as a cornerstone for conservation and public engagement in Northwest Arkansas. By partnering with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Foundation is planning a future for the property that balances habitat restoration with high-quality outdoor access.

Visionary Conservation & Community Impact:

- **Habitat Restoration:** Returning the land to its original prairie and savanna state, focusing on native pollinators and protecting the sensitive karst Critical Outdoor Area (COA).
- **Sustainable Recreation:** Future plans include trails for hiking and watchable wildlife, along-side wade fishing and seasonal floating.
- **Education & Mentorship:** The property will serve as an "outdoor classroom" for conservation education and unique youth hunting opportunities to assist with habitat management.

While Mr. Henderson continues to enjoy his farm today, his foresight secures a vibrant future for the "Natural State." This gift is a powerful example of how planned giving creates a lasting legacy for Arkansas's wildlife and the next generation of outdoorsmen.

Arthur Henderson (seated) pictured with AGFC staff and members of the AGFF Board of Directors



THE POWER OF PERMANENT PROTECTION

Endowment gifts are a long-lasting and deeply meaningful way to support mission of the AGFF.

A gift today shapes Arkansas's tomorrow. **Planned Giving** allows supporters to make enduring contributions, ensuring future generations enjoy the wild heritage we cherish. Through our **Leaving a Legacy** program, the Foundation offers diverse options to align with your unique interests and resources.

These gifts often fuel **Endowed Funds**, providing permanent support for conservation and education. We proudly manage several dedicated funds, including the **Steve Smith, Steve N. Wilson, Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports, Judy and Randy Wilbourn, Bob L. Martin Generation Conservation**, and **Arkansas Clean Water** endowments.

Honoring Our Visionaries The sustained growth of these programs is possible thanks to those who make the Foundation part of their final legacy. We are deeply grateful for the transformative gifts from the **Andy Simmons Estate** and the generous foresight of **Lynne and Tony Reynolds**.

Most recently, we received a generous gift from the estate of **Dr. Robert A. Porter**, a long-serving AGFF Board Member. Dr. Porter directed his legacy to the **Steve Smith Endowment** as a tribute to their lifelong bond. The two were close friends and worked side-by-side during Steve's tenure as Foundation President. This contribution ensures their shared vision for Arkansas conservation continues in perpetuity.

Join the Legacy: Contact Foundation President Deke Whitbeck to learn how a planned gift can impact the future of the Natural State. 501-831-3382 / deke@agff.org

2026 ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

\$6 RAISED FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT



45 YEARS SUPPORTING AGFC

MORE THAN \$1 Million Raised at Foundation Events

MORE THAN \$15 MILLION TOTAL ASSETS

2026 AGFF CONDENSED FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash	\$3,926,022
Endowments	\$6,196,359
Investments	\$1,957,711
Other Assets	\$770,232
Land	\$2,592,148
Other Fixed Assets	\$276,686

TOTAL ASSETS \$15,719,158

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

REVENUE

Support for Core Initiatives	\$910,599
Corporate Partnerships	\$325,000
General Donations	\$236,098
Capital Campaigns	\$53,500
Events	\$1,369,046
Sponsorships/Advertising	\$432,087

TOTAL SUPPORT \$3,326,330
INVESTMENT/OTHER INCOME \$1,022,087

TOTAL REVENUE \$4,348,417

EXPENSES

Support Services	\$809,497
Mission Program & Grants	\$1,637,489
Fundraising & Outreach	\$715,412

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,162,398

MISSION REINVESTMENT \$1,186,019

The Game and Fish Foundation proudly supports the staff of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Through our collaboration, we aim to enhance resources and recognize their dedication and contributions to conserving and managing our state's natural resources.

Join the
**AGFF Annual
Membership
Program**
Today!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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