



Inside Illinois DNR

March 2017

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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



After an unseasonably warm February had many of us enjoying the weather outdoors, the actual arrival of spring offers plenty of things to do outdoors in Illinois, whether the weather is great or not.

The Illinois Spring Trout Fishing Season opens April 1, but you can get a preview of trout season starting on March 18 with the opening of Spring Catch-and-Release Trout Fishing at nine stocked lakes and ponds. Anyone can use fly fishing gear to catch trout throughout the season, but the two-week catch-and-release option gives fly fishing enthusiasts a chance to get out early. Just make sure that any trout caught between March 18-31 are returned to the water.

Once the spring trout season officially opens on April 1, the IDNR Division of Fisheries will have stocked 52 locations with trout. Check the I Fish Illinois website for location details at http://www.ifishillinois.org/programs/trout_stocking.html

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program, with seasons in both spring and fall, is funded by those who participate. Those planning to fish for trout – during the fly fishing catch-and-release period and during the regular trout season – are required to have an Illinois fishing license or sportsman combination license, and an Inland Trout Stamp. We do exempt from those requirements kids under the age of 16, people with disabilities and those who are blind, and Illinois residents in the military who are on leave from active duty.

Spring trout season is a great time for families to spend some time fishing. Take the kids to one of the local stocked ponds and make a day of it. Pack some snacks and some bottled water. If they haven't fished before, show them how to bait a hook and cast the line. Think of the fun you'll have if they get a bite and pull in a tasty trout. Even if you don't catch a fish, you'll have a low-cost family outing that gets the kids away from the TV, video games and smartphones.

Mark your calendars for April 1 (and March 18 for catch-and-release fly fishing) and celebrate spring during the Illinois Spring Trout Fishing Season.

DNR in the news

Aug. 21 Eclipse

Hennepin Canal

Review Floodplain
Plan

Fish Consumption
Advisory

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



the IDNR. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, supplemental resources on the topic and the opportunity to work with resources professionals on a variety of topics. Professional Development Hours are available. Experience ENTICE! [For more information click here](#)

ENTICE Professional Development Workshops for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019

Register for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by



New Illinois Hunting and Trapping Season for Bobcats a Success

Hunters and trappers took a preliminary total of 141 bobcats during the 2016-17 Illinois Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Season. "We are very pleased with the response to Illinois' new hunting and trapping season for bobcats," said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Wayne Rosenthal. "The recovery of the bobcat is a conservation success story in Illinois. We were pleased with the response of hunters and trappers that applied for permits, and we will continue to evaluate the program." [For more information click here](#)

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IDNR Coastal Management Program

help us track the evolving shoreline, and support municipalities in making informed management decisions. [For more information click here](#)

The Illinois State Geological Survey, in coordination with the IDNR's Coastal Management Program, have started a shoreline change and beach topography monitoring program along Illinois' Lake Michigan coast. New technologies and approaches such as unmanned aerial vehicles and citizen science will be incorporated into the monitoring program during the next year. Stay tuned to our website and newsletter for more information about how this data will



Two Weekends for Spring Youth Turkey

New for 2017, the Illinois Spring Youth Turkey Season is open two weekends in both the South and North zones – March 25-26 and April 1-2. Spring Youth Turkey Season County Permits will available over-the-counter from IDNR license/permit vendors beginning March 7.

[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 or call 217-785-2003.



Highlights



Spring Gathering at Dickson Mounds Museum

Participate in a traditional Native American Spring Gathering. Enjoy a variety of activities and demonstrations, including storytelling, music, and dancing March 18. [For more information click here](#)



Salt Block Kitchen's "Cooking for Causes" Assists the Illinois Conservation Foundation

The Illinois Conservation Foundation is grateful for the support of donors who participated in a recent "Cooking for Causes" workshop presented by Salt Block Kitchen in Chicago. Salt Block Kitchen hosted six guests on February 12th to learn more about sustainable food and to donate to the ICF. The class was taught by the Salt Block Kitchen founder Jayme O'Connell, who lives in Chicago. Jayme hosts "Cooking for Causes" workshops and selects a non-profit for her participants to donate to each month during a cooking workshop. Guests in February made venison queso, venison carpaccio, venison ragu, and a venison loin with a black currant sauce. As a group they donated \$550 to Illinois Conservation Foundation. [For more information click here](#)



Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

The Illinois General Assembly declared that "non-game wildlife have need of special protection and that it is in the public interest to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of this State through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance." The Act provides a means by which such protection may be financed through a voluntary check-off designation on State income tax return forms. Each individual taxpayer required to file a State income tax return may contribute to the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund by stating the amount of such contribution (not less than \$1) on the tax return, via the Schedule G Charitable Donations. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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

