



Inside Illinois DNR

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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 the Chairman of the Illinois Conservation Foundation



Most of the time, when I have a chance to communicate with you through the monthly Inside Illinois DNR, it's as the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. I like to use this column to share information on important policy issues, our plans for hunting or fishing season, or great things happening in our state parks. What you may not realize is that through my position as IDNR Director, I also have the privilege to serve as the chairman of the Illinois Conservation Foundation, a charitable organization operating entirely outside of the IDNR.

The ICF inspires the next generation of conservation leaders in order to make sure those who follow us share our love of the outdoors and all the state of Illinois has to offer in conservation opportunities.

During the past six months alone, the ICF has delivered programs near Mt. Vernon, Rockford, Bloomington and Chicago. We work to cover the entire state and help children get hands-on experiences in the kinds of activities all of us love – in many cases for the first time in their lives. But as a charitable organization operating entirely outside of the IDNR, the ICF relies on the support of donors and volunteers to deliver on its mission of inspiring tomorrow's leaders through quality outdoor education and programs.

We are currently looking to fill two open ICF Board positions. We're also looking for volunteers to help on committee work, and for hunting and fishing groups that might consider hosting events to help raise funds for youth conservation activities. I hope you'll consider supporting the ICF through one or more of these opportunities:

- Contribute by making a year-end gift toward these programs or by purchasing an Illinois Sportsman's Raffle ticket (only 2,000 will be sold and you could win up to \$50,000).
- Become an ICF member...great for yourself or as a gift to others.
- Organize a fundraising event to raise money for ICF programs.
- Nominate yourself or other friends to be considered for the ICF Board, or for service on an events committee – those who are interested in making sure our outdoor heritage continues.

Thanks for considering the Illinois Conservation Foundation as you think about where to allocate your valuable time, talent and treasure as we close 2015. You can learn more about the ICF and our volunteer opportunities by visiting www.ilcf.org or by calling (217) 785-2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Rosenthal".

Wayne Rosenthal

DNR in the news

**Chi-Cal Rivers
Fund Announce
Grants**

**Modern Fur
Traders**

**Wm. Powers
Conservation Area**

**Bats Are
Misunderstood**

Statewide Offices

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

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

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

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

Highlights



Registration Open for Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt

Youth interested in participating in the annual Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, can register now for the hunt, which is scheduled for January 17-18, 2016. To register for a drawing to participate in the hunt, youth hunters must phone in to the IDNR at 217-785-8060 by the registration deadline of Thursday, December 31, 2015. [For more information click here](#)



Torstenson Youth Center Abuzz for Pollinators

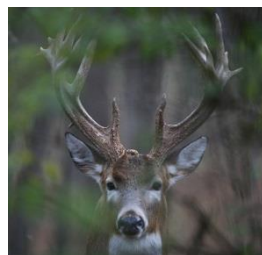
The stage has been set for the Illinois Conservation Foundation's Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center to become a haven for pollinators—and educators and students interested in bees, butterflies and bats. Utilizing grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Preservation Fund and Monsanto, hundreds of native pollinator-friendly flowers have been planted adjacent to the Torstenson Center's Learning Center. [For more information click here](#)



Take Precautions to Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Cabins, Boats and Campers

The Illinois Conservation Police remind hunters, boaters, and campers to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) produced by portable heaters and generators. As the weather cools, outdoorsmen and women often rely on portable heating devices to stay warm during fall and winter hunting and fishing trips. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources urges the use of carbon monoxide detectors in enclosed spaces and recommends equipment be inspected to be sure it is operable prior to use.

[For more information click here](#)



Hunters in Illinois Harvested 57,968 Deer During First Weekend of Firearm Season

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 57,968 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois Firearm Deer Season, Nov. 20-22. Hunters took 51,830 deer during the first firearm weekend in 2014. The second segment of the Illinois Firearm Deer Season is Dec. 3-6. [For more information click here](#)

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



Help Us Inspire Youth Conservation Leaders!

Thanks to our Chairman, Director Wayne Rosenthal, for sharing more info on how you can help the ICF introduce more kids to the sports of hunting, fishing and an appreciation of the outdoors. If you're moved by this message and want to ensure our outdoor heritages continue to be passed down from generation to generation, please visit www.ilcf.org to learn more about how you can help. Becoming an ICF member is a great start, or you can purchase beautiful wall calendars or even try your luck with the Illinois Sportsman's Raffle. And we're always looking for volunteers to help bring our programs to life, as board members or events committees.



Highlights



Eagle Watch Weekend at Starved Rock Lodge

Come out January 30 and 31 and experience the wonders of the American Bald Eagle! Eagle Watch Weekend hosted by the Illinois Audubon Society will present a raptor awareness presentation held each day featuring a live bald eagle. Seating is limited. Trolleys rides are available in Jan. and Feb. for a small fee. [For more information click here](#)



Biodiversity Field Trip Grant

The Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program from the IDNR Division of Education and the Illinois Conservation Foundation can provide funds for taking your students on a field trip to study Illinois' natural resources.

Teachers in Illinois schools and home-schooling educators in Illinois may apply. Funds are to be used to pay for transportation and/or substitute teachers. See the details, application form, Frequently Asked Questions and instructional video podcasts at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>. Donations from the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie support this program. The application deadline is January 31. [For more information click here](#)



Key Recommendation from Illinois Urban Flooding Awareness Act Report

A model ordinance that Illinois communities can adopt to help manage flooding and combat flooding-related damages in urban areas has been developed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with Illinois State Water Survey, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency providing funding. The model stormwater ordinance developed for use by Illinois communities was a key recommendation of the recently completed Illinois Urban Flooding Awareness Act Report. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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