



Inside Illinois DNR

April 2019

Volume 7, Number 4

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Colleen Callahan



April has arrived, and though the pleasant weather of the spring season has taken its time getting here, I want to encourage you to plan to spend some time outdoors to help shake off our lengthy winter.

One sure sign of spring in Illinois is the opening day of the Illinois Spring Trout Fishing Season, set this year for Saturday, April 6.

The IDNR Division of Fisheries has stocked 59 lakes, ponds and waterways in 41 counties with rainbow trout for the spring season. Check the I Fish Illinois website at the link below for details on the locations stocked with trout this spring.

Since fishing in Illinois is free for kids under the age of 16, the spring trout season is a great opportunity for a family outing. Pack some snacks, fill up a canteen or reusable water bottle, and take the kids fishing for some tasty trout.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program, with seasons in both the spring and the fall, is funded by those who participate. If you're planning to fish for trout, buy your 2019 Illinois fishing license or sportsman combination license if you haven't already done so. You'll also need to buy an Inland Trout Stamp. In addition to youth under the age of 16, people with disabilities and those who are blind, and Illinois residents in the military who are on leave from active duty, are exempt from the fishing license and trout stamp requirements.

Thanks for your support of the spring trout season and all the great springtime activities outdoors in Illinois. For lots of great information on fishing opportunities in Illinois, including a list of the spring trout locations, go online to the I Fish Illinois website at www.ifishillinois.org.

Colleen Callahan

DNR in the news

Turkey Season

Wheaton Revamp Memorial Park with IDNR Grant

Work on the Ellsworth Park Dam

Pond Management Begins in the Spring

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Highlights



Illinois State Museum Receives Highest National Recognition

The Illinois State Museum has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. The Illinois State Museum has been accredited since 1972. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review at least every 10 years to maintain accredited status. [For more information click here](#)



Springtime is Wildlife Breeding Season, and Illinoisans are Encouraged to Leave Young Wildlife Alone

Spring is a busy breeding season for wildlife, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reminds Illinois citizens not to bother or handle baby birds and other young wild animals. Wildlife biologists are often contacted during the breeding season by well-meaning people who believe incorrectly that they may be protecting young wildlife by taking possession of baby birds, rabbits, fawn deer, and other animals that may appear to have been abandoned or orphaned. In most cases, these animals and birds are still being cared for by their parents, which likely stay away from dens and nests if people are nearby. The Illinois Wildlife Code provides legal protection for wildlife. It is against the law to keep wild animals as pets, or to raise wild animals believed to have been abandoned. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Awards Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants to Schools

More than 6,500 students will visit Illinois state parks, natural areas, museums and other natural resources sites this year to learn about nature and conservation thanks to grant funding through the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program. Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Director Colleen Callahan announced the awarding of more than \$88,000 in donated funds for 100 field trip grants. Winners represented 36 counties in the state. [For more information click here](#)

[Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' Great State Parks](#)



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Highlights



44th Stroll Through Springtime

The 44th Stroll Through Springtime takes place on Saturday, April 27 from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island. All events are free, and participants can come for any or all the events. Birds will be the focus of groups from 7:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. Birders will meet by the Black Hawk statue by the Watch Tower Lodge. Expert leaders will help to locate both resident and migratory birds. Participants can bring binoculars or use the binoculars provided. At 9:00 a.m. people will move into the Lodge for refreshments, including wild violet jelly, and a short program at 9:30. At 10:00 a.m. in small groups, participants will observe and identify wildflowers. [For more information click here](#)



April is Earth Month at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield


The green fun returns to the Illinois State Museum. Kick off Earth Month with the Recycled Play Day on Sat., April 6 featuring engaging activities centered on reducing, reusing, and recycling. Participants will work together to build a giant playhouse out of repurposed cardboard boxes. Children will also enjoy environmental games and recycled art projects. You won't want to miss this great family event on April 6. [For more information click here](#)



Commemoration of the Death of President Lincoln Set for April 6 at Mount Pulaski Courthouse

Visitors are invited to the Mount Pulaski Courthouse State Historic Site during the month of April to view a model of the recreation of the Abraham Lincoln hearse that carried President Lincoln to his final resting place at Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery 154 years ago. On Saturday, April 6, the Mount Pulaski Courthouse will host a reception with coffee and cookies from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. The creator of the Lincoln hearse model, Mr. Eugene Letterly, will be there to greet visitors during the reception. [For more information click here.](#)

HISTORIC
Preservation
DIVISION


COASTAL
Management Program
IL Dept of Natural Resources



Folk Duo Returns April 14 at Sandburg Home

Dan Zahn and Kate Moretti, who flavor their folk music with a love of jazz, will perform April 14 at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg as part of the Sandburg Songbag Concert Series. They last performed at the Sandburg site in 2013. The April 14 Songbag performance by Zahn and Moretti will be in the Sandburg site's Barn at 313 E. Third Street in Galesburg. The show starts at 4:00 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. with a break for refreshments around 5:00 p.m. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested. [For more information click here](#)



Deer Firearm/Muzzleloader Application Period

Illinois resident deer hunters can apply now for the first lottery for 2019 Firearm Deer Hunting permits and Muzzleloader-Only Deer Hunting permits. The application deadline for the first lottery is April 30. Illinois residents ONLY may apply, with a limit of one application for the first lottery. [For more information click here](#)



Fishing Information Booklet

The 2019 Illinois Fishing Information guide is available in PDF format online and at vendor locations that sell IDNR licenses and permits. Regulations in the guide are effective through March 31, 2020. [For more information click here](#)



April Kids for Conservation®: Bumble Bees

The April edition of the IDNR Kids for Conservation® webpage features the topic of “Bumble Bees.” You can learn basic facts about this topic in the information section. Watch the video podcast, too. Educators: There are resources for you to utilize. “Kids in Action” features students who are taking action to benefit the environment. [For more](#)

[information click here](#)



IDNR Office of Land Management Employees of the Year

The IDNR Office of Land Management congratulates the following employees, who were presented with “Employee of the Year” honors for their exemplary service to constituents and to the IDNR:

Region 1: Mark Sack, Site Technician, Mississippi Palisades State Park, Savanna

Region 2: Audrey Cravens, Office Coordinator, Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Morris

Region 3: Adrienne Harding, Office Associate, Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, Dewitt

Region 4: James Phillips, Site Technician, Pere Marquette SP/Region 4 Hot Shot Crew, Grafton

Region 5: Jennifer Randolph-Bollinger, Site Interpreter, Giant City State Park, Makanda

Historic Sites: Bill Iseminger, Asst. Site Manager, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville

The awards were presented by IDNR Director Colleen Callahan during the Office of Land Management’s annual statewide meeting at the IDNR headquarters in Springfield on March 27. [For more information click here.](#)

[For more information check out our monthly calendar of events!](#)

Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!