



Inside Illinois DNR

March 2018

Volume 6, Number 3

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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



As we head into spring, and think about spending more time outdoors, please take a few minutes to purchase your 2018 Illinois fishing, hunting or combination fishing/hunting license.

On the outdoor recreation calendar in Illinois, regulations for the 2018 season take effect on April 1, and 2018 licenses went on sale on March 1. Those new licenses will be valid through March 31, 2019.

While purchasing a license enables you to participate in the outdoor recreation activities you enjoy, it is also an investment in the future of those outdoor pursuits.

Thanks to the foresight of conservation leaders generations ago – and to those of you who have purchased and continue to buy fishing and hunting licenses today – state and federal natural resources agencies are able to team up to sustain and improve productive fisheries and bountiful wildlife populations.

The money you spend on Illinois fishing and hunting licenses is used by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for everything from surveying fish populations on lakes and streams, to production of fish at our state hatcheries, to habitat enhancement and wildlife management programs that help ensure good hunting opportunities.

Those state license revenues also generate additional federal funds for Illinois from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration programs. That funding comes from federal excise taxes on our purchases of equipment such as firearms and ammunition, archery equipment, fishing gear, and boat motor fuel. The federal funding is apportioned to the state based on the Illinois licenses, permits and stamps you buy.

In short, those of us who benefit from fish and wildlife programs are paying for those fish and wildlife programs. That is why it is so important that those of us who enjoy the outdoors continue to invest in wildlife and fisheries conservation and management by buying licenses to support those programs.

Our 2018 licenses are the same price as last year. Discounts are available on resident veteran and senior hunting licenses, as well as youth and apprentice hunting licenses. Seniors can also qualify for discounts on fishing licenses, and kids under 16, as well as those Illinois residents who are blind or disabled, can still fish without purchasing a license.

Please join me in getting outdoors this season to enjoy all the recreation opportunities Illinois has to offer – and buy your 2018 fishing, hunting and combination licenses today. You can buy licenses at hundreds of retail outlets throughout the state, or online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

DNR in the news

115 lb. Black carp

Penny Parade

Promontory Point

Fish records

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

Unsung Heroes

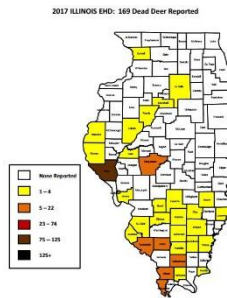


Unsung Heroes Exhibition Opening March 3 at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield

Anna Heistad. Minnie Vautrin. Thomas Jones. Three ordinary people who did extraordinary things in service of their fellow man, each of whom history has largely forgotten. These “unsung heroes” will be profiled in a new exhibition set to open at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield on Saturday, March 3. [For more information click here](#)

Suspected EHD Cases in Deer at Low to Moderate Level in 2017

Suspected EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease) cases were reported again in Illinois in 2017, but in low to moderate levels. A total of 66 reports were received from concerned landowners and hunters totaling 169 deer from 32 counties, according to the IDNR. In comparison, 2012 was the worst year for EHD in Illinois with 2,968 dead deer reported to IDNR from 87 counties. [For more information click here](#)



BAI IDNR Bowfishing Festival & Conservation Shoot

Register today for the second annual BAI IDNR Bowfishing Festival and Conservation Shoot May 19 at the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area in Wilmington. The festival will start at 8:00 a.m. and will include several tents full of bowfishing and Asian carp information, bowfishing and



Asian carp filleting and cooking demos, bow shooting and more! [For more information click here](#)



Hunter and Boating Safety Education Courses:

Register now for Hunter Safety Education and Boating Safety Education courses from the IDNR. Spring classes are being scheduled.

[For more information click here](#)

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



YOUTH WINGSHOOTING CLINIC & PHEASANT HUNT

March 10

This all-day youth event features a morning wingshooting clinic, lunch, and afternoon pheasant hunt for boys and girls ages 10-17.

To participate in the afternoon pheasant hunt, youth must have successfully passed an approved Hunter Safety Course and have a valid Illinois hunting license in their possession on the day of the event

Visit ICF

(217) 785-2003

Highlights



2018 Wingshooting Schedule

IDNR, working with a variety of partners, sponsors wingshooting clinics at sites geographically distributed throughout Illinois. The clinics are conducted on weekends during the spring through early fall of each year. There are two types of clinics offered: Youth/Women's Clinics - designed to teach participants basic firearm and hunter safety, wingshooting fundamentals, as well as practical wingshooting; and, Hunters Clinics - designed to enhance the wingshooting skills of hunters, and impart sound wingshooting practice techniques. [For more information click here](#)



Civil War Saturdays at The Old State Capitol

History will come alive at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield with "Civil War Saturdays". Civil War Saturdays are living history programs that bring to life important themes in Illinois history in the immersive experience of the Old State Capitol. The programs are free and open to the public. [For more information click here](#)



ENTICE Professional Development Workshops

Register today at for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by the IDNR. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, supplemental resources on the topic and the opportunity to work with natural resources professionals on a variety of topics. Professional Development Hours are available. Correlations to relevant Next Generation Science Standards and/or Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards are provided. [For more information click here.](#)



Weekend Knap-In at Dickson Mounds; March 3 & 4

The public is welcome to view flint-knapping demonstrations during Dickson Mounds Museum’s Third Annual Weekend Knap-In. Learn about the different techniques used by several craftsmen and see their stone tool creations. The event is free of charge. [For more information click here](#)

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Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

The Illinois Non-Game Wildlife Protection Act provides a means for citizens to donate funds to support initiatives to protect non-game wildlife and native plants, as well as assist in the maintenance of wildlife rehabilitation facilities that take care of threatened or endangered species. Non-game wildlife have need of special protection, and it is in the public interest to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources. The Act provides a means by which such protection may be financed through the Illinois Wildlife Protection Fund, to which donations can be made through a voluntary check-off designation on Illinois income tax return forms. [For more information click here](#)

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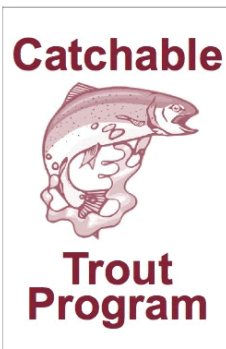


Illinois Department of **Natural Resources**

Federal and State Agencies Partner to Save Sinking Illinois School

The U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has approved a nearly \$1.9 million Abandoned Mine Land (AML) project to protect more than 450 middle school children in Swansea. The award comes five months after the ground beneath Wolf Branch Middle School dropped nearly 25 inches when the old underground mine workings collapsed, resulting in extensive structural damage to the school building. The building is temporarily shut down and the 450 children have been moved to a nearby school until the situation can be mitigated. [For more information click here](#)

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Illinois Spring Trout Fishing Season Opens April 7

Spring Catch-and-Release Fly Fishing Season Opens March 24 at Select Sites

The 2018 Illinois Spring Trout fishing season is just a few weeks away. Anglers will need both a fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp to participate, unless they are under the age of 16, blind, disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. Licenses and trout stamps are

available for purchase on the Illinois Department of Resources (IDNR) website and at DNR Direct license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. [For more information click here](#)



Twisted Bluegrass for Music at the Museum on March 8 at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield

The Music at the Museum Concert Series at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield will present the idiosyncratic humor and the amazing musicianship of The Matchsellers on Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. Known for an intense musical chemistry, world class playing skills and exciting performances, they have been described as having “a twisted sense of lyrical humor paired with energetic Americana music”.

[For more information click here](#)



Learn to Hunt

The Hunter Recruitment Program provides FREE education and training workshops to teach

ADULT participants how to hunt deer, turkey, squirrels, pheasants, ducks, geese and other game. Waterfowl and terrestrial game workshops are open to individuals who have not hunted those species before. Advanced registration is REQUIRED to participate. [For more information click here](#)

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

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