



Hello Volunteers!

Welcome to the First Issue of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources “i Volunteer” Newsletter. There are many volunteer opportunities available throughout the State of Illinois. This Newsletter may

help you find the volunteer opportunity you have been searching for!

For a complete list of IDNR volunteer opportunities, you can check the IDNR Volunteer Projects

Directory at :

http://dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/08/volunteer_projects_directory.pdf

This Newsletter will also give you an idea of the great contribution volunteers make to IDNR

IDNR Autumn 2009 Volunteer Opportunities

Fort Massac State Park, Metropolis

Fort Massac Encampment October 17 and 18

Need volunteers to help with set-up of the area, clean-up during the event and clean-up and tear down after the event.

Contact:
Terry Johnson, Site Superintendent at:
terry.johnson@illinois.gov or call the park office at 618-524-4712.

The Illinois State Museum, Springfield

The Museum is recruiting volunteers to work in its hands-on children’s gallery, *A Place for Discovery*, where visitors can touch rocks and fossils, listen to bird calls, and much more! Volunteers welcome visitors to the gallery. Shifts are 2 or 2 ½ hours long, Tuesday - Sunday. Volunteers should commit to at least one shift per month and be 16 or older. Training and parking are provided. For information contact Beth Shea at 217-782-5507 or volunteer@museum.state.il.us

Cache River State Natural Area, Belknap

There will be a **Christmas Bird Count** on Monday, December 14, all day. The volunteers begin by meeting at U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge office, Ullin, at 6:00 a.m. for instructions and assignment of territory. The object is to count all birds of a species they see. **For inquiries call** 618-634-2231. IDNR is in partnership with U.S. Fish & Wildlife in the preservation & restoration project of the Cache River Watershed

“IN EVERY COMMUNITY
THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.
IN EVERY NATION THERE ARE
WOUNDS TO HEAL. IN EVERY
HEART, THERE IS THE POWER
TO DO IT”

--MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

“i Volunteer” Newsletter

The “i Volunteer” Newsletter is published quarterly by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Special Events, Programs and Promotions, Volunteer Network Program, IDNR Region IV Office, 4521 Alton Commerce Parkway, Alton, IL 62002.

Email: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside, is looking for dedicated adults for a variety of volunteer opportunities as follows:

Crafty Bog Committee Volo Bog is re-vamping its CBC! Members of this committee will develop craft ideas made with natural and used materials, and will enjoy teaching the projects to others at special events and craft days.

Weekend Naturalists at Volo Bog conduct guided tours of one of Illinois' most unique wetlands one day each month. They share their love of Illinois' only open-water quaking bog, tell the story of glacial beginnings, highlighting evidence of natural succession and pointing out unique rare and endangered species. The tours often end with tales of Boogey Men, lost cows and other strange happenings.

Youth Program Naturalists at Volo Bog conduct Bog Tours for school kids during the week (once-a-week commitment) or youth groups on weekends (1 - 3 weekend days per month). Some YPNs also conduct one or more of the 16 additional programs offered at this educational facility.

Docents at Volo Bog are friendly adults who greet people on weekends at Volo Bog's Visitor Center. They share insights on one of Illinois' most unique wetlands, assist visitors with scavenger hunts in the Visitor Center, promote interpretive programs, encourage folks to contribute to the site's bird log, or check out loaner binoculars. Docents may play an introductory video, introduce the site's library or check out educational materials to teachers.

Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry, is looking for dedicated adults for the following volunteer opportunities:

Docents at Moraine Hills are friendly adults who greet people on weekends at Moraine Hills' Nature Center. They assist with directions and share insights to enhance the visitors' park experience. For example, docents will encourage folks to contribute to the site's bird log, sign up for interpretive programs or check out loaner binoculars. Docents will also encourage visitors to watch for Roving Naturalists along their hike.



Roving Naturalists at Moraine Hills, as the name implies, will not sit in one place for long! Dressed in "naturalist-wear," they will reach out to visitors along the trails to answer questions and share seasonal observations such as frog & bird calls, flowers in bloom, animal signs, etc..

Special Events at Volo Bog & Moraine Hills: Ghosts Stories in October needs participants for the Ghoully Trail!

For further information on volunteer opportunities at Volo Bog or Moraine Hills, or to register for a workshop, please **Contact Naturalist Stacy Iwanicki** at 815-344-1294 or email: dnr.volobog@illinois.gov .

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Morris
Volunteer opportunities:

- Assistance with special events. Contact Goose Lake Prairie Partners for more information.
- Assistance for keeping the center open to visitors on weekends from February to November of each year
- Assistance with newsletter, & website.
- Clerking in the gift shop includes inventory and sometimes making things to sell, such as woven rag rugs and mug rugs.
- Monitoring trails and working as a docent on plants, birds, and animals.
- 1830 re-enactment and docent work.

Contact: Susie Johnson, President of Goose Lake Prairie Partners at (815) 942-1838 or email her at:

cjohnson0969@comcast.net

The Goose Lake Prairie Partners' meeting date is the Second Wednesday of the Month at 1:30 p.m. in the Visitor's Center. New volunteers are welcome. Check out their Website at: www.goselakeprairie.org

"VOLUNTEERING REALLY RECHARGES MY BODY'S BATTERY TO DO BATTLE FOR THE UPCOMING WORK WEEK"
- PAT GLAVIN MIDWEST MUSKY CLUB DIRECTOR

More Volunteer Opportunities

Kankakee River State Park, Bourbonnais

Our Site Interpreter is very busy during the month of October with Fall Color Walks and school guided hikes and she needs help in the Visitor Center.

Contact: Stacey Johnson, Site Interpreter at: stacey.johnson@illinois.gov

VOLUNTEERING IS:

“FULFILLING” -JOHN MCKEE

Starved Rock State Park, Utica

Volunteers who would like to be Visitor Center Docents; Book Store Attendants; or Trail Walkers should Contact: **Tom Levy**, Site Superintendent at: tom.levy@illinois.gov.

Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton The Site Interpreter needs help with **Forest Foraging**—an edible food program on Oct. 3rd and **Owl Hikes** during the month of October. If you like to hike, cook, prepare or serve food, please contact **Scott Isringhausen** at: scott.isringhausen@illinois.gov

“VOLUNTEERS POLISH UP THE ROUGH SPOTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES”
-ALICE SANDSTROM

IDNR Campground Hosts need to agree to be available a minimum of 35 hours per week including holidays and weekends and must be 21 years of age. If interested, you should start thinking about the upcoming Spring and what site you are interested in. Put on your calendar to contact the site in February or March 2010.

Get Involved In IDNR Conservation Congress



The public is invited and encouraged to get involved in the Natural Resources Advisory Board's Conservation Congress. The Committees are accepting comments in advance of the Conservation Congress session

scheduled for Oct. 24-25 at the IDNR Headquarters in Springfield. There are three committees set up to discuss the following issues:

- Youth Recruitment and Retention,
- Access to Private Lands, and
- Conservation Funding.

The public may call the contact person for each committee or make comments on our website. You can also Participate and vote at Conservation Congress on October 24 and 25th!

For other scheduled committee meetings and contact information, check the IDNR web site at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/nrab/cc.htm>



~KIDS VOLUNTEER~



Each “**i Volunteer**” Newsletter will highlight a Youth or Youth Group that has served their community by volunteering to help the IDNR. In this issue we want to give a big thank you to the **Jersey County Venturing Crews #32 and #93**. These two youth groups have helped at the Two Rivers Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette

State Park in Grafton for the last 16 years! They help the kids with their poles; bait hooks; and help them fish at the Trout Pond. They have been a huge help at the Fishing Fair. If your youth group would like to volunteer at next year's Pere Marquette Fishing Fair on Saturday, June 12th, contact the volunteer coordinator at: dianne.blasa@illinois.gov

****Do you have one word or a phrase for “Volunteerism” that describes how you feel about volunteering? Submit that one word or phrase to: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov and we may include it in one of our “i Volunteer” Newsletters. Be sure to include your name!****



You can access any of the websites mentioned in this Newsletter or send emails by clicking Ctrl + click on the link



The IDNR Volunteer Network Program utilizes thousands of volunteers each year. The volunteers who devote their time and efforts are a vital resource in the management and protection of our natural and recreational resources. Our volunteers are individuals, community organizations, youth groups, retired people, families and people of all ages and backgrounds who would like to help us fulfill our mission "to manage, protect and sustain Illinois' natural and cultural resources, provide resource-compatible recreational opportunities and promote natural resource-related public safety, education and science". For more information, you may email Dianne Blasa, the Volunteer Network Program Manager at: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

To change your email address or to subscribe or unsubscribe to the "i Volunteer" Newsletter email: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

We're on the Web!
www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer

IDNR Volunteers of the Year

We had a great time at the Illinois State Fair August 22nd, where Outstanding Volunteer of the Year plaques were presented by IDNR Assistant Director John Rogner to 5 individuals and 6 groups during a ceremony in Conservation World. This year's honorees were:

FRANK AND KRISTINE BORKOWSKY of Ottawa, Volunteers at Starved Rock State Park Visitors Center;

ED HARRIGAN of Joliet, Volunteer Hunter Safety Education Master Instructor in the Chicago Metro Area;

DON PHELPS of Peoria, a Region I Volunteer Urban Fishing Instructor

CLIFFTOP (Conserving Lands in Farm, Forest, Talus or Prairie) of Maestown, for their conservation activities in Southwestern Illinois;

GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE PARTNERS of Morris, for providing invaluable volunteer services to Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area;

PEORIA AREA MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION of Trivoli, for volunteering at Jubilee College State Park;

ROCK ISLAND TRAIL DEPOT VOLUNTEERS of Wyoming, for volunteering at the Rock Island Depot at Rock Island State Trail;

THE FRIENDS OF THE WORLD SHOOTING AND RECREATIONAL COMPLEX of Sparta, for volunteering at the WSRC;

THE KASKASKIA COWBOYS of Sparta, for volunteering at the WSRC;

The following four Outstanding Volunteers received their awards in their Hometowns:

CINDY MCKEE of Ottawa, for volunteering at Starved Rock State Park;

RACHEL MERSHON of Granville, for volunteering at the LeRocher Gift Shop at Starved Rock State Park;

CURT REYNOLDS of Springfield, for volunteering as Docent at the Illinois State Museum;

THE FRIENDS OF JOHNSON PARK FOUNDATION of Kewanee, for volunteering at Ryan's Round Barn at Johnson-Sauk Trail State Recreation Area.

"Our volunteers are doing great work by helping at state parks, and with our other programs, such as nature preserve restoration, the urban fishing program, and safety education just to name a few. This recognition program is one way we can thank them for the valuable service and expertise they provide to us and to the people of the State of Illinois" IDNR Director Marc Miller

Go Green! Print this only when necessary. Thank you for helping the State of Illinois be environmentally responsible.