Message from Director Colleen Callahan

The Illinois State Museum has two exciting new exhibits in the works, and curators are looking for YOUR help with them.

The first is “Growing Up X,” an exhibit about Illinoisans born between 1965 and 1980. Gen Xers are the last generation of Americans to experience an analog youth – meaning a childhood with no internet, cell phones, iPads, social media, or online video games.

“Growing Up X” will explore the experience of being a child in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Gen X children were often allowed to explore and entertain themselves without parental supervision, and they learned to quickly adapt to new and emerging consumer technology – from color TVs and VCRs to microwaves and personal computers. Their world view was influenced by the Cold War, Reaganomics, the Just Say No campaign, and the AIDS crisis.

The Illinois State Museum is asking Illinoisans to submit photos, memories and objects that defined their youth for display. There’s also a survey here. Growing Up X is scheduled to open in October.

Museum curators also are working on a Route 66 collecting initiative in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the Mother Road in 2026. The Museum is seeking items that highlight Route 66’s history, including its glory days before the interstate highway system was established.

The family of Bob Waldmire has donated a significant collection of his art and personal belongings to the Museum to lay the foundation for the collecting initiative.

Waldmire was the legendary Route 66 artist and peace activist from Springfield who died in 2009 and whose 1972 Volkswagen Microbus was the inspiration for the character Fillmore in the animated film “Cars.”

His family donated some of his original art and a manual typewriter he used to compose his newsletters and correspondence. They also donated a pair of the patched, cutoff shorts he wore when traveling Route 66, a roadside display stand for selling postcards, and the hood of his 1965 Ford Mustang, hand-painted with a map of Route 66.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Illinois State Museum’s Route 66 collecting initiative can learn more here.
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site Interpretive Center to temporarily close for $5 million capital improvement project
The Interpretive Center at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site will be closed to the public beginning March 1 to facilitate $5 million in capital improvement projects at the site. The projects, which will be managed by the Illinois Capital Development Board, are funded through Gov. JB Pritzker’s bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan, the first in nearly a decade. The work is estimated to last at least 12 months.

Youth habitat enhancement projects receive funding through Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Grant Program
IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation announced that 20 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded from the fall 2021 application period. A total of $16,737.57 will be distributed.

State historic sites & Ald. Shawn Gregory to provide Black History Month ‘Walk, Hike and Bike History’ tours
IDNR and Springfield Ald. Shawn Gregory will present a series of free “Walk, Hike and Bike History” activities during Black History Month. “Walk, Hike and Bike History” experiences empower participants to connect with must-see museums, landmarks and monuments in the capital city.

Pre-Submission Conference for concession leasing at Johnson Sauk Trail State Park
Join IDNR at 11 a.m. Feb. 16 via WebEx to learn more about the restaurant, bait shop and boat rental business opportunity at Johnson Sauk Trail State Park. Bid forms and related information will be discussed during a non-mandatory attendance pre-submission conference.
Fall Turkey Harvest Summary
Join today for just $35!
By becoming a member of the ICF, your support will help build, preserve, and restore conservation all across Illinois. As an ICF member, you’ll also receive these exclusive member benefits:

- **Personalized**
  - Membership Card
  - ICF Branded Neck Gaiter & Vinyl Sticker
  - VIP Opportunities at Future ICF Events

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**Highlights**

**Apply now for the third lottery for 2022 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season Hunting Permits**
The application deadline for the third lottery is Feb. 9.

**Snowmobilers urged to be safe on the trails this season**
IDNR reminds snowmobile operators and riders to focus on safety this winter when snowfall allows for snowmobile riding.

**Village of Libertyville receives official federal and state designation for heritage preservation work**
The Village of Libertyville has joined an official list of Illinois communities that place a high priority on historic preservation. Libertyville has been designated the 84th Certified Local Government in Illinois, which means it has been officially recognized by both the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the U.S. National Park Service for its active role in preserving its heritage. The Illinois SHPO is a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

**Earth Day in the Parks**
Earth Day in the Parks is an event to promote stewardship of our natural resources by Illinois school children at participating state parks, historic sites and museums. Applications are accepted through Feb. 28, 2022. Find the application form online.

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[https://ilconservation.org/](https://ilconservation.org/)
Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership
Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

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Highlights

Reminder for Windshield Cardholders
To all 2021-2022 windshield cardholders - This is a reminder that the deadline to submit your harvest reports is Feb. 15, 2022. Those who had no harvest or did not hunt also must report. Please submit your reports here. Please note that cardholders do not have to wait until the season is over to report and they can do so as many times as they want. Those who do not report if you do not report for two consecutive years at the same site will be prohibited from receiving a card for that site for the following year. To avoid technical issues during high-traffic periods online, please do not wait until the last minute to report.

The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site will celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday
The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site will celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday with a special event at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. Pam Brown, who will portray Mary Lincoln, will present the program “Now and Forever.”

2022 Eagle Fest
The 2022 Eagle Fest event will take place Saturday, Feb. 5 at the Jerry F. Costello Lock and Dam at 4800 Lock and Dam Road in Modoc. Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., visitors can enjoy eagle-watching with spotting scopes and meet some feathered friends from the World Bird Sanctuary at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Visitors also can catch the wildlife presentation by Animology at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tours of the lock and dam will be offered, and short interpretive walks will be given downstream. Viewing of a nest with a mated pair of eagles will be available throughout the day. Food will be available from local vendors. This is a free event.