



Inside Illinois DNR

May 2016

Volume 4, Number 5

In This Issue

- *CPO of the Year*
- *Boat Registration*
- *Change in Youth Hunting*
- *Wingshooting Clinics*

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



The long term mission to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes is working, and the just-released 2016 Asian Carp Action Plan shows natural resources professionals from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and our federal, state, and local partner agencies and organizations are busy developing and implementing new and increasingly effective ways of keeping the invasive fish from moving into Lake Michigan and beyond.

For those who may not know, Asian carp imported to the U.S. to clean fish farm and retention ponds escaped into the Mississippi River more than 40 years ago, and spread into the Illinois River 30 years ago. Two species of Asian carp – silver and bighead carp – consume the plant and animal plankton that sportfish rely on.

Illinois – and the IDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Program’s personnel – are on the leading edge of efforts to reduce Asian carp numbers where they exist in the upper Illinois River, and keep those remaining from using the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal as a pathway to the Great Lakes.

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee’s 2016 plan includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ installation of a third electric fish barrier in the canal at Romeoville; evaluation of new control measures and technologies; and, stepped up contract fishing on the upper Illinois and lower Des Plaines rivers to remove tens of thousands of Asian carp to keep them out of the canal and away from the barriers.

Earlier this spring, IDNR and partner agencies and contract fishermen tested a new strategy for deploying nets and driving fish into them, hauling more than 13,000 silver and bighead carp weighing more than 96,000 pounds out of a backwater river pit near Morris in just over a week. Check the IDNR Facebook page at this link to see photos of the operation: [Fish netting photos](#)

Contract fishing is a key to reducing the numbers of Asian carp in the upper Illinois River. Watch a video about it on the IDNR YouTube channel at this link: [Contract fishing video](#)

Learn more about what IDNR personnel and all of our partners are doing to control Asian carp by reviewing the 2016 plan online at www.asiancarp.us

DNR in the news

**Rantoul
Recognized**

**Woodland
Wildflowers**

**Fire As The
Natural Tool**

**Honeysuckle A
Growing Menace**

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Check Your Boat Registration

The IDNR reminds boat owners in Illinois to check their three-year boat registration/decal and renew their registration if it expires on June 30, 2016. Renewing watercraft registration can be done online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov or by phone by calling 1-866-867-3542. [For more information click here](#)



Non-motorized watercraft

Canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, or sail boards in Illinois, are no longer required to be titled/registered in Illinois, unless the vessels have a motor or sail. Non-motorized watercraft owners are required to purchase an Illinois Water Usage Stamp for \$6.00 per calendar year (for each of their first three vessels, and \$3.00 each for any additional vessels). An agent fee of \$0.50 is charged per vessel. The 2016 Illinois Water Usage Stamp is valid through December 31, 2016. Water Usage Stamps are available over-the-counter from IDNR license and permit vendors. Find a vendor through the IDNR website [For more information click here](#)



Change in Youth Hunting

A change in Illinois law for the 2016 Illinois license year allows any resident youth hunter age 18 and under (formerly 16 and under) to purchase a Youth Hunting License, which does not require the hunter to have a Hunter Education Card. A youth hunter with this license must hunt while supervised by a parent, grandparent, or guardian who is 21 years of age or older and has a valid Illinois hunting license. The youth hunter shall not hunt or carry a hunting device unless the youth is accompanied by and under close personal supervision of these individuals. 2016 Illinois licenses are available online or from IDNR license and permit vendors. [For more information click here](#)



Wingshooting Clinics Available Now

IDNR in cooperation with a number of partners and cosponsors will conduct wingshooting clinics at sites throughout Illinois from spring through mid-November, intended to provide instruction and improve the shooting skills of beginners and experienced hunters. Most clinics are conducted on weekends at IDNR sites, cooperating gun clubs and shooting ranges, hunting preserves, and farms. [For more information click here](#)

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



ICF Survey

Thanks for supporting the outdoors in our state and helping to inspire the next generation of outdoors enthusiasts!

The ICF wants to learn more about your outdoors interests and how we can make an impact together in the State of Illinois.

Please help us by taking this **survey**, which should take no more than five minutes.

It's anonymous and will help us better serve you, as well as more effectively introduce kids to our outdoors heritage. Thanks so much for your valued input!

www.ilcf.org

Call
(217) 785-2003 for more information.

Highlights



May is Invasive Species Awareness Month

The IDNR Division of Education offers several resources to help you teach about exotic and invasive species in the state. The new "Exotic Species" page provides information, images and lists of exotic species. Educator resources include the Illinois' Invasive Species trunk for loan. Kids for Conservation® for May features "Invasive Species" in text, images and video podcasts.

[For more information click here](#)



Illinois Conservation Police Name Officer of the Year

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and IDNR Conservation Police recognized officers for outstanding efforts protecting the public during the past year, including the presentation of Conservation Police officer (CPO) Zachary French as Illinois Conservation Police Officer of the Year. CPO French, a resident of Godfrey, is based in Madison County in southwest Illinois. [For more information click here](#)



Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame

Since 2002, the Illinois Conservation Foundation has recognized several Illinoisans for their life-long dedication to promoting and enhancing outdoor recreation and natural resources conservation by selecting them for induction into the Illinois Outdoors Hall of Fame. Selection to the Hall of Fame is reserved for those individuals who have made significant contributions to or exhibited unparalleled dedication in preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources or outdoor recreation opportunities. Nominations are accepted throughout the year, but must be received in the ICF office by May 31 to be considered for that calendar year's induction class. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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