



# Inside Illinois DNR

August 2015

Volume 3, Number 8

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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



The Illinois State Fair in Springfield has been an August destination for millions of Illinoisans and visitors to our state for generations. Here's a personal invitation to visit us at Conservation World at this year's state fair, August 14-23.

Conservation World is a 30-acre park located at the northwest corner of the fairgrounds where the Illinois Department of Natural Resources highlights outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation programs that are such valuable parts of our way of life in the Land of Lincoln.

The theme of this year's Illinois State Fair is "Growing Illinois" – and the family-oriented entertainment and activities at Conservation World fit the theme perfectly. Families can learn about becoming Habitat Helpers by stopping by the Education Tent at Conservation World, with tips and recommendations for growing habitat for wildlife, including the monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

We'll be growing a new generation of outdoors enthusiasts as kids experience a tug on the line while learning to fish at free fishing clinics, and learn to hit the bullseyes on targets at the 3D archery and BB gun ranges. Families can relax on a 20-passenger Voyageur canoe during a free ride on the Conservation World pond.

Conservation World visitors can always enjoy sitting on a park bench under a shade tree, listening to music on the Illinois Green Industry Association amphitheater stage. Families can sit on a straw bale and enjoy a whip-popping good time at the Whip Guy Western Show – sporting dog demonstrations on the pond – and the athletic feats of the axe-throwing, chainsaw-buzzing, log-rolling lumberjacks of the Timberworks Lumberjack Show.

Our IDNR staff experts from Fisheries, Wildlife, Natural Heritage, Mines and Minerals, Oil and Gas, Water Resources and Law Enforcement will be on hand to answer questions and provide fun, educational activities for kids.

Conservation World is open every day of the fair from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with an expansive schedule of free entertainment, hands-on activities for youngsters, informative exhibits, and interactive displays.

Please come and join us at Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair, August 14-23 in Springfield. We hope to see you there!

## DNR in the news

**Asian Carp  
Conference**

**Eternal Indian  
Update**

**Bobcat Update**

**Coal Mine Below  
Your House**

## Statewide Offices

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

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

**Clinton, IL**  
217-935-6860

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

## State Parks, Great Parks



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 revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the 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
Removal of existing site residence that was unlivable	Cave-in-Rock State Park

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

## Highlights



### Controlled Pheasant Hunting Reservation Information Available Online

Controlled pheasant hunting opportunities will be available at 18 IDNR sites this fall, and the 2015-16 season dates and permit reservation information are now available online. Fourteen of the sites are operated by the IDNR, while four other sites continue to be operated in a public/private partnership arrangement between the IDNR and concessionaire T. Miller, Inc. [For more information click here](#)



### New Report Examines Issues, Strategies for Dealing with Urban Flooding

The prevalence and costs associated with urban flooding in Illinois, along with strategies and recommendations for minimizing damage to property from urban flooding are examined in a new report published by the IDNR.

The IDNR prepared the report, in collaboration with other state agencies, at the direction of the Illinois General Assembly to detail the extent, cost, prevalence, and policies related to urban flooding

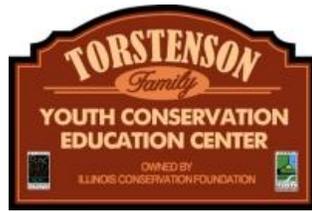
in Illinois and to identify resources and technology that may lead to mitigation of the impacts of urban flooding.

[For more information click here](#)



**Congratulations to the 2015 Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame class! The Hall of Fame is reserved for those who've had life-long dedication to promoting and enhancing outdoor recreation and conservation and is managed by the Illinois Conservation Foundation. Betsy Bramsen (Barrington), Fred Keck (Vandalia) and Chad Pregracke (East Moline) will be celebrated at the ICF gala on September 24th at the Hilton Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale. In addition, Betsy is being recognized with the Chairman's Award for Youth Conservation in recognition of her tireless work in youth conservation education - the mission of the ICF. To learn more about these inductees, or to support the ICF's most important fundraising event, please visit [www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org).**

## Highlights



### ICF Partners with the Wood Family Foundation

Children participating in the Wood Family Foundation "Pitch In" program got a taste of the outdoors when the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) visited their program at Lawndale Community Academy. The school program, geared towards 4th grade students, took place at 3500 W. Douglas Blvd. in Chicago. Utilizing the Torstenson Education Station, the ICF taught children about state symbols and wild mammals with hands-on activities designed to encourage awareness towards nature and natural objects, and to promote an appreciation for nature and the outdoors. ICF education also helps children develop an understanding of good conservation strategies to protect our environment. [For more information click here](#)



### Unfilled Youth Permits Can Be Used During First Regular Firearm Season

[more information click here](#)

Participants in Illinois' Youth Firearm Deer Season in October will be able to use unfilled permits from the youth season during the first weekend of the regular Firearm Deer Season in November. [For](#)



### Division of Education Grant Applications

The Division of Education offers two grant programs: the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant; and the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant. Application forms and instructions for both programs are posted at this [link](#). Why wait until the deadline? Start working on your applications now! Video podcasts are available on this website, too, to provide tips for completing the application form and to help answer questions you may have. All funding for these grants is donated. We thank the Independence Tube Corporation of Bedford Park, Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation of Skokie, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and the Illinois Conservation Foundation for their continued support. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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