



Inside Illinois DNR

January 2016

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In This Issue

- *Deer Harvest*
- *Earth Day in the Park*
- *Controlled Pheasant Hunt*
- *Volo Bog Stewardship*

Find Out More

DNR Home Page
Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation
Mines and Minerals
Hunting and Trapping
Fishing
Education/Outreach
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



Bald eagles abound in Illinois during the winter months, and eagle watching activities and special events are scheduled throughout the state at locations along our major rivers and reservoirs – many during this month of January.

Illinois is an important wintering area for bald eagles, with literally thousands of eagles perched in trees on river bluffs, roosting in wooded ravines, and feeding on fish along open waters during the day. These majestic birds provide us with countless opportunities to see – at a safe distance – our

national symbol in some of its favorite habitats.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources hosts or cohosts a number of special events highlighting bald eagles each winter. The popular Bald Eagle Days programs at Pere Marquette State Park have been a big hit with families for many years. On select days this winter, IDNR staff will present a brief program at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center, then spend much of the rest of the day leading a driving tour of the park and the Illinois and Mississippi River bluffs nearby to see bald eagles. Reservations are required, so check the schedule of remaining dates: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Documents/BaldEagleDaysPereMarquette.pdf>.

IDNR joins the Missouri Department of Conservation and other partners in hosting Eagle Days on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge at Granite City on January 16-17 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to watch eagles soar along the Mississippi River.

Another incredibly popular event is Eagle Watch Weekend at Starved Rock State Park on January 30-31. Hosted by the Illinois Audubon Society, IDNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Starved Rock Lodge, Starved Rock Audubon and Starved Rock Foundation, the weekend is a great time for eagle watching, and watching people watching eagles.

As part of Eagle Watch Weekend, IDNR staff will be stationed at the Starved Rock Lodge to welcome you to an Eagle Watch InstaMeet. Bring your camera, or simply your cellphone or smartphone camera, and your social media links. Our IDNR InstaMeet hosts will link you and other Eagle Watch Weekend InstaMeet participants to the world through Instagram. Stop by the lodge and show us the creative images you've made while exploring the park and observing bald eagles in their winter habitat at Starved Rock, one of our busiest and most beautiful state parks. #EagleWknd #OutdoorIllinois

The InstaMeet – and bald eagle watching throughout the winter months – are ways we hope you and your family will brave the chill, get outdoors, and enjoy the winter beauty of Illinois.

DNR in the news

**Catfish Cleaning
the Chicago River**

**Deer Poachers
Arrested**

**Volo Bog
Volunteers
Honored**

Prairie Chicken

Statewide Offices

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

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

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

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

Highlights



Hunters Harvest Preliminary Total of 86,771 Deer During Seven-Day Firearm Season

Preliminary harvest figures for the second segment of the firearm season on Dec. 3-6, 2015 totaled 28,803, compared with 24,745 during the second season in 2014. The preliminary harvest total for the first segment of firearm season on Nov. 20-22, 2015 was 57,968 deer, compared with the 51,830 deer taken by hunters during the first season in 2014. [For more information click here](#)



Controlled Pheasant Hunting Quotas Increased at Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA

Daily hunter quotas have been increased on the Controlled Pheasant Hunting Unit at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area in Cass County, extending to the close of the controlled pheasant hunting season on January 15, 2016. [For more information click here](#)



Earth Day in the Parks 2016

Registration is open for Earth Day in the Parks events to be held in April and May 2016. This natural-resources stewardship program allows students to perform wildlife habitat improvement projects at participating Illinois state parks. You'll find the details, application form and the list of participating state parks

[For more information click here](#)



Habitat Restoration Work Days at Volo Bog State Natural Area

The Habitat Restoration and Stewardship Team always welcome new volunteers in tackling exotic invasive species and helping restore the natives! Each session may involve pulling, cutting, planting and gathering seeds, depending on the season. A camaraderie and sense of accomplishment makes each day worthwhile! January work dates are 7, 16 and 21. Registration is requested at 815-344-1294 or email dnr.volobog@illinois.gov.

[For more information click here information click here](#)

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



Calling Outdoors Sportsmen!

It's last call for the Illinois Sportsman's Raffle!

If all 2,000 tickets are sold, there will be a \$50,000 grand prize winner as well as additional prizes, with proceeds to benefit youth outdoor education.

Visit www.ilcf.org to purchase your tickets before January 28.

For our Northern Illinois enthusiasts, if you visit the Chicago Outdoor Sports Show on Saturday, January 23 you can visit with IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal.

He will help open "Youth Conservation Day" and be at the ICF booth from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Visit www.chicagosportsmenshow.com for tickets and more info.



Highlights



Youth Hunters - Register Now for Pere Marquette Controlled Pheasant Hunt and Wingshooting Clinic

Young hunters between the ages of 10-15 can apply now for the Pere Marquette Youth Wingshooting Clinic and Pheasant Hunt scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2016 at Pere Marquette State Park in Jersey Co. The Pere Marquette youth clinic and hunt have been popular early spring additions to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Wingshooting and Youth Pheasant Hunt programs. Youth hunters on March 5 at Pere Marquette will participate in a wingshooting clinic during the morning and a pheasant hunt in the afternoon. [For more information click here](#)



Coastal Grants

The IDNR Coastal Management Program is currently accepting applications for federal pass-through grants to protect, preserve, and restore the natural resources along the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline. Eligible applicants include local government and non-profits. Coastal Grants can fund sustainable coastal planning and environmental outreach. See the grant guidelines, application materials, and other resources at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/Pages/grants.aspx>. Contact DNR.CMP@illinois.gov to sign up for an optional grant consultation before January 8. The application deadline is January 29, 2016. [For more information click here](#)



Spring Turkey Applications

Hunters may now apply for the second lottery for 2016 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season permits. Go to the IDNR website for more information. The application deadline for the second lottery for 2016 spring turkey permits is January 11, 2016. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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

