

Conservation Congress 2014

The Results

We're All in It Together:

Working with Friends Groups and Attracting Volunteers to Serve

Recommendations:

1. Create principle point of contact for volunteer network as well as additional staff to address ongoing events, opportunities, needs and issues.
2. Create and maintain a comprehensive volunteer network clearinghouse to mobilize volunteers for all groups using our facilities.
 - a. Contact information, expertise, willingness to help with site related events.
 - b. Improve the communication among the network, web, social media, etc.
3. Foster/improve relationships with statewide organizations – example: U of I Master Naturalists – they are represented through a statewide network and are willing to assist with sites, events, etc. But, the lack of contact or knowledge of opportunities prevents them from engaging with IDNR on a regular basis.
4. Expand educational network beyond schools – example: friends' groups are unable to get educational resources from IDNR to use at site events or in their outreach and support of activities, but there is a willingness to educate beyond just schools.
5. Create/improve the mechanism for collecting funds/donations from volunteers and friends groups – example: Friends of Pyramid would like to improve facilities at the site and have funds available but are unable to transfer/apply those funds for the site's benefit.