



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way · Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

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CONTACTS: Chris McCloud
(217) 785-0075
Januari Smith
(217) 558-1544

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Newsbits

Highlighting IDNR programs and events for the month of December

Hunting in Illinois: To get started with information on Illinois hunting seasons, go to the “Getting Started” page on the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/GettingStarted.aspx>

Late-Winter and Special CWD Deer Permits: County permits for the 2010-11 late-winter antlerless-only firearm deer season and the special CWD deer season will be available over the counter beginning Dec. 14 from DNR Direct permit sale locations throughout Illinois. Season dates are Dec. 30, 2010-Jan. 2, 2011 and Jan. 14-16, 2011. To find a permit sale vendor:
<http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>

Archery Permits: The archery deer and turkey seasons in Illinois continue through Jan. 16, 2011. Illinois archery deer hunting permits (combination archery and antlerless-only archery permits) and fall wild turkey archery permits are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct permit sale locations throughout the state. To find the nearest DNR Direct agent, use this link:
<http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>

Spring Turkey Second Lottery: Hunters who are first-time applicants or rejected applicants can apply for the second lottery for 2011 Illinois spring wild turkey season permits online through DNR Direct, available through this link: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/SpringTurkeyHunting.aspx>. Non-residents can apply beginning Dec. 7. The application deadline for the second lottery for 2011 spring turkey permits is Jan. 11, 2011.

Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt Registration Deadline – Dec. 10: Youth interested in a goose hunting experience during the December holiday break are encouraged to register for the 11th annual Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt sponsored by the IDNR on Dec. 26-27. The youth goose hunt will be held at private waterfowl hunting clubs in Peoria, Fulton and Knox Counties. Youth interested must **call (217)785-8060** to

register for a lottery drawing since space for the hunt is limited. **The deadline to register is Friday, Dec. 10.** The lottery drawing will be conducted on Dec. 13 and youth hunters selected will be notified by mail. First-time applicants will be given a priority over previous participants in the drawing. The hunt is open to youngsters ages 10-15 at the time of the hunt. All applicants must have successfully completed a hunter safety education course, possess a valid Illinois hunting or sportsman's license, have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number and have a 20 gauge or larger shotgun. Youth hunt participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who must possess a valid firearm owner's identification (FOID) card.

Youth Hunt Raffle: Raffle tickets are available to support the Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt, as well as youth waterfowl hunts throughout the state. Only 500 tickets will be sold at \$10 each to benefit the youth hunts. Prizes available include a shotgun and a lifetime hunting license. Raffle winners will be drawn at the Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt banquet on Dec. 26. Raffle participants need not be present to win. For tickets or information, call (217) 785-8060.

Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger: The 2010-11 Illinois deer hunting seasons continue with the muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 10-12 and the late-winter antlerless-only deer season in select counties Dec. 30, 2010-Jan.2, 2011 and Jan. 14-16, 2011. The archery deer season also continues through Jan. 16, 2011. Deer hunters are encouraged to support the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger (ISAH) program and the new "Target Hunger Now!" initiative by donating whole deer they harvest for processing into ground venison that is provided to food banks in Illinois. A list of participating meat processors is available through the IDNR web site at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/SportsmenAgainstHunger.aspx>. Tax-deductible monetary donations to help pay for ISAH meat processing costs may be made through the Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

OutdoorIllinois: The cover of the **December 2010 issue of *OutdoorIllinois***, the IDNR monthly magazine, features the snowy owl, one of Illinois' uncommon winter residents. The ever-popular annual wild food recipe section includes four recipes—dove breasts and noodles, venison ravioli, blackberry jam and squirrel "baby backs." Other stories include features on Trail of Tears State Forest, waterfowl bands, paddling at the new bypass channel at the Fox River dam in Yorkville, winter birds and trapping. Also included in the December issue is the 2011 annual *OutdoorIllinois* wall calendar, popular with outdoor enthusiasts looking for information on natural and cultural resource programs, plus deadlines and activities taking place throughout the state over the upcoming year. *OutdoorIllinois* is a great tool for learning about Illinois' natural, cultural and recreational resources and a bargain at only \$15 for a one-year, 12-issue magazine subscription that includes an information-packed annual calendar in the December issue. Visit www.dnr.state.il.us/OI or call 1-800-720-3249 to subscribe. VISA and MasterCard are accepted. For information on advertising in *OutdoorIllinois*, call (217)785-8610 or e-mail michelle.silver@illinois.gov.

One dozen holiday gifts: Need 12 gift ideas for that special outdoorsman or outdoorswoman? How about a one-year gift subscription to *OutdoorIllinois* magazine! For just \$15, friends and family members will receive 12 full-color issues of *OutdoorIllinois*, packed with state park features, how-to outdoors tips, hunting and fishing tales, DNR news updates and much more. It is easy to subscribe. In Illinois, order toll-free at 1-800-720-3249 or online at www.dnr.state.il/OI.

Annual wall calendar: Looking for the perfect gift to keep sportsmen abreast of hunting, trapping and fishing season dates or keep families informed of programs and events in Illinois state parks? The newly released 2011 *OutdoorIllinois* wall calendar may be just what you need. Included as part of the December issue, the calendar/December magazine may be purchased for \$3, or get a full year of the magazine for \$15. To place an order in Illinois, call toll-free at 1-800-720-3249 or online at www.dnr.state.il/OI.

Pere Marquette Bald Eagle Programs: Enjoy watching bald eagles on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers near Pere Marquette State Park this winter by participating in one of the park's popular bald eagle watching tours. The site interpreter at Pere Marquette presents informative programs about bald eagles on select dates throughout January, February and early March. All programs begin at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (618)786-3323. To check the schedule of program dates, go to the Pere Marquette Bald Eagle Days webpage at http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/R4/Bald_Eagle_Days.htm

Archaeology Program: The Illinois State Museum's monthly science series program for December is "From Mound Builders to Stockyard Workers: The Archaeology of East St. Louis" on Wed., Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the ISM Research and Collections Center, 1011 East Ash, Springfield. Presented by Brad Koldehoff of the Illinois Department of Transportation, the program looks at the results of excavations done for the new Mississippi River bridge project in East St. Louis. Hidden beneath layers of cindery fill and concrete slabs are hundreds of well-preserved Mississippian (A.D. 1000-1200) house floors and storage pits, which in some areas are cut by late 19th-century privies and cisterns used by early stockyard workers. For more information on the free program, phone (217) 782-0061.

Super Saturdays: The Illinois State Museum in Springfield hosts a winter holiday season event for children on winter wildlife on Sat., Dec. 11 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Children can explore how some animals head south, some hibernate and others work hard to stay alive during the lean winter months. The ISM's 'Super Saturdays' offer free, fun activities for children ages 4-8 and their families. For more information on the free event, call (217) 782-6044. The Illinois State Museum is located at the corner of Spring and Edwards Streets in the State Capitol Complex in Springfield.

Kaskaskia Drawing: A drawing will be held on Jan. 3, 2011 to allow 26 persons to hunt antlerless deer during the second part of the late-winter deer season on Jan. 14-16, 2011.

The special hunt will occur on part of the Baldwin Lake Waterfowl Rest Area at Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area to provide additional hunting opportunity and to manage the deer herd at Baldwin Lake. To be eligible for the drawing, applicants must send a standard postcard with name, mailing address, and in which county they have a late-winter permit (St. Clair or Randolph County) to the site office by Dec. 31. The site address is: Kaskaskia River SFWA, 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin, IL 62217. For more information, call district wildlife biologist Brian Mahan at (618) 295-2877.

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