



Inside Illinois DNR

March 2015

Volume 3, Number 3

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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,

One of our most important efforts at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is getting more youth interested in the outdoors. Active kids do better in school, and outdoors activities are good for their health and wellness.

One of our most successful and fast-growing ways of getting kids interested in the outdoors actually begins indoors – in physical education classes at school. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) was developed by educators to give elementary, middle and high school students expert instruction in a safe, fun activity in gym classes, using a centuries-old Olympic-style sport.

The IDNR coordinates NASP in Illinois schools, and will host the NASP Illinois State Championships on March 21 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. About 400 students participated in the state finals two years ago, and more than 800 participated last year. This year, more than 1,000 students have pre-registered, proof that the popularity of archery target shooting in Illinois schools is continuing to grow.

Archery is a terrific means to an end for those of us interested in encouraging the next generation of conservationists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Youth who learn target shooting skills in the National Archery in the Schools Program are in a program based on learning standards for physical education. Archery instructors are certified to present NASP lessons with a focus on safety for students, instructors and bystanders.

The program features standardized, affordable archery equipment that can be used by youth – female and male – shooting at a regulation, international target. The program is popular in rural and urban schools throughout the state. In short, NASP allows girls and boys with varied interests a chance to be part of a team, competing for their school with a chance to take home a trophy. Archery is an activity these youth can participate in for a lifetime – and a handy skill to develop for fun and outdoor recreation no matter their ages.

Come and join us to watch the state finals of the National Archery in the Schools Program in Illinois in Springfield on March 21. If your school isn't part of the program yet, check the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/Archery/Pages/default.aspx> or contact us at the IDNR for more information on bringing archery to students in your community.

DNR in the news

New Director

**Thank You Ray
Eisbrener**

Mudpuppies

Wolf Update

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
Corn Planter	Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Area

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

Highlights



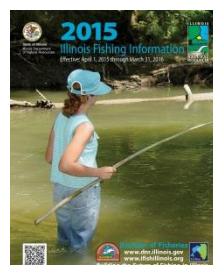
License Reminder

Illinois' new license year begins April 1. Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman's combination licenses for 2015 are available from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). The 2015 licenses are valid through Mar. 31, 2016, unless otherwise noted. When buying a 2015 Illinois hunting, fishing, or sportsman's license, add a donation to the Illinois Conservation Foundation to support youth hunting and fishing programs.



Spring Youth Wild Turkey Hunt

Over-the-counter sales of county permits for the Spring Youth Wild Turkey Season begin on March 3. The dates for the 2015 Spring Youth Wild Turkey season are March 28-29 in the Southern Zone and April 4-5 in the Northern Zone. For permit application and other information, check the IDNR website at this link: www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey/Pages/SpringTurkeyHunting.aspx



Fishing Information Guide

The 2015 Illinois Fishing Information guide is available in PDF format through the IDNR website: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/fishing/Documents/IllinoisFishingInformation.pdf> Regulations in the guide are effective through March 31, 2016. A reminder to anglers, and would-be anglers, that Illinois Free Fishing Days for 2015 are June 5-8, 2015.

Illinois Conservation Foundation



It's almost time to renew those Illinois fishing licenses and as always, you'll be asked to make a \$5 donation to create fishing and hunting opportunities for kids.

Thanks to those who support the Illinois Conservation Foundation by checking "yes" to make a gift, and we hope everyone will consider supporting ICF youth programs this spring.

With a mission of inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders and outdoor sportsmen and women, the ICF uses all funding to support youth programs. You can learn more about the ICF at www.ilcf.org



Highlights



Wingshooting Clinics

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, collaborating with many partners and co-sponsors, will be holding 32 wingshooting clinics at sites throughout Illinois from March through early November this year. Most clinics are conducted on weekends.

Many of the 2015 wingshooting clinics will be conducted at IDNR sites, while a number will be held at cooperating gun clubs and shooting ranges, hunting preserves, and farms.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/IDNRAnnounces2015WingshootingClinicSchedule.aspx>

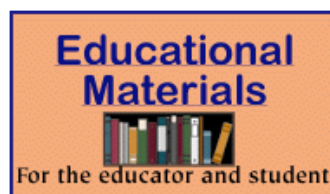


Dickson Mounds Kids Days

Bring the kids to the Dickson Mounds Museum in Fulton Co. on Sat., March 7 for "Wild about Animals in Illinois" – a special event featuring live animals from the Peoria Park District's ZooMobile. Hours are 1-3 p.m. with the

ZooMobile presentation at 2 p.m. For more information, phone 309-547-3721

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismsites/dickson/events.html?EventID=2399>



ENTICE Professional Development Schedule

Register now for upcoming ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshops from the IDNR. ENTICE workshops offer

training on Illinois-specific topics and supply you with the tools needed to implement the topic into your curriculum immediately. Participants learn from resources professionals, take part in activities and spend time outdoors (where appropriate). Professional Development Hours are available at all ENTICE workshops. For workshop details and to register, visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>

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

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