



Inside Illinois DNR

September 2014

Volume 2, Number 9

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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 Marc Miller



Illinois' deer hunters play a critical role in the management of the white-tailed deer in Illinois. Hunters not only provide a means for our biologists to control the number of deer, but also contribute the funds (through the purchase of licenses and permits) for habitat management and scientific research. Your purchase of hunting firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment also provide resources the state uses to monitor and manage the precious resource that is our Illinois deer herd. I am personally grateful for your efforts.

With hunters having a stake in the success of our deer program, it is not surprising that many have taken a keen interest in the decision-making process. To be as open and transparent as possible, and to provide information that can guide conservation and management decisions where you hunt, we have posted key data we use in our deliberations. On our website, hunters can find annual reports for the past several years, this year's deer-vehicle accident rate numbers, and the number of firearm permits allocated per county – and whether that number has gone up or down. The results of the annual hunter harvest survey also are available on our website.

The return of the white-tailed deer is a conservation success story. Deer were all but eliminated from Illinois by the early 1900s. The modern era of deer hunting did not begin until 1957. Just over 50 years later, we can declare the restoration effort a success. We now find ourselves in the management phase. Instead of trying to grow the herd year after year, we are managing to a prescribed goal. Not everyone will agree with the goals set, but together we can work to maintain a healthy deer population and provide outstanding hunting opportunities far into the future. We are always willing to answer questions and want to maintain an open line of communication. We cannot manage Illinois' deer herd without you.

Yours in Conservation,

DNR in the news

**Fort Defiance
update**

**New Grand
American Winner**

**More Starved
Rock Trails Open**

**Deer Hunting
Regulations**

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.

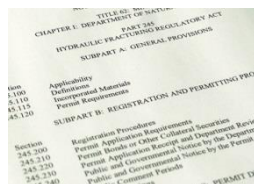
The Illinois DNR is committed to protecting the integrity of these funds by using them for the purposes for which they were intended.

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
Road Repairs	Frank Holten, Pyramid & Illinois Beach State Parks

Legislation and Government



IDNR Delivers Revised Rules on High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) on August 29 delivered revised rules to implement the Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act. The revised rules were submitted to the Illinois

General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for a required second public notice period.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/PublicHearingTranscriptsAndComments.aspx>



Update to Wildlife Code

The gray wolf, American black bear and mountain lion (cougar) will come under the protection of the Illinois Wildlife Code on January 1, 2015, IDNR Director Marc Miller announced. Senate Bill 3049, signed by Governor Pat Quinn, gives the IDNR the authority to manage these species for the protection of both wildlife and public safety.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/Americanblackbears,mountainlionsandgraywolfstobeprotectedinIllinois.aspx>



Natural Resources Trust Fund

On August 19, Governor Quinn signed SB 3000, creating the Natural Resources Restoration Trust Fund to receive funds to help restore damaged natural resources.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=3000&AID=12&GA=98&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=79264&SessionID=85>

**Illinois
Conservation
Foundation**

Founded in 1994

SAVE THE DATES

**Sox-Twins Game
Benefits ICF
Sept. 13**

Order tickets today!

**October 4th - ICF 20th
Anniversary Gala, "An
Evening Under the
Stars"**

**Hilton Chicago/Indian
Lakes Resort,
Bloomington, IL.**

**Congratulations to
the Illinois Outdoors
Hall of Fame Class of
2014 – Daniel Basore,
Warrenville, IL – Paul
Kelley, Hudson, IL –
Charlie Potter, Lake
Forest, IL. Help us
celebrate these
honorees by
attending the ICF's
Gala**

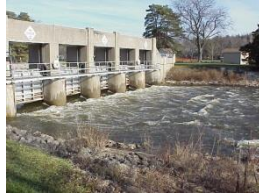
REGISTER ONLINE

www.ilcf.org

Proceeds from this event
benefit the ICF's education
programs to connect youth
with nature, turning
"screen time into green
time."



This Month's Highlights



Stratton Lock and Dam Life Extension Project:

IDNR has announced that construction is beginning on a \$16.7 million improvement project at the Stratton Lock and Dam on the Fox River in McHenry County. The Stratton Lock and Dam Life

Extension Project will improve three components of the lock and dam facility. A new structure will be built upstream and replace the existing gates. The boat lock will be extended in the downstream direction on the river, which will double the current capacity of the lock. Finally, the berm on the west side of the Fox River will be rehabilitated to correct erosion problems.

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

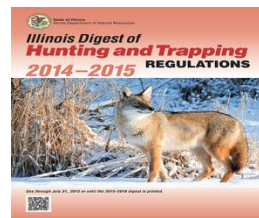


Waterfowl Season Dates

IDNR has announced the proposed waterfowl season dates and bag limits for the 2014–15 seasons. The recommendations include 60-day duck seasons in each of the state's four waterfowl hunting zones, along with Canada goose hunting

seasons of 90 days in the North and Central zones, an 85-day Canada goose season in the South Central Zone, and a 66-day Canada goose season in the South Zone. Goose season lengths are shorter in the South Central and South zones to coincide with duck season dates and match hunter preferences.

www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Pages/IDNRAnnounces2014WaterfowlSeasonDates.aspx



New Illinois Hunting/Trapping Digest Available

The *Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2014-2015* edition is now available. You'll 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.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/HuntingTrappingDigests.aspx>

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

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