



# Inside Illinois DNR

December 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 wrap up 2016, I'd like to share with you a portion of a commentary I prepared for readers of *Illinois Country Living* magazine, published monthly by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

"The Monarch butterfly has been declining in numbers since the early 1990s. Now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will make a decision on listing the butterfly as a threatened or endangered species by the summer of 2019. IDNR already has begun organizing interested groups – from agriculture, conservation, transportation, education and utility companies – to come together and develop a conservation plan for the Monarch. The goal is for the states to take the lead on Monarch conservation and hopefully make its listing unnecessary.

The Department hosted an initial meeting Sept. 9 with 90 participants. Utility companies are an important component of any conservation plan because they manage many miles and acres of rights-of-way and easements where power lines are located. The meeting was just a start, and there's much more work to be done in the next three years.

Consider leaving some portions of your property for wildlife, including butterflies. Common milkweed, the Monarch caterpillar's host plant, grows readily with little prompting from people in unattended places – like roadsides, fencerows and rights of way. For those in town who prefer a more manicured look, consider adding one of several native milkweed species to flower gardens. Butterfly milkweed, with its bright orange flowers, is both beneficial and beautiful. It also does not have the tendency to grow tall like common milkweeds. Swamp milkweed and purple milkweed also are great additions to gardens and flower at different times.

Conservation of a species in trouble is a challenge; that's for sure. But people have shown over and over again that when we work together we can solve problems and bring back species on the brink. Just look back at the success story of the American bald eagle. Here in Illinois, many species we take for granted today were all but eliminated by the early 1900s. There were few, if any, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, beaver and river otters left in the state. Through the work of dedicated conservationists, they are thriving today. And the latest success story is the return of the bobcat to the forests of Illinois, particularly in the southern half.

I don't have to tell you that when a species is listed, its conservation can become expensive and controversial. That's why we have a unique opportunity to act during the next three years to set the Monarch on a path to sustainability before such strong action as federal listing is needed. We know we can do it. We've done it before. And with your help, we will be successful again."

Thanks for your support of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Happy Holidays!

## DNR in the news

Policy proposals  
buzz

Service  
recognized

New rock climbing  
at Pere Marquette

Upland game  
program

## Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL  
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL  
847-608-3100

Benton, IL  
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL  
312-814-2070

Clinton, IL  
217-935-6860

## Highlights



Youth interested in participating in the annual Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt, sponsored by the IDNR, can register now for the hunt, which is scheduled for January 15-16, 2017. 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 Friday, December 30, 2016. The youth goose hunt will be held at private waterfowl hunting clubs in the Canton area in Fulton County. [For more information click here](#)



## Hunters in Illinois Harvest Preliminary Total of 79,429 Deer During Seven-Day Firearm Season

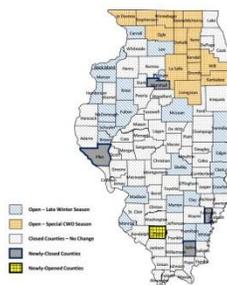
Hunters harvested a preliminary total of 79,429 deer during the seven-day Illinois Firearm Deer Season that closed on Sunday, Dec. 4. That figure compares to the final total of 86,847 deer harvested during the seven days of the firearm season in 2015. The preliminary harvest for the second segment of the firearm season on Dec. 1-4 totaled 24,977, compared with 28,977 during the second season in 2015. The preliminary harvest total for the first segment of firearm season on Nov. 18-20 was 54,452 deer, compared with the 57,870 deer taken by hunters during the first season in 2015. [For more information click here](#)



## What are the prospects for the 2016-17 pheasant, quail and rabbit seasons in Illinois?

Check the IDNR website for the annual hunting prospects reports prepared by the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources. [For more information click here](#)

Dec 2016 - Jan 2017 Late Winter/CWD Deer Seasons



## Late-Winter and Special CWD Deer Hunting Seasons Counties for 2016-17

Illinois' Late-Winter Antlerless-only Deer Hunting Season will be open in 24 counties, while the state's Special CWD Deer Hunting Season will be open in 14 counties for 2016-17. The Late-Winter season provides additional hunting opportunities in counties with surplus deer, while the Special CWD season allows hunters to help combat the spread of chronic wasting disease in Illinois' white-tailed deer herd. Season dates for the split 7-day Late-Winter and Special CWD hunts will be Dec. 29, 2016-Jan. 1, 2017 and Jan. 13-15, 2017. [For more information click here](#)

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



**The annual  
Outdoors in  
Illinois 2017 wall  
calendar is now  
available.**

Proceeds from the sale of the beautiful 2017 calendar will support a variety of youth education programs at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center, and the traveling Torstenson Education Station.

The 9x12 calendar contains stunning photography of Illinois, and it can be purchased for \$15 through the ICF website at [www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org) or by phone at 217-785-2003.



## Highlights



### Pere Marquette State Park Bald Eagle Days

Pere Marquette State Park will be presenting informative programs about bald eagles this winter. Visitors will learn to distinguish between immature and mature bald eagles, what eagles eat, why they spend winter months in the area, and much more. All programs will begin at the park's visitor center at 8:30 a.m. Reservations are required. [For more information click here](#)



### Coastal Management Program

Illinois is dedicated to protecting and managing the natural and cultural resources along our magnificent 63 mile stretch of the Lake Michigan shoreline. Join the Coastal email list to receive monthly newsletters or the Coastal Funding Opportunities list to receive emails exclusively about competitive grant opportunities. [For more information click here](#)



### Biodiversity Field Trip Grant

The application deadline for the 2017 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program is fast approaching. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2017. Video podcasts to help you complete the application form may also be accessed on the Education Web page. Funding for the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program is donated by the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie. The program is administrated by the IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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

