



# Inside Illinois DNR

November 2019

Volume 7, Number 11

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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 the job openings available.*

## A Message from Director Colleen Callahan



### Keep safety top-of-mind this hunting season

It has been a busy autumn in Illinois with fall festivals, scenic drives, homecoming parades and football games. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts have been busy, too, camping, photographing, bird-watching and hunting. The pace won't let up moving into November either as Firearm Deer Season is 'prime time' for hunting in Illinois.

The 2019 Firearm Deer Season begins with three days of hunting on the weekend of Nov. 22-24 and will conclude with the final four days of the season Dec. 5-8.

While the Archery Deer Season has been underway since Oct. 1, and waterfowl seasons are already open in the North and Central zones, Illinois hunters really get busy during November.

Duck and Canada goose seasons open soon in the South Central and South zones this month; pheasant, quail and rabbit seasons opened Nov. 2; and several of our furbearer seasons open Nov. 10.

With all that activity, I want to encourage hunters to slow down for just a moment and remember to make safety their first priority as they head to the field, the boat, the blind or the tree stand this season.

The IDNR Office of Law Enforcement reports there were 19 incidents last year in which hunters were hurt, and 14 of those involved elevated tree stands that are a popular among firearm and archery deer hunters.

Our safety educators remind hunters to make sure their tree stands are installed properly and are checked for wear or malfunctions. Just because your stand was in good condition last year doesn't mean it is in the same condition this year – and don't wait until 5:00 on the opening morning of the season to find out.

Another must for hunting from a tree stand: Always wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS) safety harness. Check to make sure the tree stand ladder is sturdy and be extra careful if it is wet or slippery. Keep your cellphone within reach so you can call for help, if needed.

Check the IDNR website for more hunting safety information and remember to make safety your priority as you head out to enjoy what we hope will be many successful days hunting in Illinois this season.

## [DNR in the News](#)

**Bowhunters  
Ahead of Harvest  
Pace**

**Fallen Soldier's  
Memorial**

**Illinois State  
Museum Returns  
Artifacts To  
Australian  
Indigenous Tribes**

**Changing Seasons**

## [Statewide Offices](#)

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

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

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

## Highlights

### IDNR Announces Off-Highway Vehicle Project Grants



IDNR announced \$580,237 in grant funding that will allow for development and improvements for public access to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation at four OHV parks in Illinois. [Click here](#) for more information.

### Autumn ushers in peak season for deer vs. vehicle crashes



With the onset of autumn, the school year is in full swing, pumpkin lattes are steaming - and Illinois deer are feeling amorous. The Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are reminding motorists to be vigilant during deer mating season as the animals become more active, especially in the early morning and evening hours. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### IDNR Announces Habitat Fund Project Grants



The IDNR announced the approval of more than \$737,500 in grants for 11 wildlife habitat projects through the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program. The program enhances 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. [Click here](#) for the information.

### Illinois Fallen Soldier's Memorial Unveiling is Nov. 8



Join the Illini State Park Foundation for the unveiling of the *Surround of Honor* at the Illinois Fallen Soldier's Memorial on November 8 at 1:00 p.m. This memorial is different from the nearby wall; it will remember all of Illinois' fallen soldiers from the Middle East conflicts. [Click here](#) for the information.



2019

DIRECTOR'S

HUNT

NOVEMBER  
25 AND 26  
WAYNE  
FITZGERRELL  
SRA

2-DAY HUNT  
WITH  
DIRECTOR  
COLLEEN  
CALLAHAN



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### 2019 Director's Hunt Nov. 25-26



Sign up as an individual or a team of four for the 2019 Director's Hunt on November 25 and 26. Registration includes hotel room, meals, and two days of hunting at Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area in Southern Illinois. For more information [click here](#).

### \$10.1 Million in Park and Recreational Facility Grants



Governor Pritzker and the IDNR announced that more than \$10.1 million in state grant funding has been approved for local governments to construct, renovate and improve buildings or purchase land to be used for public access and recreation. The funding is made available through the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act (PARC) grant program. [Click here](#) for more information.

### IDNR Announces Grant Funding Opportunities Schedule



IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) have announced anticipated application deadlines for competitive grant programs for Illinois Fiscal Year 2020. Grant program goals vary by program and include natural resource protection, management, and enhancement; recreational amenity and open space acquisition and development; museum capital improvement; and, environmental education. Eligible applicants vary by program and may include local governments, non-profits, universities, and individuals. For more information [click here](#).

### IDNR Invites Comments on 2021-2025 Waterfowl Seasons



IDNR is inviting waterfowl hunters to review information on waterfowl hunting regulations and submit their comments on their preferred regulations for the 2021-2025 waterfowl seasons by November 7. For more information [click here](#).



## Christmas on Vinegar Hill at Mount Pulaski Courthouse Nov. 23



For 31 years, “Christmas On Vinegar Hill” has taken place on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and 2019 is no exception with this special event at the Mount Pulaski Courthouse State Historic Site on Saturday, November 23. Throughout Mount Pulaski, venues will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for the celebration. At the Mount Pulaski Courthouse, the traditional hot cider, coffee and cookies will be offered to visitors. For more information [click here](#).



## Annual Native American Holiday Market Nov. 29-Dec. 1



Head to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site for a unique holiday shopping experience November 29-December 1. 35 Native American artists will be set up throughout the Interpretive Center selling their various creations. Items include jewelry, sculptures, paintings, ceramics and more! A wonderful opportunity to visit with the artists themselves. For more information [click here](#).



## An Evening of Folk and Americana at Sandburg Songbag Concert on Nov. 10



Make plans to attend the final Carl Sandburg Songbag Concert Series performance of the season on Sunday, November 10 featuring the Trulson Hope Scott Trio at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg. For more information [click here](#).



## Controlled Pheasant Hunting Permits



Hunters can apply online now for 2019-2020 Illinois controlled pheasant hunting opportunities available at IDNR sites. Sixteen of the sites are operated by the IDNR, while two other sites are managed by concessionaire T. Miller, Inc. For application information [click here](#).



## Illinois State Museum's Collectors Day and Artifact Identification Event is Nov. 16.



The Illinois State Museum in Springfield hosts local collectors displaying the best of their collections Saturday, November 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. during Collectors Day and Artifact Identification Day. Visitors also can bring items from home to be identified by

Museum staff and other experts. For more information [click here](#).

## Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant



November 30 is the application deadline for the Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant. Teachers, nature center personnel and adults who are youth group leaders (grades

prekindergarten through 12) in Illinois may apply. Funds may be used to establish or enhance wildlife habitat on the school grounds or other public places. Generous donations from the Jadel Youth Fund, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation and others help make this program possible. For more information [click here](#).

## Firearm Deer Season Opens Nov. 22



Firearm deer hunting season is November 22-24 and December 5-8. Archery season continues through January 19, 2020. Deer hunters statewide are encouraged to allow samples to be taken for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing from adult deer they harvest. Check the IDNR website at this link

for locations that are serving as CWD sampling stations, taking samples from entire deer or deer heads through the end of Illinois' 2019-2020 deer seasons in January. For more information [click here](#).

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

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