



Inside Illinois DNR

May 2019

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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 Colleen Callahan



I had the honor last week of attending the graduation ceremony for the latest recruit class of Illinois Conservation Police Officer Trainees, presenting diplomas to 20 new officers from throughout the state who have joined our Illinois Department of Natural Resources law enforcement team.

It was a pleasure to congratulate them, and to share in the graduation ceremony with the officers’ families and friends who joined in the celebration.

The new officers just completed 28 weeks of training – 14 weeks of basic law enforcement training required of all police officers in the state, and another 14 weeks of Conservation Police Officer training focused on the specific, conservation-related duties of CPOs.

Now that their academic programs are completed, the CPOTs begin on-the-job field training, working with veteran officers, working their way over the next year or so to being certified as full-fledged Conservation Police Officers.

It is true. Our Conservation Police really are the best-trained law enforcement officers in Illinois – with full police authority to enforce the laws of the state – and with a further focus on those laws involving natural resources and outdoor recreation.

They are first responders in times of floods, tornadoes, blizzards, and other natural and man-made disasters. They work closely with state police and local law enforcement agencies in protecting our people and our property.

They protect our citizens and visitors to Illinois in our state parks, on our state waterways, and on the highways and back roads of Illinois. They enforce game and fish laws, timber regulations, drug and traffic laws, and boating safety laws and regulations.

Speaking of our waterways and boating safety, Conservation Police remind all of us that our busiest boating season of the year is upon us. National Safe Boating Week is May 18-24, just ahead of the Memorial Day weekend. It is a good chance to remind all boaters to wear life jackets, to review safe boating regulations, to always be alert to conditions on the water, and for boat operators to stay sober.

Thank you for your support of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Colleen Callahan
Director

DNR in the news

**Ferson Creek Fen
Ospreys, Ameren
& IDNR**

**Unforgettable
Field Trip**

**Students Raise
Money for
Sandburg**

Statewide Offices

**Springfield, IL
217-782-6302**

**Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100**

**Benton, IL
618-435-8138**

Highlights



Illinois Conservation Police Officer Steven Beltran Named Officer of the Year

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and IDNR Conservation Police have recognized officers for outstanding efforts protecting the public during the past year, including the presentation of Conservation Police Officer (CPO) Steven Beltran as Illinois Conservation Police Officer of the Year. CPO Beltran, a resident of Leaf River, is a 19-year veteran of the IDNR Conservation Police and is based in northwest Illinois. "Illinois Conservation Police

Officers like Steven Beltran represent the best of the best in law enforcement in the State of Illinois," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "Our CPOs work hard every day to help keep Illinois residents and visitors to our state safe, be it in our state parks, on our waterways, or wherever they're needed in counties and communities urban and rural."

[For more information click here](#)



Champaign Central, Champaign Jefferson and Canton Ingersoll Win 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 Illinois State Tournament, conducted on April 5-6 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds

in Springfield. Champaign Central Team #1 won the High School Division title with a score of 3,385 in the two-day competition. Champaign Centennial High School Team #1 finished second (3,357) and Armstrong-Potomac finished third (3,355).

[For more information click here](#)



IDNR Announces Spring 2019 Habitat Fund Project Grants

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced the approval of more than \$1.9 million in grants for 13 wildlife habitat projects through the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program. The program provides for enhancing game and non-game wildlife habitat through projects

developed by not-for-profit organizations and governmental entities. Funding for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program comes from the sale of Habitat Stamps to sportsmen and sportswomen. The Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee this spring approved \$1,941,000 in funding for the 13 projects.

[For more information click here](#)

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



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Highlights



Conservation Police Officer Testing

Join the Conservation Police. Are you ready for the best career in Law Enforcement? IDNR will be starting the testing process for Conservation Police Officer Trainee positions with the written test on June 3 through June 6, and June 10 through June 13, 2019 at the CMS Testing Centers. Get your CMS100 application completed and get ready for the test! [For more information click here](#)



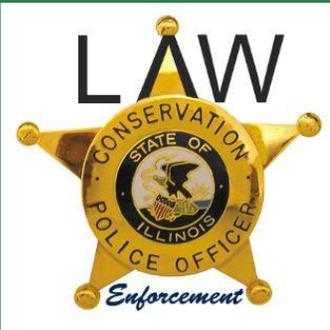
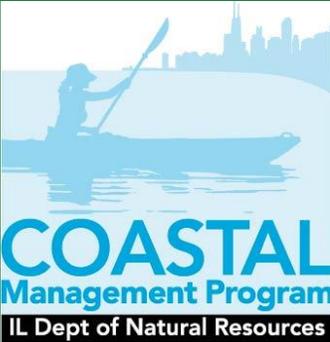
IDNR Sets 2019 Operating Schedule at Stratton-Bolger Lock and Dam

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced the operating schedule for the William G. Stratton-Thomas A. Bolger Lock and Dam facility on the Fox River in McHenry County, which opened for the 2019 season on Wednesday, May 1. To facilitate ongoing construction operations at the Stratton-Bolger facility, the lock will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays (with the exception of Memorial Day on Monday, May 27) during the months of May and June. During the months of May and June, IDNR lock tenders will operate the lock on Wednesdays through Sundays from 8:00 a.m. until midnight. [For more information click here](#)



Puppet Program at Dickson Mounds Tot Time on May 2

At Dickson Mounds Museum's Tot Time on Thursday, May 2 at 9:30 a.m., the program will be "Puppets & Play-The Birds Fly Back with Mrs. Goose" presented by puppeteer, storyteller, and educator Marilyn Price. This interactive program will be filled with song and finger play and stories with Mrs. Goose and her puppet master. The goose will lead the audience in song and participate in two of her favorite stories including "The Little Red Goose" and "King Bounce the First." Tots and their caretakers will enjoy crafts, too. [For more information click here.](#)



Storytelling Program and Special Lecture at Cahokia Mounds on May 4-5

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site will be participating in the St. Louis Storytelling Festival with a free presentation on Saturday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m. by Robert Lewis, an award-winning Native American storyteller, author and artist of

Cherokee, Navaho and Apache descent. Robert Lewis works for the Cherokee Nation as a school and community specialist and conducts outreach classes and services in art, culture and storytelling. He is also adjunct professor of art at Northeastern State University, where he teaches classes in art and native crafts. Robert was first introduced to the world of storytelling by his parents. While researching and gathering stories from elders, storytellers, books and magazines, Robert was struck by the richness and variety of traditional knowledge and humor passed on from generation to generation. [For more information click here](#)



Two Galesburg Guys Perform May 5 at Sandburg Home

Ian & M3, a local duo playing funky, jazzy blues, will perform May 5 at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg as part of the Sandburg Songbag Concert Series. Ian Johnson and Manuel Lopez III's friendship, musically and personally go back more than 10 years.

They have played hundreds of shows together with various bands and now as a duo. They have their own style, playing all genres of music from rock to pop to funk to jazz. [For more information click here](#)



Apply for Firearm/Muzzleloader Deer Permits

Beginning May 1, nonresidents can begin applying in the Second Lottery for Firearm and Muzzleloader Deer permits. Nonresident Landowner Deer Firearm and Archery applications were also available as of May 1.

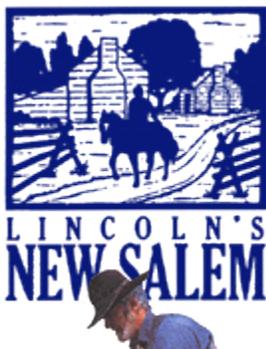
[For more information click here](#)



ENTICE

ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshops for educators provide: the opportunity to work with resources professionals; hands-on activities and resources about the topic; visits to outdoor locations (as

appropriate); and many supplemental teaching tools to allow for instant implementation in the classroom. Professional Development Hours are available. Experience ENTICE! [For more information click here](#)



Centennial Open House at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site May 18

Join in the fun on May 18 at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site Centennial Open House.

On May 22, 1919, the acreage commonly known as "Old Salem Hill" where the village of New Salem once stood was conveyed to the State of Illinois. We will publicly recognize this event with an open house. All of the buildings on the hill will be open for the public to enter. [For more](#)

[information click here.](#)

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

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