



# Inside Illinois DNR

June 2014

Volume 2, Number 6

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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

We have no more important mission than taking care of our children. From education to health to recreation, children need our attention. Those of us involved in conservation and natural resources protection are

rightly concerned about the future of those efforts. We need to prepare the next generation of environmental leaders.

How do we get today's youth interested in appreciating and preserving the outdoors?

To start, we need to take them outside. That's why Governor Pat Quinn and all of us at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources promote at every opportunity the theme: "Leave No Child Inside."

The Governor has proclaimed June "Leave No Child Inside Month" in Illinois. Every available study tells us that youth who spend time outdoors see health, wellness, educational and emotional benefits from getting outside.

Whether they're walking, running, hiking, biking, or playing ball, we want children to get outdoors and be active. We need to get them away from the video game controllers and TV screens. But it isn't just a matter of opening the door and telling kids to head outside.

We need safe places where kids can spend time outdoors. Whether it's a playground or a schoolyard or a neighborhood park or a state park, we need to be there with our children.

We need programs, projects, and events that provide safe outdoor fun – and that may teach kids some lessons about the outdoors and the importance of conservation stewardship.

After a harsh winter and cool, wet spring, we're inviting kids and families outdoors in June for "Leave No Child Inside" events and activities.

Our Urban Fishing Program provides simple, hands on conservation lessons to kids by showing them the fun of fishing – and the clinics are free and offered all over the state.

There are fishing derbies and nature hikes and adventure camps at state parks, local parks, and museums. Check with your local recreation agencies or the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) for event information.

Get outside this month – and throughout the summer – and enjoy all the great things the outdoors in Illinois has to offer.

Yours in Conservation,

## DNR in the news

**Saving the Prairie Chicken**

**Safe Boating**

**Free Fishing Clinic**

**A United Front Against Invasive Species**

## 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

## The 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
Repairing roadways and signage.	Various State Parks

## Legislation and Government



### Great Lakes States Teaming Up to Search for Invasive Fish in Calumet Harbor

Crews from natural resources agencies and organizations in the Great Lakes region teamed up to coordinate an invasive fish surveillance exercise in Calumet Harbor and near-shore Illinois and Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. The exercise – including intensive netting and electro-fishing – was the first of

its kind utilizing provisions of the new Mutual Aid Agreement for Combatting Aquatic Invasive Species, signed at the Council of Great Lakes Governors meeting on April 26 in Chicago.

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



### Entice Workshops available for Teachers

The ENTICE program provides natural resources training for educators through hands-on, interdisciplinary workshops led by natural resources professionals and other educators. The program provides participants experiences that promote effective stewardship of Illinois' natural resources now and in the future. Sign up for one of our ENTICE workshops by visiting the IDNR website or follow [this direct link](#).

## Illinois Conservation Foundation

Founded in 1994

The ICF announces the appointment of Eric Schmidt of Westchester, Illinois as the new executive director of the Foundation. Schmidt will be responsible for day to day operation of the ICF, and will focus on fundraising and strategic planning for the future of the organization.

Eric Schmidt is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with extensive experience in not-for-profit fundraising and program management Focused on education, conservation, and children's welfare, Schmidt has spent more than 15 years raising money for non-profit organizations.

[www.ilcf.org](http://www.ilcf.org)



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## This Month's Highlights



**Firearm Deer Permit Applications:** Resident and non-resident deer hunters can apply for the second lottery drawing for 2014 Illinois Firearm Deer and Muzzleloader-only Deer permits. The deadline to apply for the second lottery is June 30. Illinois resident hunters who applied in the first lottery for firearm and muzzleloader permits can check their permit status online on the IDNR website at

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

For more information on deer hunting, check the website at

[www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer)



**Renew Watercraft Registration by Phone or Online:**

Watercraft owners in Illinois are reminded that boat registrations (except for non-powered watercraft) are good for three years and expire on June 30. Watercraft owners can renew registration online at

<https://www.il.wildlifelicenses.com/vehicle.php?action=vehicle&lkup> or by phone by calling 1-866-867-3542. When renewing,

watercraft owners should have handy their Illinois registration number and hull identification number (located on the registration card) and pen and paper to record their confirmation number.



**Memorial Open Water Swim at Lincoln Trail State Park:** Plan to attend the first Geoffrey Keller Memorial Open Water Swim on Sat., June 21 at Lincoln Trail Lake at Lincoln Trail State Park, Marshall, IL. The inaugural event will be held in honor of the late Geoffrey Keller in support of Malignant Hyperthermia awareness. For more information, call the Lincoln Trail State Park office at 217-826-2222, or check the website at

<http://my.mhaus.org/event/id/383007/Geoffrey-Keller-Memorial-Open-Water-Swim-6-21-14.htm>

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

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