



Inside Illinois DNR

August 2014

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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 Marc Miller



With squirrel season open as of August 1, dove and early Canada goose seasons opening September 1, and teal season opening September 6, the busy fall hunting seasons in Illinois are just beginning. Deer, fall turkey, upland game, and the regular duck and goose seasons will be here soon. If you're a hunter, novice or experienced, as you plan your time afield this fall, please make hunting safety part of your plan.

Hunting is one of our safest forms of outdoor recreation, but last year there were 27 hunting incidents reported in Illinois. The most frequent incidents involved elevated tree stands. Hunters were injured in 16 tree stand incidents last year, with 11 of them resulting in serious injuries. Broken ankles, broken legs, broken backs, broken wrists, broken ribs, concussions, liver and kidney lacerations, and a torn aorta were among the injuries sustained by hunters ranging in age from 23 to 75, all involving getting into, out of, or using tree stands.

When using a tree stand, hunters should make sure they are using a full body safety harness, also known as a Fall Arrest System or FAS. When hunting with a firearm, hunters should follow some basic rules:

- Handle your firearm safely, and never assume it is unloaded. Last year, a turkey hunter in Calhoun Co. leaned his firearm against a truck, the gun slipped, discharged, and the hunter was wounded in the thigh.
- Know your target. Last year in Brown Co., a man was carrying a turkey decoy when another hunter thought he saw a turkey through the brush, fired, and shot and wounded the other man.
- Be aware of others hunting nearby. Last year in Will Co., a pheasant hunter was struck by pellets when another hunter in his group swung his firearm in his direction.

The IDNR provides Hunter Safety Education courses throughout the state, providing instruction on hunter responsibility, wildlife conservation and identification, firearms and ammunition, field safety, tree stand safety, first aid, archery, muzzleloading, and state regulations. Find course schedules and more information at

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety/Pages/HunterSafety.aspx>

Hunters are our valued partners in their support of conservation, wildlife management, and Illinois' hunting heritage. The fees hunters pay for licenses and permits, and the excise taxes they pay when they purchase hunting equipment, provide the funding needed for science-based conservation programs and wildlife management.

Thanks again to Illinois hunters for the important role you play in wildlife management efforts – and play it safe while hunting in Illinois this fall.

Yours in Conservation,

DNR in the news

Cut in Deer Permits

Peoria Island

Students Release Turtles

Lockport Canal Art

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Alton, IL
618-462-1181

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

State Parks, Great Parks Initiative



The Illinois General Assembly passed a funding package for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources giving the agency much-needed new revenues after a decade of severe budget and staffing cuts.

The Illinois DNR is committed to protecting the integrity of these funds by using them for the purposes for which they were intended.

The State Parks, Great Parks initiative has a clear and simple goal: Use these new revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the new funds will be used to hire critical staff at state parks, and to cut down on the hundreds of millions of dollars in backlogged maintenance at our state parks.

Here's how IDNR Sustainability dollars are being used in our state parks this month.

Description	Location
New Grills, Campsite Improvements, Road Repairs	Illini State Park

Legislation and Government



Fees for Senior Citizens reduced

Governor Pat Quinn recently visited Crab Orchard Lake in southern Illinois to sign a law that reduces sport fishing and hunting license fees to \$1 for Illinois residents over 75 years of age. The action was part of Governor Quinn's agenda to help more older adults enjoy recreational opportunities in Illinois. <http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=3&RecNum=12478>



OHV Usage Stamp Changes

Governor Pat Quinn on Aug. 1, 2014 signed Senate Bill 2633, sponsored by State Sen. David Koehler and State Rep. Frank Mautino, establishing additional exemptions and a fee change for the Off-Highway Vehicle Usage Stamp in Illinois. <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/OHVLawSigned.pdf>



Changes for 2014-2015 Deer Hunting Seasons

IDNR Director Marc Miller announced changes to the 2014-2015 deer hunting seasons, including the removal of 20 additional counties from the late-winter season and a reduction in the number of firearm permits available in some counties. IDNR biologists made recommendations for the coming season following a review of deer hunting harvest data, deer-vehicle accident data, a survey of Illinois deer hunters, hemorrhagic disease reports and other factors.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/IDNRAnnouncesChangesfor2014-2015DeerHuntingSeasons.aspx>

Illinois Conservation Foundation

Founded in 1994

SAVE THE DATE

August 16th Hall of
Fame Inductee
Recognition
Ceremony - IL State
Fair/Conservation
World Amphitheater
at 11:00 am,
Springfield.

October 4th - ICF 20th
Anniversary Gala,
Hilton Chicago/Indian
Lakes Resort,
Bloomington, IL.
REGISTER ONLINE
www.ilcf.org

EDUCATION STATION

The Torstenson Education Station, our new mobile Learning Center will be ready to hit the road this fall! Thanks to generous donations from the Torstenson Foundation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, our mobile station can bring our conservation programs to your area and is filled with all types of equipment, binoculars, GPS units, fishing and archery equipment, hand lenses, skulls and pelts and so much more! Stay tuned for updates and reservation information



This Month's Highlights



Conservation World: Make plans now to attend the 2014 Illinois State Fair in Springfield and visit Conservation World, Aug. 8-17. Conservation World features nearly 30 acres of family activities including fishing, archery, habitat enhancement, state parks information, wildlife programs, and free entertainment. Conservation World is open weekend days from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and weekdays from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. throughout the state fair. <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/Fishing,Wildlife,DogShows,FreeEntertainmentandSmokeyBearHighlightYouthandFamilyFunatConservationWorldduringIllinoisStateFair.aspx>



Illinois Controlled Pheasant Hunting Program. Controlled pheasant hunting opportunities will be available at 20 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) sites this fall, and the 2014-15 season dates and permit reservation information are now available online.

Sixteen of the sites are operated by the IDNR, while four other sites are operated in a public/private partnership arrangement between the IDNR and concessionaire T. Miller, Inc.

"Now is the time to begin planning for participation in our controlled pheasant hunting program this fall," said IDNR Director Marc Miller. "Thousands of hunters enjoy the opportunity to experience pheasant hunting through our controlled pheasant program each year. It also provides youth hunters with an ideal opportunity to have a successful hunting experience."

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/ReservationInformationNowAvailableOnlineforIllinoisControlledPheasantHuntingProgram2014.aspx>



Grand American

The World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta is the venue for the 115th Amateur Trapshooting Association Grand American Trapshooting Championships, Aug. 6-16.

The Grand American is the largest shooting event of its kind. Spanning several days with more than 20 events, shooters from all over the globe come to compete in hopes of claiming

prestigious titles such as "Clay Target Champion." For more information on this premier shooting sports event, go to the ATA website at

www.shootata.com

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

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