



# Inside Illinois DNR

July 2015

Volume 3, Number 7

## In This Issue

- *Waterfowl Blind Drawing*
- *Monarch Mania*
- *Habitat Helpers*
- *New Flathead Catfish Regs*

## 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,

While we're in the middle of summer, deer season will be here before you know it. A few changes are on the way for deer hunters in Illinois.

Thanks to comments and suggestions from hunters, we're planning to amend our deer regulations to allow kids who participate in our Youth Deer Season in October to use unfilled permits during the first weekend of the regular firearm deer season in November. The change is scheduled to take effect this fall.

Again thanks to suggestions from hunters, we're planning another couple of changes that we hope to implement in the 2016-17 deer season. We will submit an amended regulation to limit the sale of non-resident single antlerless-only over-the-counter archery deer permits starting in 2016. Instead of being available to any non-resident hunter, these permits would be sold only to hunters who have already obtained a non-resident combination archery deer permit. Non-resident single antlerless-only archery permits will be unavailable this fall, although an antlerless-only permit will still be available as part of the combination archery permit.

We're also considering amending our deer regulations to have a bag limit for archery deer hunters. I want to thank the thousands of hunters who participated in the recent IDNR online survey regarding an archery deer bag limit. The results showed broad support for a bag limit among those participating in the survey, so we will include more detailed questions on this issue in our statewide Deer Hunter Harvest Survey in early 2016. This will allow us to gather some reliable data on hunters' specific wishes regarding a bag limit prior to implementation.

Our goals for managing the deer herd in Illinois are simple. We want to provide hunters with opportunities to enjoy our hunting heritage and chances to harvest deer during the fall, while also promoting healthy deer and deer habitat, protecting landowner rights and enhancing public safety.

As always, proposed changes in regulations are or will be open for public comment. Be it a survey or personal contact, I appreciate the input from hunters and others on our deer management plans. Thanks for your emails and letters. I read all of them, and your comments and suggestions are important to us.

## DNR in the news

**Kids Hooked on Fishing**

**Feral Hog**

**A Little Snake Jittery**

**Wildlife Rescues**

## 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



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 revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the 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
Lodge Entry Step Repair	Starved Rock State Park

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

## Highlights



### Schedule of 2015 Waterfowl Blind Drawing Sites

Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to mark their calendars for upcoming waterfowl hunting blind site random drawings to be held at several public hunting areas in Illinois this summer. Duck and goose hunters must register in person for waterfowl blind site drawings and must be present at the drawing – held at each location immediately after the registration period – to claim their blind sites. Mail-in registrations are not accepted. [For more information click here](#)



### Boat Registration & Safety Act Information

A guide to the highlights of the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act has been created. The entire Act may be found in the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

[For more information click here](#)



### Monarch Mania!

Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) populations have been rapidly declining in North America. The IDNR and many other agencies are working to increase habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. You can help, too! Learn how to take positive actions to help monarchs. [For more information click here](#)



You may have heard about the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center near Rockford, but have you ever wondered how the ICF delivers programming there? If you're interested in seeing this beautiful 750-acre property and learning more about how the ICF inspires the next generation of conservation leaders, mark your calendar for Sunday, August 2nd. From Noon to 5 p.m., the ICF will be providing tours of the property as well as free youth activities. Some of our friends from the NWF, Ducks Unlimited, Hoo Haven, and many others, will be on hand to give kids hands-on demonstrations in archery, fishing, animal identification, and more. To Learn more about the afternoon [click here](#). If you'd like to make a gift to support free programs like these, please [click here](#)!

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## Highlights



### New Flathead Catfish Regulation

2015 is the first year that the IDNR Division of Fisheries is putting regulations on the harvest of flathead catfish. The Division of Fisheries is concerned about the overharvest of this large fish species. [For more information click here](#)

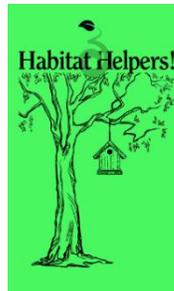


### Scholarship

Buckardt of Deerfield, IL. [For more information click here](#)

### Conservation Achievement Scholarship Announced

Recently, the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) announced the recipient of the 2015 Conservation Achievement Scholarship. This prestigious award was given to Emma



### Visit Conservation World during the Illinois State Fair and be a Habitat Helper!

Be sure to visit Conservation World during the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. Our theme is "Habitat Helpers!" The first 5,700 families to visit the IDNR Division of Education's tent will receive a packet of seeds from native plants that are beneficial to pollinator insects. Conservation World will be open daily from 10:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m., August 14-23, 2015. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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