



Inside Illinois DNR

May 2018

Volume 6, Number 5

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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 what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



While it has taken awhile for winter to give way to spring, our busiest outdoor recreation season of the year is on the way, and it's a good time to send out a few reminders about playing it safe while enjoying the outdoors in Illinois this spring and summer.

Boating safety is a key focus in May as the summer boating season approaches. National Safe Boating Week this year is May 19-25, leading into the Memorial Day weekend.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and our IDNR Conservation Police remind boaters to prepare for a safe boating season before you get on the water – and to always make safety a priority while on the water.

There are nearly a quarter-million registered watercraft in Illinois, and our state has lots of great places to enjoy boating.

No matter where or when you're planning to operate a boat, or you're simply going to ride along with someone else at the helm, please wear a life jacket.

IDNR Conservation Police report that last year in Illinois, there were 80 reportable boating accidents in the state. In those incidents, 48 injuries and 12 fatalities occurred. Ten of the 12 people who died in boating accidents last year were not wearing a life jacket.

Illinois law requires that properly-fitting life jackets or life vests be available for each person aboard a boat or other watercraft. State law also requires that anyone under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket while aboard any watercraft under 26 feet in length at all times the boat is underway (unless they are below deck in an enclosed cabin or operating on private property). Illinois law also requires persons of any age to wear a life jacket while operating a personal watercraft or Jet Ski.

It is also extremely important for boat operators to be sober while boating in Illinois. Last year, law enforcement officers in the state made 263 arrests for operating under the influence (OUI) involving boaters. Alcohol or drug use can impair a boat operator's judgment, balance, vision and reaction time, putting themselves and their passengers at risk.

Don't take chances. Get a boat safety inspection, wear a life jacket, stay sober on board, and enjoy a great season on the water in 2018.

Wayne Rosenthal

[DNR in the news](#)

Otters Making a Comeback

Pere Marquette State Park

Forestry Update

Learn To Hunt

[Statewide Offices](#)

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL
312-814-2070

Highlights



IDNR Awards Biodiversity Field Trip Grants to Schools

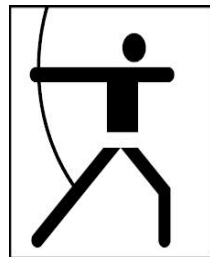
Governor Bruce Rauner and IDNR announced \$107,000 in Biodiversity Field Trip Grants that make it possible for 9,800 students from 35 counties to visit areas of the state where they can learn about nature and conservation this summer. [For more information click here](#)



Rare 1846 Men's Shirt Donated to the Illinois State Museum

The Illinois State Museum is thrilled to announce the recent donation of a man's dress shirt dating back to 1846, with a documented history of who made it, who wore it, and the specific day on which it was worn. Springfield native Zimri Enos wore the shirt on his wedding day on June 10, 1846. The high-collared, ruffled shirt is made of linen, fastens to the throat, and is embroidered with Zimri's initials. Its triangular-shaped gussets under the sleeves would have allowed him to have a wider range of motion. [For more information click here](#)

[information click here](#)



Champaign Central, Champaign Jefferson, and Next Generation Schools Take Top Team Honors in State Archery Tournament

Students from Champaign Central High School took first place in the High School Division of the National Archery in the Schools (NASP) Illinois State Tournament, conducted on April 6-7 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Champaign Central's Team #1 won the High School Division title with a score of 3,387 in the two-day competition, edging out Champaign Centennial High School's Team #1 (3,383). Danville's Schlarman Academy Team #1 placed third in the High School Division. [For more information click here](#)



Conservation Police Name CPO Marc Folden Officer of the Year

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and IDNR Conservation Police recognized officers for outstanding efforts protecting the public during the past year, including the presentation of Conservation Police Officer (CPO) Marc Folden as Illinois Conservation Police Officer of the Year. CPO Folden, a resident of McLeansboro, is a 15-year veteran of the IDNR Conservation Police and is based in Hamilton County in southern Illinois. [For more information click here](#)

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



DONATE \$5 WHEN YOU PURCHASE YOUR LICENSE

Sportsmen and sportswomen—Don't forget to donate \$5 to the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) when you purchase your 2018 fishing or hunting license.

It's easy! Just ask the vender to include your ICF donation along with the licenses, stamps and permits that you purchase. Your donation goes straight to ICF to help support youth hunting/fishing events, outdoor clinics, school field trips to parks, and other great programs.

Visit ICF

(217) 785-2003

Highlights



ISM Launches “Story of Illinois” Website as Part of Illinois Bicentennial Celebration

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) is highlighting artifacts that tell the story of Illinois' rich heritage as part of the state's Bicentennial celebration. The ISM has partnered with the Illinois Association of Museums to launch the “Story of Illinois” website, featuring objects from the ISM Illinois Legacy Collection, as well as collections from other museums across the state that help bring the state's heritage to life. [For more information click here](#)



Federal Grand Jury Indicts Five Men on Charges of Illegal Waterfowl Hunting in Fulton County

Five men have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges related to alleged illegal waterfowl hunting in Fulton County, Illinois in 2015, following an investigation conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [For more information click here](#)



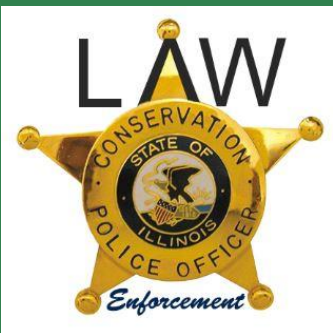
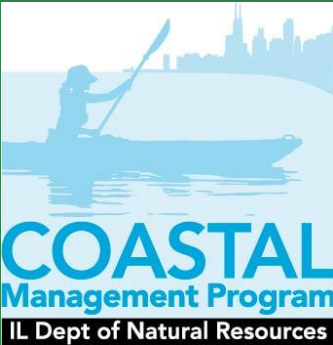
Kids Day at Cahokia Mounds is May 20

Kids Day is an annual community outreach event held at Cahokia Mounds on May 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This special event offers hands-on activities, crafts, games, and storytelling for kids of all ages. Activities include; spear throwing with atlatl, face painting, flintknapping, chunky game, pelt identification, pottery making, and corn darts. [For more information click here.](#)



Stratton Lock and Dam Open for 2018 Season

The IDNR William G. Stratton Lock and Dam on the Fox River in McHenry opened for the 2018 boating season as of May 1. 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](#)



Bowfishing Festival and Conservation Shoot Set for May 19 at Des Plaines SFWA

Illinois' Bowfishing Festival and Conservation Shoot at the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area boat access area is scheduled for Saturday, May 19. The all-day festival will feature bowfishing instruction and ranges, fishing instruction for kids with supervised rod-reel fishing opportunities, fish cleaning and cooking demonstrations (with free samples of delicious fish), and activities for children and families. Experts will be on hand and displays will be presented from IDNR, Illinois Natural History Survey, Bowfishing Association of Illinois (BAI), and other partners and organizations. [For more information click here](#)



Dickson Mounds Museum Family Day is May 19

Let's Fly A Kite from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. join Dickson Mounds Museum for an afternoon of kite flying. Visitors of all ages may enjoy learning how to fly pole kites,

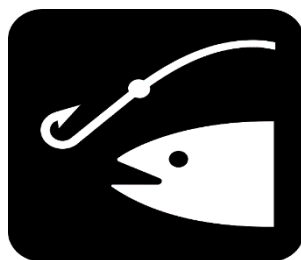
wind resistance exploration, trying out "wings", fun with bubbles, and making their own kite craft to take home. The program will be presented by Heather McMeekan, MS, and founder of the annual Macomb Kite Festival. [For more information click here](#)



Spring Migratory Bird Hike

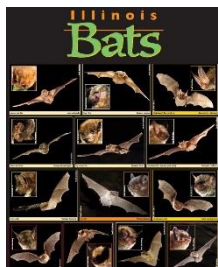
Spring migration is underway. Join the staff at Starved Rock State Park for the Spring Migratory Bird Hike Saturday, May 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the Starved Rock Visitor Center. Hikers will hike out to Lovers Leap and Eagle Cliff overlooks as well as the Bluff Trail above Wildcat Canyon. The program is free and

open to the public. [For more information click here](#)



Two Rivers Free Fishing Fair is June 9

Bring your family and friends to the Two Rivers Free Fishing Fair on June 9 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton. [For more information click here](#)



Illinois Bats Poster

The newest addition to the Illinois Flora and Fauna poster series from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education is Illinois Bats! This 24" x 36", two-sided poster features images of the 13 species of bats that are found in Illinois and information about their life history, external anatomy, conservation and other topics. Posters can be ordered through the online publications page; shipping fees will be applied. [For more information click here](#)



Group Hike with Friends of the Hennepin Canal is May 20

Join the group hike of the Hennepin Canal trails on May 20 at 1:30 p.m. Once a month, hikes begin at one lock or bridge and end at another. The friends organize a carpool to return to the starting point, so you can make it back to your vehicle without walking back the distance. Come trek the canal trails with them any month. Their vast knowledge of the canal and its history makes this opportunity the closest one can get to a guided tour of the Hennepin Canal trail system. [For more information click here](#)



Tricky Tracks at Beall Woods State Park on May 19

During a walk in the woods, down a road, or even in your yard you might come across animal tracks. Some of them can be easy to identify, while others may be a little tricky. On May 19, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. practice your track identification by participating in the following activities: Track Bingo, Creating Plaster Tracks, Track Rubbings, and Tricky Tracks. Please register by May 12. [For more information click here](#)

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

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