



Inside Illinois DNR

November 2016

Volume 4, Number 11

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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



November is prime time for hunting, and there is no better place to participate in and celebrate our hunting heritage than right here in Illinois.

Archery deer season has been underway for more than a month, and waterfowl seasons have opened in the north and central zones. Hunters will be busy in all parts of the state as this month of November moves along. Duck and goose seasons will open in the south central and south zones. Upland game seasons begin, as well, with hunters checking prospects for rabbit, pheasant and quail seasons.

Our busiest hunting season is also a prime time tradition this month as the first segment of the 2016 Illinois Firearm Deer Season is set for November 18-20. This year's seven-day firearm deer season will wrap up on December 1-4.

New to the November mix this year is the 2016-2017 Illinois Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Season.

The recovery of the bobcat population in Illinois is a conservation success story. Bobcats were placed on the state threatened species list in the 1970s, and that protection and habitat restoration have helped increase bobcat populations to allow for a sustainable hunting and trapping season. Except for a closed zone in the northeast quadrant of the state, the bobcat hunting season opens on November 10.

More than 6,400 permit applications were submitted, and 500 permits were issued through a lottery drawing.

Biologists estimate there are about 5,000 bobcats in the wild in Illinois, and studies indicate a harvest rate of up to 20% of the fall population is sustainable. Illinois has opted to issue 500 permits this year for a maximum harvest rate of 10%, consistent with a plan to allow the bobcat population to keep growing. Having seen a very healthy bobcat walk past my deer stand recently, I can attest to the health of our bobcat population. We will all be interested to see the harvest figures when the season wraps up in January.

In closing, I want to salute the tens of thousands of women, men, girls and boys who hunt in Illinois. Hunters and trappers play a critical role in managing wildlife. Enjoy Illinois' hunting heritage this fall – and thank you for taking part in these activities, and buying the licenses and permits that support our programs.

DNR in the news

**Sunday
Conversation**

**Conservation
efforts**

**Beautiful Bat is So
Often
Misunderstood**

**Beer for Buffalo
State Park**

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



Bobcat Permit Lottery Drawing Completed

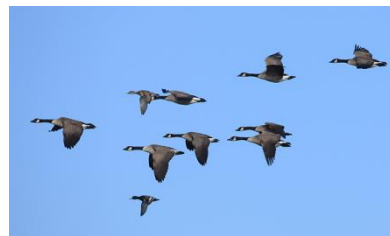
Those hunters and trappers who applied for 2016-2017 Illinois Bobcat Hunting and Trapping permits can check online to see whether they will be receiving a permit. IDNR has completed the lottery drawing for 500 available bobcat hunting and trapping permits. Those whose names were drawn will be receiving their permits in the mail. [For more information click here](#)



Hegeler Zinc Danville Restoration Plan

The Hegeler Zinc Danville Draft Restoration Plan has been prepared by the State of Illinois' Natural Resource Trustees to address restoration of natural resources and resource services injured as a result of the Hegeler Zinc's Danville facility release of hazardous substances, including metals, into the surrounding environment, impacting aquatic and terrestrial resources. The Restoration Plan seeks to inform the public and receive public comment on the proposed actions. The document is available for a 30-day public comment period from October 14–November 14, 2016. [For more information click here](#)

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IDNR Adds Waterfowl Hunting Opportunities in Central Illinois

IDNR has secured several waterfowl hunting sites in Macoupin, Sangamon, and Schuyler counties through its Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP). Open to the public from November 1 through December 31, these sites are on private land leased by IRAP. Each

site can accommodate up to four hunters in a group and can be hunted for five consecutive days. [For more information click here](#)



Saving Illinois Forests by Cutting Down Trees

Conservationists normally plant trees – not cut them down. But, in an innovative project at Trail of Tears State Forest, that is precisely what the IDNR is doing to restore a more open, sunny forest that can support a diversity of life. “We intend to restore a healthier, more resilient forest. Wildlife should find this a better forest

to call home,” said IDNR forester David Allen, who co-led a collaborative work group of natural resource professionals, members of the community and conservation leaders through a two-year process to study the forest and determine what actions, if any, should be taken. [For more information click here](#)

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



Mark your calendars and keep the Illinois Conservation Foundation and our youth conservation education efforts in mind on #GivingTuesday

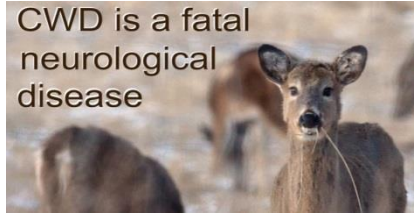
The Global Day of Giving, is November 29, 2016.

On #GivingTuesday, the ICF will kick off the “Ride of a Lifetime” campaign, which will underwrite transportation costs for public and private school kids to visit the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center or to have the mobile Torstenson Education Station visit their school.



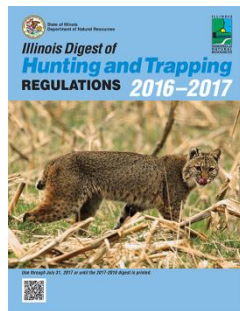
Highlights

CWD is a fatal neurological disease



Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader, and Late-Winter/CWD Seasons CWD Sampling

Deer hunters statewide are encouraged to allow samples to be taken for chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling from adult deer they harvest. Check the IDNR website at this link for locations that are serving as CWD sampling stations, taking samples from entire deer or deer heads through Jan. 15, 2017 [For more information click here](#)



Archery Deer, Fall and Spring Turkey Permits

Illinois Archery Deer and Illinois Archery Fall Turkey seasons are open through Jan. 15, 2017. Permits are available over-the-counter at DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The application deadline for the first lottery for 2017 resident spring turkey permits is Dec. 1, 2016. [For more information click here](#)

[here](#)



Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants

School teachers and youth group leaders can apply for grants of up to \$1,000 through the Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program, administered by the IDNR and Illinois Conservation Foundation. Get students involved in the planning, development, and maintenance of projects to help native wildlife like monarch butterflies. Funding is provided by the Jadel Family Foundation, Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The deadline to apply is Nov. 30. [For more information click here.](#)

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

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

