



Inside Illinois DNR

February 2018

Volume 6, Number 2

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IDNR Careers

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources 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 Wayne Rosenthal



There's some good news on our efforts to expand grassland habitat in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources recently closed on acquisition of two adjoining 80-acre parcels in Chatsworth Township in Livingston County for establishment of the Chatsworth State Habitat Area.

With the acquisition now finalized, the Chatsworth State Habitat Area (SHA) will become the first public hunting area in Livingston County, helping meet the high demand for hunting opportunities in northeast Illinois. This site will be added to the Free Upland Game Permit Lottery System this fall. Applicants must apply online August 1 – August 31 for a chance at a permit to hunt this site, or one of the many other Habitat Areas across the state. This popular program generates far more applications than we have Habitat Areas to hunt, so this acquisition helps the Department provide more quality hunting opportunities, thanks to support from hunters themselves.

SHAs are primarily managed to provide nesting, brood rearing and winter cover for pheasants and other grassland birds. Grassland-dependent species like upland sandpipers, meadowlarks, field sparrows, bobolinks, and ring-necked pheasants have all experienced declines in the past 50 years, and the trend of upland hunter participation has declined, as well. That's why adding grassland habitat is such an important component of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, which has identified strategies, specific goals and actions to reverse the downward trend of many imperiled grassland species.

The newly-acquired property has been enrolled in the continuous USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE). This special CRP program was developed in cooperation with IDNR to address sharp declines in many species of grassland birds. The previous landowners of the new Chatsworth SHA enrolled the property in SAFE in 2011, and planted native warm-season grasses and forbs. This will eliminate the cost of establishment to the IDNR and allow public opportunity to hunt and enjoy the site when Administrative Rules are established and boundaries are marked in time for the upland season this fall.

State acquisition of the parcels means permanent protection for 160 acres of habitat – part of 900 acres of grassland in a 2.5-mile radius around the property.

Funding for the acquisition was made possible through a federal wildlife grant that covered 75 percent of the acquisition cost. This project is an investment by sportsmen and women in habitat that will provide benefits for wildlife, and recreation opportunities for generations to come.

DNR in the news

Cahokia

Asian Carp; can't beat them, eat them

Starved Rock programs thru April

Stars at Middle Fork

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Highlights



end of May. [For more information click here](#)

Purchase seedlings from the Mason State Tree Nursery

Illinois landowners interested in planting seedlings of native trees and shrubs for conservation purposes may order materials from the Mason State Nursery. Orders may be placed beginning 2/1/2018 and concludes at the



Fulton-Mason Eagle Day Event on Feb. 3

The annual Fulton-Mason Eagle Day event will be held on Saturday, February 3. Activities include live raptor programs, hands-on activities and crafts for kids, and wildlife viewing in various locations along the Illinois River. Dickson Mounds Museum will host a suite of activities from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

[For more information click here](#)



2017-18 Deer Seasons Conclude with Preliminary Harvest of 147,535 Deer

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 147,535 deer during all 2017-18 archery and firearm seasons, which concluded on Jan. 14. The total preliminary deer harvest for all seasons compares with a total harvest for all seasons of 144,303 deer in 2016-17. During the 2017-18 deer seasons, hunters took 44 percent does and 56 percent bucks. [For](#)

[more information click here](#)



Fall Archery Wild Turkey Season Summary for 2017-18

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 688 wild turkeys during the 2017-18 Fall Archery Turkey Season. The 2017-18 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 506 in 2016-17. The season dates were October 1, 2017 – January 14, 2018, and all 102 counties were open for hunting. The top counties for fall archery wild turkey harvest this season were Jefferson (25), Cass (21), Fulton (21),

Knox (17), and Rock Island (17). [For more information click here](#)

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



Bring your class to TYCEC

The Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Learning Center is developing a variety of programs designed to meet the educational goals of teachers and youth group leaders and provide interactive, educational programs for students of all age levels. A wide range of conservation education lessons and activities are available to help educators plan their field trip while connecting with the Illinois Learning Standards, Common State Standards and/or Next Generation Science Standards as well.

Visit ICF

(217) 785-2003

Highlights



Bicentennial Speaker Series at the Illinois State Museum

A special Illinois Bicentennial series of programs – “The Culture and Heritage of Illinoisans” – will begin on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 18 and continue on the third Sunday of every month through October 2018 at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. The series is presented

by the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield in collaboration with the Illinois State Museum, and it will feature several Road Scholar Speakers offered by Illinois Humanities. [For more information click here](#)



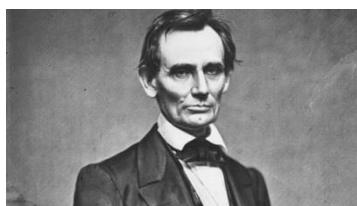
Change for Commercial Licenses/Permits

A recent law became effective that consolidated the majority of IDNR commercial licenses/permits to one end date (March 31). Due to the change, IDNR will be selling 2018 Illinois hunting/trapping/fishing licenses beginning on March 1, instead of selling them beginning in mid-January. The 2018 licenses will be valid through March 31, 2019. [For more information click here](#)



Earth Day in the Parks

Applications are being accepted through Feb. 28 for 2018 Earth Day in the Parks events from the IDNR. You’ll find the application form, information and list of participating Illinois state parks at the Web address at the link below. Earth Day in the Parks is an event to promote stewardship of our natural resources by Illinois school children. [For more information click here.](#)

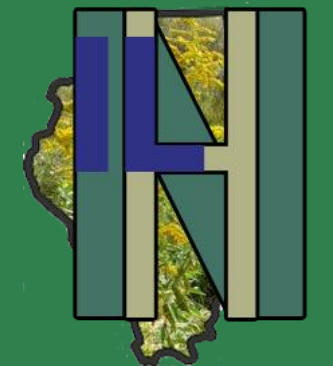


Vandalia to Celebrate Lincoln's Birthday on Feb. 10

Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site will celebrate Abraham Lincoln’s birthday with a special event on Saturday, Feb. 10. The free party, a tradition at the site since 1973, runs from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. [For more information click here](#)

HISTORIC
Preservation
DIVISION


COASTAL
Management Program
IL Dept of Natural Resources



Lincoln's Birthday at David Davis Mansion on Feb. 10

The David Davis Mansion State Historic Site will celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 209th birthday with a meet and greet with "President Lincoln" on Saturday, Feb. 10. The free event starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Children and their families will get to meet Mr. Lincoln (portrayed by Randy Duncan), take pictures with him and enjoy birthday cake at the home of one of Lincoln's closest friends and political allies, Judge David Davis.

[For more information click here](#)



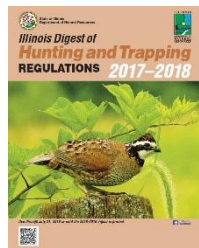
Schoolyard Habitat Grant Awards Announced

IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) announced that 21 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded from the fall 2017 application period. A total of \$18,303.58 will be distributed. [For more information click here](#)



Kaskaskia Eagle Fest; Feb. 3

The 2018 Eagle Fest event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Jerry F. Costello Lock & Dam in Modoc, IL (4800 Lock and Dam Road). Join us for eagle-watching with spotting scopes and meet some of our feathered friends from the World Bird Sanctuary at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. [For more information click here](#)



Hunting and Trapping Digest Photo Contest

IDNR is soliciting photos for a contest to determine the cover photo of the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2018-2019. Wildlife photos may be submitted by Illinois residents through Feb. 11, 2018, and the best three photos submitted will be posted for the public to select the winning photo for the digest cover. Photos need to be of high quality with no pixilation when sized to 8" x 8" – and entries with the photographer's name, mailing address, phone number and email address can be submitted to dnr.digestpicture@illinois.gov.



National Recognition for Illinois History



Efforts by the IDNR to preserve and promote the state's heritage paid off in 2017 with 25 properties being added to the National Register of Historic Places. The places recognized are scattered across the state and include two archaeological sites along the Cherokee Trail of Tears, a Chicago movie palace, and the place where Lincoln and Douglas met to schedule their senatorial debates. Places are added to the register by the National Park Service based on recommendations from the IDNR State Historic Preservation Office. The 25 places (plus amendments to four historic districts already listed in the register) were added throughout 2017. [For more information click here](#)

Jazz and Blues to Kick Off the Spring Carl Sandburg Songbag Concert Series



Sally Weisenburg and Don Berbaum will bring jazz and blues to the Carl Sandburg Songbag Concert on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 4 p.m. to 6

p.m. at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg. A team both personally and musically since the mid-1970s, Weisenburg and Berbaum perform music from many categories in addition to jazz and blues. The music they select has more to do with quality than the category. [For more information click here](#)

Eagle Photography Exhibit Opens Feb. 3 at Dickson Mounds



Dickson Mounds Museum is opening a new exhibit *Eagles: Kings of the Sky*, photography by Jeff Moore, on Saturday, Feb. 3 as part of the annual Fulton-Mason Eagle Day event.

Accompanying the exhibit will be two eagle mounts from the Illinois State Museum's Zoological collection. Jeff Moore is an Illinois photographer who specializes in birds and waterfowl hunting. Every year, he pursues his passion across the state and nation, as he tries to widen his photographic experiences. Eagles have always been one of his favorite subjects because, in his words, "they represent the F-16's of the bird world." [For more information click here](#)

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

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

