



Inside Illinois DNR

October 2015

Volume 3, Number 10

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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



Early October is a busy time for Illinois hunters as October 1 marks the start of our three-and-a-half month archery deer and archery wild turkey hunting seasons, which conclude on January 17, 2016.

It is a good time to alert deer hunters to some changes in the law and rules regulating deer hunting in Illinois.

There is a new law on the books in Illinois that allows young hunters who possess a Youth Hunting License and an archery deer permit to use a crossbow during the archery deer hunting season.

The new law took effect in August, and to implement it in time for the 2015-16 archery deer season, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources filed an emergency amendment to the state's archery deer rule (17 Illinois Administrative Code 670). We will now allow eligible youth who want to take advantage of the new crossbow regulation to do so if the youth is under the direct supervision of a parent, grandparent, or guardian who is 21 years of age or older. The adult supervisor accompanying the youth, while hunting with a crossbow, must have both a valid Illinois hunting license and valid archery deer permit.

While archery deer hunting is underway, October also features the annual Youth Firearm Deer Season on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Columbus Day weekend (October 10-12). Here's an important safety reminder: During the Youth Firearm Deer Season weekend, all hunters (including archery hunters) and those accompanying youth hunters must wear the blaze orange required of firearm hunters...a blaze orange cap and upper garment with a minimum of 400 square inches of solid blaze orange material.

A few other reminders for deer hunters as we move through autumn:

- The regular Firearm Deer Season is November 20-22 and December 3-6;
- The Muzzleloader-only Deer Season is December 11-13;
- The Late-Winter Antlerless-only Deer Season and Special CWD Deer Season are December 31, 2015-January 3, 2016 and January 15-17, 2016.

The Late-Winter season will be open in 27 counties (8 fewer than last year), while two more counties have been added to the list for the Special CWD season (Kankakee and Livingston). For more complete details on Illinois deer seasons and regulations, check the *Illinois Digest and Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2015-2016* and the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

Enjoy all the great hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities in Illinois this fall.

DNR in the news

Record Flathead

Park Displays
Poached Prize

Waterfowl
Hunting at
Mermet &
Horseshoe

CWD is Spreading

Statewide Offices

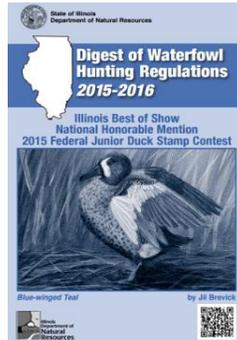
Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

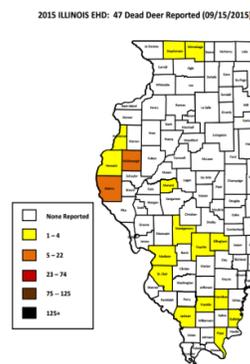
Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



New 2015-2016 Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Available

The Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2015-2016 edition is now available. You will find the digest at many IDNR license and permit vendor locations and state sites. The digest is also posted online in PDF format through the IDNR website. [For more information click here](#)



Hunters, Landowners Encouraged to Report Suspected Cases of EHD

The IDNR has received reports of 47 suspected cases of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in wild white-tailed deer as of Sept. 18, in 2015. EHD appears to be more prevalent in west-central Illinois counties including Adams, McDonough and surrounding counties. In all, reports have come from 17 counties (see map at attached link). EHD was also confirmed in captive deer herds in Adams and Schuyler counties with heavy losses reported. Scattered EHD cases were reported across the southern third of Illinois as well as two counties (Stephenson and Winnebago) in northern Illinois. EHD was also confirmed in multiple cattle herds in Jo Daviess County. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR to Conduct Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Public Informational Meetings

IDNR has scheduled a series of public meetings to provide information about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), its effect on future deer populations, and IDNR's efforts to control the disease. IDNR staff will also be available to answer questions about this disease.

[For more information click here](#)



Fall Trout Season Opens October 17th

Fall Trout Fishing Season opens on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 53 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state. The fly fishing catch-and-release trout season that debuted in Illinois last spring, which proved very popular among anglers, will be offered again in the fall. [For more information click here](#)

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



Members Only!

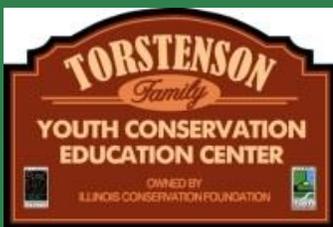
There are many ways to help get kids outdoors, but an easy way is to join the ICF membership program.

All funds raised go right towards “turning screen time into green time” for Illinois youth.

Please consider supporting the ICF with a membership, or help remind those special kids in your life about the outdoors with a Junior Membership

Please [click here](#) to learn more!

www.ilcf.org.



Highlights



Kids for Conservation® for October: Fall Colors

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. The October topic is “Fall Colors.”. [For more information click here](#)

New IDNR Fishing Permitting System

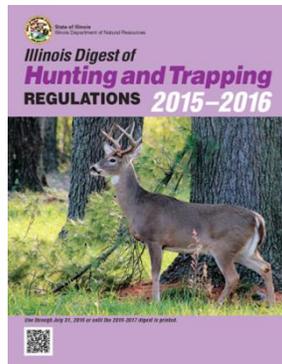
A new permitting organizers of fishing live on the



[website](#). The new online permitting system creates a quick, easy mechanism for applying for a fishing tournament permit and gathering the anglers’ catch data afterwards. [For more information click here](#)

Tournament now Online

system for the tournaments is now IFishIllinois.org



New 2015-2016 Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations Available

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

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