



# Inside Illinois DNR

December 2019

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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 the job openings available.*

## A Message from Director Colleen Callahan



### Happy Holidays from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

As we conclude 2019, I want to take a moment to wish you the best for the holiday season and thank you for your interest in and support of our staff and programs at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

I would also like to invite you to visit some of our state historic sites for a unique holiday experience.

In Springfield, both the Old State Capitol and Dana-Thomas House feature a full schedule of special holiday activities including musical performances and interpretive tours right up to Christmas week. And the Old Capitol and Dana House feature period decorations befitting their historical significance.

In Cahokia, on Dec. 7, Père Noël will visit the Jarrot Mansion which was built around 1810 by merchant Nicholas Jarrot, one of many French settlers who prospered in early Illinois. Père Noël will greet families and share treats with children amid candlelight and traditional holiday decorations.

In Bloomington, the David Davis Mansion will highlight Victorian traditions and the influence of Dickens throughout December, featuring its Christmas at Clover Lawn tours each Wednesday through Saturday. Dec. 7, there is a special annual Christmas at the Mansions with holiday tours of the Davis Mansion and Illinois State University's stately Ewing Manor.

Near Charleston, on Dec. 7, an 'Old-Fashioned Christmas' is the theme at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site where the cabin's historic interpreters will discuss the ever-changing Christmas traditions during Abraham Lincoln's time. Learn how the Greek bishop St. Nicholas came to be known as Santa Claus.

In Vandalia, on Saturday, Dec. 14, the Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site will feature its annual Christmas Open House from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with tours of Illinois' oldest surviving capitol building, illuminated by more than 150 candles and trimmed with holiday decorations.

Please join us for holiday family fun and a step back in time in Illinois. Our state park lodges will feature special dinners, holiday parties and roaring fireplaces as families come together to celebrate this wonderful time of year.

Once again, best wishes for the holidays from all of us at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. And after the holidays, we hope you will continue to visit us throughout 2020.

## DNR in the News

**CPOs Rescue  
Pelicans**

**Deer Check  
Station**

**Asian Carp**

**Road Repairs in  
the Mautino State  
Fish and Wildlife  
Area**

## Statewide Offices

**Springfield, IL**  
217-782-6302

**Bartlett, IL**  
847-608-3100

**Benton, IL**  
618-435-8138

## Highlights

### **Davis Mansion Hosts Visit with St. Nicholas Dec. 13-14**



David Davis Mansion State Historic Site in Bloomington is hosting a new event for the holidays this year – “A Victorian Christmas” with a Victorian-era St. Nicholas on hand to greet families – on Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14. The event will provide a fun opportunity for children and adults to have their photos taken with St. Nicholas while taking a Christmas tour of the Mansion. Visitors are encouraged to bring their cameras or smartphone cameras to take selfies with Santa while enjoying the festive decorations on display throughout the holiday season. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Illinois Conservation Foundation Accepting Applications for 2020 Conservation Achievement Scholarships**



Applications are now being accepted by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) for the 2020 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program. The ICF annually awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who demonstrate effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection or enhancement of the state’s natural resources. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### **Apply Now for Private Land Access for 2020 Spring Turkey Hunting Through IRAP**



Youth and adult hunters can apply now for 2020 spring turkey hunting sites through the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced. The IDNR has leased more than 16,000 acres of private land for the upcoming 2020 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season through IRAP, creating 470 public access turkey hunting sites on those properties in 40 counties. Sites are available free of charge to successful applicants during the spring youth turkey hunt and during the third and fourth segments of the spring turkey season. [Click here](#) for the information.



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or  
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### **An Old-Fashioned Christmas at Lincoln Log Cabin Dec. 7**



Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site presents an Old-Fashioned Christmas holiday event on Saturday, December 7 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with music and treats for the entire family. The cabin’s historic interpreters will discuss the ever-changing Christmas traditions during Abraham Lincoln’s time and how the Greek bishop St. Nicholas came to be known as

Santa Claus. [Click here](#) for the information.

### **Holiday Events Abound at Springfield’s Historic Old State**

#### **Capitol**



With seasonal decorations in place for the holidays, families are invited to visit the Old State Capitol for photos with Santa Claus and holiday games for children. Saturdays from through December 21, 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays from December 4 through 18 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. [Click here](#).

### **Holidays at the Dana-Thomas House**



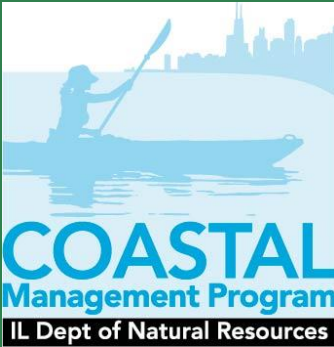
A variety of holiday-themed tours and events are planned at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Dana-Thomas House in Springfield. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Jarrot Mansion Welcomes Holiday Visitors Including St.**

#### **Nick Dec. 7**



IDNR is offering a special holiday season treat on Saturday, December 7 with a chance to learn the story of St. Nicholas and tour the beautiful Jarrot Mansion in Cahokia. St. Nicholas – or Père Noël, as he became known to the French – will visit the Jarrot Mansion State Historic Site in Cahokia to greet families and share treats with children amid candlelight and traditional holiday decorations. The mansion is one of the oldest brick buildings in Illinois. It is usually open only by appointment but will be open for free tours from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. For more information [click here](#).



## Dove hunting winter season Dec. 26 – Jan. 9, 2020



The Illinois Dove Hunting Season resumes Dec. 26, 2019 to Jan. 9, 2020; no limits on Eurasian-collared doves and ringed turtle doves, but they may be harvested only during the established season dates and hours and using only legal methods for mourning/white-winged doves. Hunters may not remain in the field for

taking Eurasian-collared doves or ringed turtle doves after they reach their daily limit for mourning/white-winged doves. For more information [click here](#).

## Bobcat population study with WIU and SIU



Researchers at Western Illinois University and Southern Illinois University Carbondale are continuing their work with the Department of Natural Resources to study bobcat populations and abundance in Illinois. See page 46 of *the Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations* for

more information [click here](#).

## Christmas at the Apple River Fort Historic Site Dec. 7



Celebrate Christmas in 1830s style Dec. 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Apple River Fort State Historic Site in Elizabeth, IL. See a typical German frontier Christmas, play with period toys, and try your hand at bartering for gold coins at the fur trading post. For more information [click here](#).

## For Your Garden



Native plants provide beauty as well as food and shelter for wildlife. They require little or no watering and are resistant to drought, insects and most diseases. Most species are perennials. Use the *For Your Garden* information from the IDNR Division of

Education to help you find suitable native plant species to include in your garden. For more information [click here](#).





## Hunters Harvested 50,173 Deer During Opening Weekend of Illinois Firearm Season



Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 50,173 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois Firearm Deer Season on Nov. 22-24. Hunters took 58,836 deer during the first firearm weekend in 2018. Illinois' seven-day Firearm Deer Season will conclude Dec. 5-8. For more information [click here](#).

## Visitor Survey



Have You Visited an Illinois Park? Please Give Us Your Feedback! For more information [click here](#).

## Second Firearm Deer Season Opens Dec. 5



Second firearm deer hunting season is December 5 -8. Archery season continues through January 19, 2020. Deer hunters statewide are encouraged to allow samples to be taken for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing from adult deer they harvest. Check the IDNR website at this link for locations that are serving as CWD sampling stations, taking samples from entire deer or deer heads through the end of Illinois' 2019-2020 deer seasons in January. For more information [click here](#).

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

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