



Inside Illinois DNR

July 2017

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In This Issue

- **Black Carp Bounty**
- **Stratton Lock Resumes Operation**
- **Silver Carp Found**
- **Buffalo Rock SP Reopens**

Find Out More

- DNR Home Page**
- Natural Resources**
- Parks and Recreation**
- Mines and Minerals**
- Hunting and Trapping**
- Fishing**
- Education/Outreach**
- Safety and Rules**
- Online Services**

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



I met recently with staff from Illinois state agencies that are collaborating on monarch butterfly conservation efforts to encourage a broad expansion of available habitat for monarchs and other pollinators – a key component of efforts to make listing monarch butterflies as a threatened or endangered species unnecessary.

While we have a lot to do, we are making progress.

We want to encourage Illinoisans in every part of the state to help us add tens of millions of new milkweed plants to our landscape.

The IDNR, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) are working together to encourage more use of milkweed planting as part of existing urban and rural land conservation and water quality programs. The milkweed family of plants are used by migrating monarchs to lay their eggs and serve as hosts for the striped caterpillars that become adult butterflies a couple of weeks later.

IDOT has adjusted its mowing regimen and is taking other measures to restore native habitat along Illinois highways to help reestablish milkweed and other plants to benefit monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

The IEPA is examining ways to encourage use of seed mixtures beneficial to monarchs and other pollinators in habitat restoration projects it funds to protect water quality.

The IDOA is coordinating efforts to expand public outreach on habitat benefits for monarchs and other pollinators through existing soil and water conservation programs, by expanding pollinator-friendly planting at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, and promoting milkweed planting at the Illinois State Fair, the Farm Progress Show, and other events.

The IDNR is expanding milkweed plantings at state parks and other IDNR-managed natural areas, and we are expanding production of milkweed seed in the state tree nursery system.

Our agencies are working closely with conservation groups, utility and railroad companies, farmers and agriculture organizations, and interested citizens to develop a plan to present to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this fall on Illinois' monarch conservation initiatives.

I hope you'll stop by the IDOT display and Conservation World at next month's Illinois State Fair to learn more about how you can help our efforts on behalf of monarchs and other pollinators.

DNR in the news

**Creatively
restoring monarch
habitat**

**Powering a state
park in the city**

**Manage summer
aquatic
vegetation
carefully**

**New Pere
Marquette SP
handbook**

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

Black carp



Reminder - Black Carp Bounty for Commercial Fishers

IDNR is encouraging commercial fishers in the state to report and turn in any specimens of invasive black carp captured in their nets in the Illinois River, or in the Illinois waters of the Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash rivers. Commercial fishers can earn a bounty of \$100 for black carp. Sport fishers are unlikely to catch black carp. [For more information click here](#)



Seven-Day Operating Schedule at Stratton Lock Resumed as of June 28

The William G. Stratton Lock and Dam on the Fox River in McHenry resumed full-time daily operations for the remainder of the 2017 boating season on June 28. From June 28 through September 30, the Stratton lock tenders will operate the facility seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. until midnight. From October 1-31, operating hours will be 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily. The lock is closed for the season each year from November 1 through April 30. [For more information click here](#)



Save the Date for Solar Eclipse Program in Cypress

A solar eclipse is happening on August 21, 2017, and educators and astronomers from the Adler Planetarium in Chicago are coming to Cache River State Natural Area, Barkhausen – Cache River Wetlands Center, 8885 State Route 37 South, Cypress, Illinois, on Thursday, August 17, 2017, to help us learn all about it! [For more information click here](#)

Silver Carp Found Nine Miles from Lake Michigan



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) announced the preliminary finding of 1 silver carp in the Illinois Waterway below T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam, approximately nine miles away from Lake Michigan. The fish was captured with a gill net by a contracted commercial fisher the morning of June 22 as part of the ACRCC Monitoring Response Work Group's seasonal intensive monitoring event. The silver carp was 28 inches in length and weighed approximately 8 pounds. The fish has been sent to Southern Illinois University for additional analysis. [For more information click here](#)

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



ICF announced the selections of Patricia Calderon of Chicago and Jacob Handel of Sycamore as recipients of the 2017 Conservation Achievement Scholarships. Both high school seniors will receive \$2,000 to apply to specified expenses at the two- or four-year college or university of their choice.

Visit ICF
(217) 785-2003

Highlights



Illinois Bat Festival is July 8

The Illinois Bat Festival on July 8 is the next big festival of the year at the Illinois State Museum! Celebrate the unique role of bats in the Great Lakes ecosystem as insect eaters, while dispelling myths and misinformation that generate needless fears and threaten bats and their habitats around the world. [For more information click here](#)



Kaskaskia River Rough Fish Roundup Bowfishing Tournament

Bowfishing enthusiasts should make plans now for the third annual Kaskaskia River Rough Fish Roundup bowfishing tournament on Saturday, July 15, 2017, on the Kaskaskia River at Wood Duck Marina near Baldwin, IL. The tournament is hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area. [For more information click here](#)



Buffalo Rock State Park reopened on July 4

Buffalo Rock State Park in La Salle Co. reopened to visitors on Tuesday, July 4 at 8:00 a.m. The park had been closed since significant damage to trees at the park occurred as a result of a tornado that struck the area on February 28. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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