



Inside Illinois DNR

September 2019

Volume 7, Number 9

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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



We Illinoisans love our wildlife, and our staff at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources hear every day from people with questions, concerns, opinions and recommendations about how best to help wildlife thrive, while keeping those wild animals from causing problems. Many of those questions and concerns involve the best ways to coexist with the wild animals who share our space – from farm fields to woodlands, from parks to backyards.

State law puts the administration of wildlife management in Illinois under the direction of the IDNR – and working with many federal and local partners, landowners and interested citizens, our team of professionals practice the art and science of doing just that.

If you have questions or concerns about wildlife in Illinois, we have developed some online resources you might want to check out.

The **Wildlife Illinois** website at <https://www.wildlifeillinois.org/> offers a wealth of information on identifying wildlife, the habits of your favorite mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles, preventing or solving wildlife problems, and helping injured or orphaned wildlife. The site also provides links to resources for developing or improving wildlife habitat on your property.

The **White-tailed Deer Illinois** website at <https://deer.wildlifeillinois.org/> provides plenty of information on our state mammal, with insights into deer ecology and deer management. Illinois' deer management goals, as outlined on the website, "are to maintain a healthy and balanced deer herd that can exist in perpetuity and provide recreational opportunities, while also balancing people's broad range of values and their concerns about crop damage, vehicle accidents and damage to ecosystems." The website has expansive information on how we try to achieve those goals, including working with hunters, private and public landowners, and with other citizens whose only contact with deer may be when one runs into their path on the road.

The websites were developed thanks to support from partners including the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, USDA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and University of Illinois Extension to provide research-based information about how best to go about living with wildlife in Illinois.

I hope you click on these online resources when you have questions or concerns regarding wildlife and will find them useful and informative as I do.

DNR in the News

**Security Changes
for Governor's
Mansion Tours**

**Hennepin Canal
Repairs**

**Fire Training at
Eagle Creek**

**Lake Michigan
Hiking/Biking
Trail**

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights

Bobcat Permits



Hunters and trappers may apply for a 2019-2020 Illinois Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit online through September 30, 2019. Applicants must submit a \$5.00 non-refundable fee. A total of 1,000 permits will be allocated during a lottery and mailed to successful applicants. Season dates are November 10, 2019, through February 15, 2020. Bobcat hunting is closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting. To apply for the permit, go to the DNR Direct license and permit system by [clicking here](#).

Volunteers Honored at Ceremony in Conservation World



Four individuals and members of one organization were honored recently in Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair for their service to the IDNR. "From helping visitors enjoy their stay at a state park campground to working on maintenance and improvements to state recreation area mountain bike trails, to assisting other volunteers in providing educational programs and information to visitors at our busiest state park, we salute these all-star volunteers," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "Volunteers provide tens of thousands of hours of their time assisting staff and visitors at our state parks, state museums and historic sites, and we cannot thank them enough." [Click here](#) to learn more about the winners.

Splendors of Southern Illinois



Not content to visit with Smokey Bear just once during the Illinois State Fair, IDNR Director Colleen Callahan made the trip to southern Illinois late in August to visit the Du Quoin State Fair and catch up with Smokey one more time. While at the fair, she participated in the Twilight Parade and visited with IDNR employees and fairgoers. Director Callahan also took time out to provide a tour of the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta to Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and attend the bill signing of HB 3623, the Youth Hunting License bill, with Governor J.B. Pritzker. The director capped a successful trip with visits to Rend Lake, Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area, and Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area.



ICF Membership Program

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With your help, we are "Turning Screen Time into Green Time."

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Call: (217) 785-2003

Visit ICF

New ICF Executive Director Named



The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) named Crystal Curfman as its new executive director, tapping her to lead the organization in its outreach and fundraising efforts. Curfman previously served as a managing partner of Curfman Group, a real estate and executive search advisory and consulting company. Curfman, who also has led recruiting efforts for financial companies, said engaging both youth and the state's current outdoor enthusiasts will be important in maintaining and growing the foundation. Curfman holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She currently serves as a committee member of the Chicago Downtown Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and is a member of Pheasants Forever and the Ruffed Grouse Society. To learn more about the Illinois Conservation Foundation, [click here](#).

\$2.6 Million in Bike Path Grants Awarded



\$2.6 million in grants for 16 local projects that will help communities acquire, develop and improve bike path facilities throughout Illinois were awarded in August. The Bicycle Path Grant Program was approved by the Illinois General Assembly in 1989 and funding comes from a percentage of motor vehicle title fees. [Click here](#) to see the list of winning projects.

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Awarded



The IDNR awarded a \$653,500 grant for acquisition of land that will allow for public access to off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. Grant funds awarded to James W. Lowry, Jr., will help purchase 80 acres of the existing 180-acre "The Cliffs Insane Terrain Off Road Park" in Marseilles, in La Salle County. The remainder of the site will be leased to the grant recipient. The Illinois Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program provides dedicated funding support from OHV users to offer the public opportunities to enjoy OHV recreation. For more information about the program, [click here](#).

Starved Rock State Park Hosting Monarch Mania Program



Every fall monarch butterflies migrate from eastern and central North America to Central Mexico. Learn about these fascinating creatures and get the chance to see the process of tagging and releasing monarchs for research. Doug Taron of the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network and Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago will lead this program on September 8, 2019, from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Starved Rock State Park near Utica. For more information, [click here](#).



Division of Education Web Site



The IDNR Division of Education offers a plethora of information through its Web site. Educators, scout leaders, youth group leaders, librarians, nature center personnel, home-schooling educators and the public can find publications, items for loan, lessons, grants, basic information and other resources. For more information, [click here](#).

Identifying Grasses Workshop at Cache River State Natural Area



Join Erin Medvecz of the University of Illinois Extension, on September 7, 2019, at the Henry N. Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Visitors' Center near Cypress to learn tips and techniques to help identify 30 different grasses in southern Illinois. After the presentation, take a walk with Erin to identify grasses around the site. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. and should end about noon. For more information, [click here](#).

Target Illinois Poachers Online Incident Report



Conservation Police Officers encourage all citizens who have observed a poaching incident to report it. You can do so online, confidentially, with the Incident Reporting Form. Access it by [clicking here](#).

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Meeting



The 233rd meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) will be held Tuesday, September 10, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Douglas-Hart Nature Center, 2204 Dewitt Avenue East, Mattoon. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call the INPC at 217-785-8686. To learn more about the INPC, [click here](#).

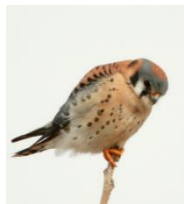
Fall is a Great Time to Visit an Illinois State Park



Illinois has beautiful state parks that have many recreational opportunities. Take some time this fall and visit some Illinois state parks that you have not experienced before. They are waiting for you to discover them. You'll find the list of parks and related information by [clicking here](#).



Remarkable Raptors Family Event at Illinois State Museum September 21



Celebrate birds of prey—owls, eagles, falcons and more—at the Illinois State Museum on Saturday, September 21! Families will enjoy educational games, activities and crafts. Live bird programs will be presented by the Illinois Raptor Center at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The event opens at 11:00 a.m. and runs through 3:00 p.m. September 21 is Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day Live. Visit <http://smithsonian.com/museumday> to print a voucher for two, free, adult admission tickets to the Illinois State Museum. Child and senior admission are free. Family event activities are recommended for children ages 7 and older and are included with museum admission. This program is sponsored by Bank of Springfield. For additional information, please contact 217-558-6696 or events@illinoisstatemuseum.org.

Lost Your Safety Education Card?



If you have lost your hunter, trapper, boater or snowmobiler safety education card, you can reprint it or look up your Safety Certification Number [by clicking here](#) and following the instructions. If your information is not in the data system you will be requested to submit required information for the IDNR Division of Safety Education to complete a physical search of files. Requests are handled in the order they are received.

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

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