



# Inside Illinois DNR

May 2015

Volume 3, Number 5

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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



Fellow Conservationists,

Illinois enjoys a rich heritage when it comes to waterfowl hunting. Our location in the middle of the Mississippi Flyway means Illinois sees significant numbers of waterfowl, especially during spring and fall migrations, and our state is a pretty good place for duck and goose hunting each fall.

Waterfowl hunting is enjoyed by approximately 60,000 hunters throughout the state, and the IDNR is responsible for managing waterfowl hunting for all of them. The Department relies heavily on hunter surveys that are administered by the Illinois Natural History Survey to help us make decisions about waterfowl hunting season dates, zone lines, and other regulations.

This spring, IDNR Wildlife staff are also inviting hunters to attend one of our three Waterfowl Open House sessions. The open houses are a way for our staff to gather more data at a local level to assist us in the decision-making process. The open houses provide waterfowl hunters the opportunity to learn more about why we do what we do, and to participate in that decision-making process in an informal, conversational setting.

The timing is good for hunter input as we make decisions about hunting zone lines and proposed season dates for the next five waterfowl seasons from 2016 through 2020.

At the open houses, hunters can talk with local IDNR district wildlife biologists who know their region, as well as waterfowl biologists who deal with state issues and regulations – and also represent Illinois on the Mississippi Flyway Council.

The open houses are Tues., May 12 at Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area near Wilmington; Thurs., May 14 at John A. Logan College in Carterville; and, Fri., May 15 at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in Alton. Times for each open house are 5-8 p.m.; hunters can come any time during that period.

If you can't make it to an open house, all of the information on display will be available on the IDNR website, and hunters can still provide input by submitting comments or concerns to [DNR.ducktalk@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.ducktalk@illinois.gov).

[For more information click here](#)

## DNR in the news

**Dir. Rosenthal's  
Priorities**

**Niles named Tree  
City**

**Fish Farming**

**WSRC 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.

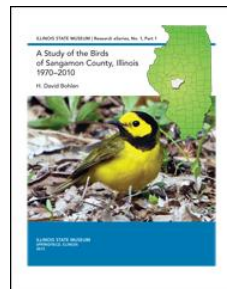
The 'State Parks, Great Parks' initiative has a clear and simple goal: Use these new revenues to improve the state park visitor's experience. A majority of the new funds will be used to hire critical staff at state parks, and to cut down on the hundreds of millions of dollars in backlogged maintenance at our state parks.

Here's how IDNR Sustainability dollars are being used in our state parks this month.

Description	Location
Equestrian water line improvements	Siloam Springs State Park

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

## Highlights



### The Museum's new Research eSeries are now available

The Research eSeries showcases the research of scientists and other staff of the Illinois State Museum and is available in searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) free of charge.

[For more information click here](#)

### Hunters & Anglers Raise \$726,000 through License Purchases



Illinois hunters and anglers have raised \$726,000 for youth hunting and fishing programs since 2006. This year's license renewals pushed total donations past the \$726,000 mark, and well on the way to a goal of \$1 million raised, hopefully sometime in 2019. When licenses are purchased, individuals are asked to make a \$5 donation for the Illinois Conservation Foundation. [For more information click here](#)



### Youth Outdoor Fest at Wolf Creek

Youth and families are invited to a free event to enjoy hands-on activities and learn about outdoor recreation and outdoors skills at the 14th annual "Links to the Future" youth outdoors festival on Saturday, May 16 at Wolf Creek State Park on Lake Shelbyville.

[For more information click here](#)

## Illinois Conservation Foundation



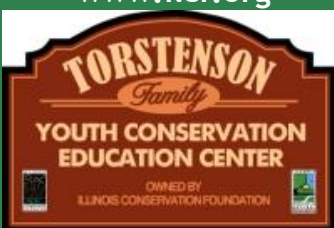
ICF Thanks you for your support!

In case you didn't know the impact of our state's hunters and anglers who support youth hunting and fishing, your donations have raised more than \$700,000 since 2006 to expand opportunities for kids.

That money allows the ICF to offer hunting experiences and fishing equipment to THOUSANDS of kids. And this year, we can provide fishing at our Torstenson property for the first time.

Click here to see photos of the progress!

For more information about the ICF, please contact the ICF at (217) 785-2003.  
[www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org)



## Highlights



### Trapper Education Online Course

The IDNR offers an online course for those interested in learning to trap. People who are required to complete a course before purchasing a trapping license now have two choices. They can take a full-day course in the classroom or complete half of the requirement online and half in the classroom, where they learn hands-on skills such as setting traps and preparing pelts for sale.

[For more information click here](#)



### The May topic is "Morels."

The IDNR Division of Education's Kids for Conservation® program is requesting information monthly from Illinois youth (younger than age 18). We will feature photos, stories/poems/artwork and a map with locations highlighted about the monthly topic. All submissions must be the products of Illinois youth. Kids for Conservation® is great for schools, youth groups and families to participate in. The June topic is "Fishing." [For more information click here](#)



### A Taste of Archaeology for Teens

Gain experience as a young archaeologist. Work alongside professional archaeologists. Participate in an excavation, discover artifacts and learn how to identify, clean, organize and sort your finds. Registration is required with a deadline of May 22. Space is limited. Participants are required to provide their own sack lunch and snacks. Call the Dickson Mounds Museum, in Lewistown, at 309-547-3721 to register. Event dates: June 2 -5, 2015, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$60 for Illinois State Museum Society members; \$90 for non-members Age: 13-17 years.

[For more information click here.](#)

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

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