



"i Volunteer" Newsletter

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Volunteer Network Program

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter, 2009

Would you like to "Get Involved" as an IDNR Volunteer?

It's as easy as 123-456! Here are the Steps to become an IDNR Volunteer:

First: Check our [Volunteer Projects Directory](http://dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/08/volunteer_projects_directory.pdf) at: http://dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/08/volunteer_projects_directory.pdf which offers information about our programs, positions and geographic location of volunteer opportunities.

Second: Look through the Directory to choose a volunteer opportunity for you in the area where you live or want to volunteer.

Third: Contact the IDNR staff person designated for the program or position listed in the Directory to determine if there is a volunteer opportunity available for you.

Fourth: Schedule a time to meet with the IDNR staff person. You will be assigned a Volunteer Supervisor who will be there for questions, concerns and anything else that may help

you perform your volunteer duties.

Fifth: Complete Volunteer Paperwork: Application; Job Description/Waiver; and Vehicle Authorization form, if applicable. You will be given a written Job Description and the duties stated in the Job Description are the only volunteer duties that you should perform.

Sixth: Keep track of your volunteer hours. This is important for insurance, reporting and recognition. Turn in your hours to your Volunteer Supervisor frequently, preferably after you volunteer or on a monthly basis, if you are a returning volunteer.

If you need additional information on the Volunteer Program, please email **Dianne Blasa**

IDNR *Volunteer Network* Program Manager at dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov or check our website at: <http://dnr.state.il.us/volunteer>

IDNR FRIENDS GROUPS!

DNR is fortunate to have many **Friends Groups**. Our next "i Volunteer" Newsletter will have a link to an updated IDNR Friends Group listing - a great way for you to "Get Involved"!

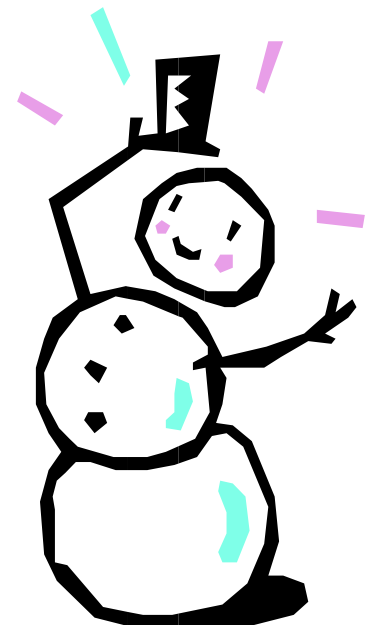
Also, Check out the steps on our website at :

<http://dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/friends.htm>

to find out how you can start your own IDNR Friends Group to help support our parks and sites.

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IDNR Campground Host Program

Do you have an enthusiasm for working with the public and love to camp? If so, the perfect option for some volunteers is to serve as a **Campground Host**. We offer a free campsite in any of approximately 55 state parks in exchange for 35 hours a

week. Hosts, in return, are given a designated campsite with water and electrical hookups at no charge for the duration of their stay. Often couples serve as campground hosts, dividing up the necessary tasks between them.

To volunteer as a **Campground Host**, contact your local Park Office, or the IDNR Campground Host Coordinator at 217-785-8129 or email: Barbara.L.Foster@illinois.gov

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Our Volunteer “Wish List”

Volo Bog State Natural Area & Moraine Hills State Park

Prairie Gardener Volunteers are needed at Volo Bog SNA in Ingle-side and Natural Gardener Volun-teers are needed at Moraine Hills SP in McHenry. These volunteers attend to the native prairie and woodland gardens that grace the grounds at each site. Some gar-deners have prior knowledge but many are beginners who learn on-the-job. PGVs and NGVs are folks who like to keep their own schedule and work mostly behind the scenes but who are not afraid to promote the use of natives in the garden with visitors who happen by.

Bluebird Monitors are needed at Volo Bog SNA & Moraine Hills SP to check and maintain from 10 - 20 nest boxes once per week from **late March through early August**. There are three openings for blue-bird monitors at Moraine Hills State Park. Additional monitoring opportu-nities may be available at other trails throughout Lake and McHenry Counties.

For further information on volunteer opportunities, or to obtain an appli-cation, please Contact Naturalist **Stacy Iwanicki** at 815-344-1294 or email: dnr.volobog@illinois.gov



Cache River State Natural Area

DID YOU KNOW?

Frogs and toads are good indicators of the health of our environment because they absorb oxygen through their skin.

We need Volunteers for an **Auditory Frog and Toad Survey at Cache River SNA in Belknap**. The volunteer orientation meeting is Thursday, **January 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Volunteers will be assigned to listen for frogs and toads calling on one of six routes. The routes have 8 to 10 stops designated. Volunteers will do the survey once a month in the eve-

ning for the next four months. The data they collect is sent to The Illinois Natural History Survey. The program has been con-ducted since 1995 in the Cache River watershed. If you are inter-ested, call **Molie Oliver**, Site Inter-preter at 618-657-2064 or email Molie.oliver@illinois.gov

Argyle Lake State Park

Argyle Lake State Park, located at 640 Argyle Park Road in Colchester The annual Maple Syrup Festival will be held **Saturday, March 6, 2010**. A few more volunteers are needed to help out. If you are interested, contact the Site Interpreter, **Bridget Napolitano** at 309-776-3422 or email Bridget.Napolitano@illinois.gov.



Goose Lake Prairie

Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, located at 5010 North Jugtown Road in Morris

The **Goose Lake Prairie Partners'** meeting date is the **Second Wednesday of every Month at 1:30 p.m.** in the Visitor's Center. New volunteers are welcome! You can also learn more about the Group at their website at:

www.goselakeprairie.org



The Gift you can Give to the Chicago Wilderness Community

IDNR has partnered with the **Chicago Wilderness**. "There is no shortage of opportunities for people of all backgrounds and experience levels to help create a bright future for nature in the Chicago region." You can find out how you can get involved and help out in the Chicago region at: <http://www.chicagowildernessmag.org/joinin.html>

The **Mighty Acorns** is a unique Program for kids, sponsored by the **Chicago Wilderness**. The Program connects urban youth with nature through a hands-on experience. You can become involved by becoming a partner, a volunteer, a **Mighty Acorns** teacher or a supporter. Learn more at: <http://www.mightyacornshome.org/getinvolved.html>

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

~Elizabeth Andrew

ANNOUNCING: We have a New IDNR Friends Group!

We are excited to announce a new IDNR Friends Group has been established at **Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton**. **The Friends of Pere Marquette State Park Foundation** has been organized by a wonderful group of hard working volunteers. Their mission is to "enhance, preserve and protect Pere Marquette State Park, including but

not limited to interpretive, recreational and educational activities associated with the Park, together with other beneficial services to the Park." For more information on how you can help or become a member of **The Friends of Pere Marquette State Park Foundation**, you may contact: **Laef Lorton**, Membership Chairman at: lortonlaw@gtec.com.



~KIDS VOLUNTEER~

The **Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club** consists of approximately 60 students from Sesser-Valier High School and has received national and state recognition for their volunteer efforts. Members of the club have volunteered their service by working the **IDNR Annual Rend Lake Shooting Event for People with Disabilities** and helping with the **IDNR Urban Fishing Program at the Southern Illinois National Hunting and Fishing Days in Carterville** for many years. Besides helping kids fish and helping people with disabilities hunt, the group has recycled more than 10 tons of aluminum, maintained a flower garden and an apple orchard, conducted a bluebird management program, and

planted food plots, among many other volunteer accomplishments.

The **Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club** is an extraordinary group whose mission is to "save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country, its air, soil, and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife." Jay Williams, IDNR Disabled Outdoor Opportunities Program Coordinator said, "Watching hunters ride into the woods on the strong, young shoulders of a teenager is worth it all. This is a group of awesome kids." He believes that the students give their time because they thoroughly enjoy seeing the excitement felt by those that they are assisting. IDNR is very fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with the **Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club!**

"Volunteering is making a difference. It's putting a smile on someone's face, and knowing in your heart that you made a small difference in their life."

~Kayla Sample

Sesser-Valier

Outdoorsmen Club President



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

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

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



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

Volunteers Needed for Eagle Days

Volunteers are needed to help at **Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge January 13, 16 & 17, 2010**. Volunteer jobs include greeters, "runners", staffing information tables, attending spotting scopes, assisting with parking and supervising educational exhibits. **Training Dates are Friday & Saturday, January 8 & 9, 2010 from 10:00 - 11:30 am** at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Training is required for volunteers staffing the spotting scopes and strongly recommended for all first-time volunteers. NOTE: volunteers need to attend at least one training session. **For more information:**
For January 16 & 17 contact: **Jamila Harris**, MDC at 314/877-1309 or email Jamila.Harris@mdc.mo.gov .
For January 13 contact: **Nathan Shalley**, IDNR at 618-462-1181 ext. 134 or email Nate.Shalley@illinois.gov.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Program

The devotion of your time is a vital resource in the management and protection of our natural and recreational resources. Your help is very much appreciated.

Thanks to your efforts, a lasting difference was made in your community. We look forward to working with you in 2010 and beyond!