



Inside Illinois DNR

April 2016

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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 work to get more Illinoisans outdoors – and to make sure they have a good time when they are outdoors – the Illinois Department of Natural Resources hosts a number of programs that can help you sharpen your outdoors skills.

For more than 25 years, the IDNR has worked with local sportsmen’s groups and organizations in hosting instructional clinics for novices interested in learning the fundamentals of shotgun shooting – and separate clinics for experienced hunters and other shooters interested in enhancing their skills.

These Wingshooting Clinics have been extremely popular over the years, and the schedule of clinics for 2016 is posted on the IDNR website. Clinics are scheduled throughout the state, at state parks and fish and wildlife areas, as well as at participating hunting preserves, farms and sportsmen’s clubs.

The Wingshooting Clinics for youth and women interested in learning the basics of shotgun shooting have been a huge success in expanding interest in hunting and shooting sports participation. Girls and boys, usually ages 10-15, and women of all ages can participate. Clinics are usually free of charge, or have a nominal registration fee. They are taught by instructors certified by the IDNR, and begin with a morning shotgun safety presentation and hands-on shotgun orientation with the instructor, followed by lunch and an afternoon in the field practicing their skills at shooting flying clay targets. Several clinics this fall will include youth pheasant hunting opportunities. The clinics are great fun, and you can see the excitement among the kids and women in safely handling a shotgun and hitting a target.

Hunter wingshooting clinics are also taught by IDNR-certified instructors, with a safety briefing followed by a variety of live-fire opportunities that provide more experienced shooters with chances to improve their skills. Participants are grouped with others of similar shooting ability. The fee for hunter wingshooting clinics ranges from \$30 to \$35 per participant, and is well worth it for hunters and target shooters, women and men, ages 16 and older.

Our wingshooting program is made possible thanks to the dedication of our certified instructors – and the support of organizations including local chapters of Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Forever, Whitetails Unlimited, and local sportsmen’s clubs and associations.

Check the schedule and register for a clinic this spring, summer or fall.

DNR in the news

**Clean Illinois
River April 23**

**Like Fish Into
Water**

**Mine Land
Reclamation
Award**

Young Anglers

Statewide Offices

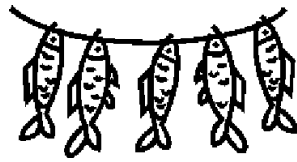
Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



2016 Fishing Tournament Information Available Online for Illinois Anglers

The tournament fishing season in Illinois will be busy again in 2016, as angling groups in the state have applied for more than 2,100 tournament permits to date. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Fisheries is now using an online application system through the www.ifishillinois.org website for fishing clubs and tournament organizers to apply for tournament permits, and is providing up-to-date tournament schedules through the website. [For more information click here](#)



New License Year Begins April 1

Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman's combination licenses and stamps for 2016 are available from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). The 2016 licenses and stamps are valid through March 31, 2017, unless otherwise noted. [For more information click here](#)



ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Check Yes for Youth Conservation

Studies show there are fewer children participating in outdoor activities, and the Illinois Conservation Foundation is playing a role in introducing Illinois youth to hunting, fishing and conservation activities. With the new Illinois license season beginning now, those purchasing hunting, fishing or trapping licenses are asked to please check "yes" to support youth conservation education. "When you choose to support youth programs in our state, your \$5 donation will go directly toward ICF programs around the state," said Eric Schmidt, Executive Director of the Illinois Conservation Foundation. "We're thankful for so many hunters and anglers who make sure to give children the same outdoors recreation opportunities we all had while growing up." [For more information click here](#)



Earth Day in the Parks

The IDNR will be honoring Earth Day in April with its Earth Day in the Parks program. Earth Day in the Parks, now in its tenth year, provides Illinois schoolchildren with an opportunity to conduct natural resources stewardship activities at Illinois state parks. Eight locations are participating in 2016. Students will be planting native wildflowers and grasses as well as removing invasive, exotic plants. The events help to provide a connection to the natural world for the participants and allow them to see that they can make a positive difference in their environment. [For more information click here](#)

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



Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame Nominations

If you know someone with a life-long passion for conservation or for working to get kids outdoors, please consider nominating them for the Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame!

While nominations are accepted throughout the year, to be considered for the 2016 class, all info must be received at the ICF by May 31st. Nominations must be submitted online by visiting.

www.ilcf.org.

Call

(217) 785-2003 for more information.



Highlights



Kids for Conservation®: Illinois Woodland Wildflowers

“Illinois Woodland Wildflowers” is the topic for the April edition of Kids for Conservation®. You can discover native wildflowers that bloom in the spring, take our quiz and watch the video podcast. Teachers, we have resources for you on this topic as well. “Kids in Action” for April features the students of Project Insight in Macomb. No matter your age, you can learn something about Illinois’ natural resources each month at Kids for Conservation®. [For more information click here](#)



Fishing Information Booklet

The 2016 Illinois Fishing Information guide is available in PDF format through the IDNR website in both English and Spanish versions at the link below. Regulations in the guide are effective through March 31, 2017. [For more information click here](#)



Hunter and Boating Safety Education Courses

Check the schedule and register now for Hunter Safety Education and Boating Safety Education courses from the IDNR. Check the IDNR website for class dates and locations. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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

