



# Inside Illinois DNR

February 2017

Volume 5, Number 2

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- 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 the calendar turns to February and we begin thinking ahead to spring, I'd like to remind Illinois landowners of a great conservation opportunity – to order seedlings from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Landowners interested in planting trees to boost their land conservation and habitat enhancement efforts can get their orders in now to purchase seedlings from the IDNR Mason State Nursery in central Illinois.

The IDNR Division of Forest Resources provides a wide variety of forestry programs to maintain and improve both rural and urban forests in Illinois. They are all aimed at promoting the importance of trees and forest stewardship.

Our state nursery program produces high-quality native plant material that can be used on our public lands, and by participating private landowners to achieve our goals of forest protection, reforestation and habitat restoration.

As of February 1, orders are being accepted for conservation planting stock seedlings, and the order form is available on the IDNR website. Available species include hickory, walnut, red pine, white pine, bur oak, red oak, black oak, pin oak, bald cypress, pecan, persimmon, sycamore and swamp white oak. Some species sell out quickly, so get your orders in soon.

The seedlings available for purchase must be used for conservation purposes, such as wildlife habitat, erosion control, energy conservation, habitat restoration and reforestation, or related uses.

Making available native tree seedlings for landowners at a reasonable price has tremendous benefits for landowners, and for Illinois. Trees are essential components to cleaner air and cleaner water. Wildlife thrives with available, sustainable forest habitat.

As an aside, our IDNR Forest Resources nursery staff also makes available to landowners native seed packets for Monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat enhancement. Packets have 23 different species of Illinois ecotype forbs and three species of Illinois ecotype grasses.

If you're a landowner – or know of a landowner interested in tree planting for conservation purposes and/or seed packets for pollinators – go online to the IDNR website. You will find this year's seedling information and order form, as well as Monarch and pollinator seed planting guidelines and pollinator pack information:

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/Forestry/Pages/Tree-Nurseries.aspx>

## DNR in the news

Eagle Event Feb. 4

Feral Pigs

Planning for Solar Eclipse

Catfish added to 'gigging' list

## Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL  
217-782-6302

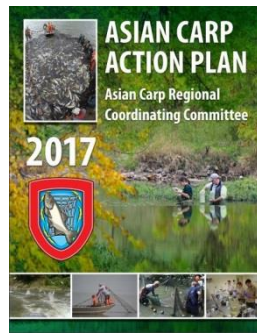
Bartlett, IL  
847-608-3100

Benton, IL  
618-435-8138

Chicago, IL  
312-814-2070

Clinton, IL  
217-935-6860

## Highlights



### 2017 Action Plan Details Strategy to Manage Threat of Asian Carp in Great Lakes

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) announced the release of its Fiscal Year 2017 Action Plan. The Action Plan document details 60 high-priority strategic measures designed to manage the threat of four species of invasive Asian carp in the Great Lakes. The Plan serves as a foundation for the work of the ACRCC partnership — a collaboration of 27 U.S. and Canadian federal, state, provincial, and local agencies and organizations. [For more information click here](#)



### Multi-State License Fraud Investigation Results in Over \$85,000 in Fines and Restitution

Illinois Conservation Police and Indiana Conservation Officers investigated cases of hunting license/permit fraud beginning in early 2015 extending through 2016 that have resulted in over \$85,000 in fines and restitution. "Operation Double Dip was started to investigate individuals who claim residency in Illinois and Indiana in order to purchase hunting licenses/deer permits at the cheaper resident rate," said Sgt. David Hyatt, Illinois Conservation Police. "This is a case that protects the privileges of our legitimate resident hunters and ensures that each state receives the funding needed for fish and wildlife projects." [For more information click here](#)

### IDNR announces \$3.6 Million in Land and Water Conservation Grants



IDNR announced that more than \$3.6 million in federal grant funding has been approved for local governments to purchase land to be used for public access and recreation. Funding for the program is made available through the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). [For more information click here](#)

### Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants Awarded



IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) have announced that 24 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded from the fall 2016 application period. A total of \$20,227.82 will be distributed. [For more information click here](#)

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

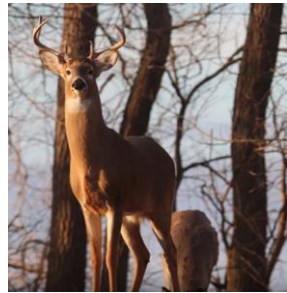


When buying a 2017 Illinois hunting, fishing, or sportsman's license, add a donation to the Illinois Conservation Foundation to support youth hunting and fishing programs. An additional \$5.00 donation to the ICF will help recruit the next generation of outdoors enthusiasts. For more info visit [www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org) or call 217-785-2003.



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## Highlights



### Hunters in Illinois Harvested a Preliminary Total of 144,150 Deer During 2016-17 Seasons

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 144,150 deer during all 2016-17 seasons, which concluded Jan. 15. The total preliminary deer harvest for all seasons compares with a total harvest for all seasons of 155,229 in 2015-16. During this year's deer seasons, hunters took 44 percent does and 56 percent males. [For more information click here](#)



### Illinois State Museum Opens New Art Exhibition

The Illinois State Museum in Springfield invites visitors to a new exhibition that highlights a major gift of more than 100 contemporary artworks given to the museum in 2016 by Chicago collector and arts advocate Chuck Thurow. "Just Good Art: The Chuck Thurow Gift" exhibition will be on display at the Illinois State Museum from February 4 through May 7. [For more information click here](#)



On-line licenses for Fishing & Hunting

### 2017 Illinois Licenses Available Now

Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman's combination licenses for 2017 are available now from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov), or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). The automated license system is available 24 hours a day. The 2017 licenses purchased beginning Jan. 16 will be valid through Mar. 31, 2018, unless otherwise noted. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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