



Inside Illinois DNR

February 2015

Volume 3, Number 2

In This Issue

- *Schoolyard Habitat Grants*
- *Dickson Mounds Museum Events*
- *Youth Turkey Hunting Update*
- *Bobcat Hunting*

Find Out More

DNR Home Page
Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation
Mines and Minerals
Hunting and Trapping
Fishing
Education/Outreach
State Museums
Safety and Rules
Online Services
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



Fellow Conservationists,

I hope you will grant me a few moments to introduce myself. My name is Wayne Rosenthal, and I am the new Acting Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. I hope to have the opportunity to meet and talk with many of you over the coming months as we work together to manage and protect our precious

natural resources.

During my first few weeks at IDNR, I have met many of the dedicated staff members that make this agency strong. I look forward to visiting our Illinois State Parks and other IDNR offices to meet more of our staff and hear first-hand about their accomplishments and concerns.

My passion is conservation. As many of our IDNR employees will tell you, I love to talk about my farm and the conservation practices I have put on the ground during the past 20-plus years. I also created the Wild Rural Park Hunting and Fishing Preserve, to provide opportunities for young hunters.

Before being appointed to this position by Gov. Bruce Rauner, I was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives since 2011. I also served in the Illinois Air National Guard for 30 years, retiring as a Brigadier General. I commanded hundreds of officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel. With that responsibility was a budget of \$15 million and military assets worth \$500 million. That experience, I believe, has prepared me well to lead IDNR's 16 divisions.

I live in central Illinois, hailing from Morrisonville. My roots in the community run deep. I have been a trustee on the Lincoln Land Community College Board, and a member of my local school board, the Morrisonville Community Unit School District. I also served on the Macoupin County Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

My first priorities as IDNR Director will be to strengthen our customer service and responsiveness to your concerns and questions. We also will get to work promoting the state's recreational assets to attract tourism and the dollars it brings in to the state. These are tough economic and budget times. Together, I believe we can make things better. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

DNR in the news

New Director a Home Run

Streamlining Coal Regulations

Sauger & Walleye Fishing

Deer Harvest Totals

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
Pole Barn Construction	I & M Canal & Beall Woods State Park

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

Legislation and Government



Schoolyard Habitat Grants Announced

IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) announced that 32 Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants have been awarded from the fall 2014 application period. A total of \$26,549.32 will be distributed.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/SchoolyardHabitatGrantsAnnouncedJan15.aspx>



IRAP & Youth Turkey Hunting Update

Thanks to a \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, IDNR is able to provide additional access for youth turkey hunters this spring. Through the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP), the IDNR is accepting applications from young turkey hunters to hunt on private land on sites

located in 28 counties throughout Illinois.

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



Photo: wikipedia

Bobcat Hunting Update

IDNR is tracking three bills that would allow bobcat hunting and trapping in Illinois. "We look forward to working with the Illinois General Assembly to pass legislation that would allow IDNR biologists to soundly manage the state's bobcat population through regulated hunting and trapping," said IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal. "The recovery of the bobcat is a true conservation success story, and it is a tribute to our hardworking staff, hunters and conservationists

statewide who have worked together to ensure the bobcat's future." Bills currently being considered are: HB0352, HB0490 and SB0106 <http://www.ilga.gov/>

Illinois Conservation Foundation



Thanks to the ICF's supporters.

More than \$25,000 was raised for youth outdoor education programs through the Illinois Sportsman's Raffle.

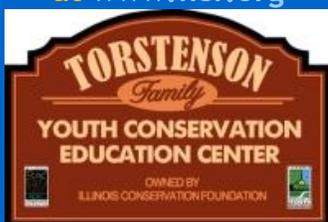
Jim Grandt of Arlington Heights was the Grand Prize winner.

First Prize
Paul Frey, Manito, IL

Second Prize
Steven Brunaugh,
Jerseyville, IL

Click here for more information and a complete list of this year's winners.

at www.ilcf.org



Highlights



Tot Time

Dickson Mounds Museum is offering a monthly program series for adults and their young children in 2015. Tot Time will be held on the first Thursday of each month from 9:30a.m.-11:00a.m. in the Museum's Discovery Center. For more information

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismsites/dickson/>:



Kids for Conservation®: "Animal Signs" Photos, Observations and Stories/Poems/Artwork Needed

IDNR's Division of Education's Kids for Conservation® program is requesting information monthly from Illinois youth (younger than age 18). We will feature images, stories/poems/artwork about our topic and a map with locations highlighted. Kids for Conservation® is great for participation by students, youth groups and families. Login instructions will be posted at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/> on February 19. For more information

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx>



Safety Education Courses

Hunter and Boating Safety Education Courses: Register now for Hunter Safety Education and Boating Safety Education courses from the IDNR. Spring classes are being scheduled, and since classes fill up quickly, check the IDNR website for class dates and locations. Class schedules are updated frequently. The website link for all IDNR Safety Education course information is <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety>

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

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