



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way · Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources Newsbits

Highlighting IDNR programs and upcoming events for the month of December

Firearm Deer Permits: Remaining Illinois firearm and muzzleloader deer permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors through Dec. 8, or until quotas are exhausted. Find a vendor near you at this link: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/LicensePermitVendors.aspx>

Target Hunger Now: Hunters are encouraged to donate whole deer to the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger program – part of the IDNR ‘Target Hunger Now!’ initiative. Participating meat processors turn the donated deer into ground venison for delivery to food banks and charities in Illinois. For more information on ‘Target Hunger Now!’ and the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger program, check the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/ISAH/Pages/default.aspx> or by email tracy.shafer@Illinois.gov or write to Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

Resident Archery Deer and Fall Turkey Permits: Illinois Archery Deer and Illinois Archery Fall Turkey seasons are open through Jan. 19, 2014. Resident combination archery deer permits, resident antlerless-only archery deer permits, and resident archery fall turkey hunting permits are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Find a vendor near you at this link: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>

Non-Resident Deer and Turkey Permits: The remaining non-resident Illinois combination archery deer permits, as well as non-resident antlerless-only archery deer permits and non-resident archery fall turkey permits, are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. The season continues through Jan. 19, 2014. Find a license and permit vendor near you at this link: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>

Late-Winter and CWD Deer County Permits: 2013-14 Late-Winter Firearm Antlerless-only Deer county permits will be available over-the-counter (OTC) through DNR Direct license and permit vendors beginning on Tues., Dec. 10. County permits for the CWD Deer Season will also be available OTC beginning on Dec. 10. Late-Winter and CWD Deer season dates are Dec. 26-29, 2013 and Jan. 17-19, 2014.

Archery, Firearm, Muzzleloader, and Late-Winter/CWD Seasons CWD Sampling: Deer hunters statewide in Illinois are encouraged to allow samples to be taken for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing from **adult** deer they harvest. For locations serving as CWD sampling stations, taking samples from entire deer or deer heads through Jan. 20, 2014, check the IDNR website at this link:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/CWDsamplinglocations-STATEWIDE-2013.pdf>

ICF Wall Calendar: Buy your beautiful 2014 Illinois Conservation Foundation wall calendar today. If you relied on the former *Outdoor* Illinois wall calendar, you'll definitely want to pick up a copy of this calendar. Proceeds from the sale of the 2014 ICF wall calendar will support youth conservation education programs in Illinois. The 9" x 12" calendar contains stunning photography of Illinois wildlife and natural resources, and can be purchased for \$15 (two for \$29, or three for \$41.25). Order online at www.ilcf.org or by phone at 217-785-2003. Checks and money orders can be mailed to Illinois Conservation Foundation, ATTN Wall Calendar, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

Spring Turkey Applications: Hunters may now apply for the second lottery for 2014 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season permits online. Go to the IDNR website for more information at this link: www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey. The application deadline for the second lottery for 2014 resident spring turkey permits is Jan. 13, 2014.

IRAP Youth Hunting: The Illinois Recreational Access Program is accepting applications from youth turkey hunters for private-land hunting sites in 25 counties throughout Illinois. Youth under the age of 16 who have passed a hunter safety course are eligible to apply for spring turkey hunting on an IRAP site. IRAP sites are available for spring youth turkey season as well spring turkey Seasons 3 and 4. Applicants applying for Youth Turkey Season will need to fill out an application and mail it to IDNR prior to February 25, 2014. Successful applicants will be notified and instructed as to where their hunting site is located within the county they applied for, will be given a map and an IRAP permit allowing them to hunt on the specified private property. Youth hunters applying for an IRAP site for Seasons 3 or 4 will need to apply online for an IDNR turkey permit as soon as possible. Successful youth receiving his or her turkey tag for their choice county in Season 3 or 4 will then need to send in an IRAP youth turkey application. For more information or to apply for an IRAP turkey hunting site, go to this link:
<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IRAP/Pages/YouthTurkeyHunting.aspx>

Online Free Site Hunting Permits: Hunters are reminded that Free Site Hunting Permits (windshield cards) to hunt upland, forest game and waterfowl at IDNR sites are available online from the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/PublicHuntingAreas.aspx> Hunters are encouraged to view the link to hunter fact sheets also available at the site. For information or assistance, hunters should contact the site where they intend to hunt.

ISM Science Series: The next Illinois State Museum Science Series program on Wed., Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. will feature Dr. Thomas J. Loebel of St. Xavier University, Chicago, presenting *The Secret Lives of Paleoindians: Early Social and Ritual Systems in the Western Great Lakes*. The program will be held at the Museum's Research and Collections Center, 1011 E. Ash Street, Springfield. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, phone 217-782-0061 or www.museum.state.il.us/events

Super Saturdays: The Illinois State Museum invites families to make winter-themed art at this month's Super Saturday *Winter Craft Day* at the Museum in Springfield on Sat., Dec. 14 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Children will build a sparkling snow globe with miniatures and glitter, use paint and a comb to create a winter forest scene, read winter stories, and much more. Children will also have the opportunity to make a special piece of art with Springfield artist Rhiannon Gurley. The event is free at the Museum at 502 S. Spring, Springfield. For more information, phone 217-782-6044 or www.museum.state.il.us/events

Deer Hunt Drawing: The IDNR will conduct a drawing on Jan. 7 to allow 20 persons to hunt antlerless deer on part of the Baldwin Lake Waterfowl Rest Area at Kaskaskia River SFWA during the second part of the Late-Winter Deer Hunting Season, January 17-19, 2014. The special hunt area at Baldwin Lake will not be open during the first part of the Late-Winter deer season, Dec. 26-29, 2013. Hunters must have either a valid St. Clair County or Randolph County deer hunting permit for the Late-Winter season or an unfilled special Baldwin Lake firearm deer hunting permit from this year. To be eligible for the in-house drawing, send a postcard with name, address, and in which county the applicant has a valid permit (St. Clair or Randolph) to Kaskaskia River SFWA, 10981 Conservation Road, Baldwin IL 62217 by Jan. 3, 2014. For more information, call 618-295-2877 or 618-785-2555.

Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants: Teachers can apply now for an Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant. The program allows teachers to take students to state parks, nature centers, the Shawnee National Forest, forest preserve districts, national wildlife refuges, and museums. Each teacher may apply for up to \$500 to pay for transportation and substitute teacher costs. The application deadline is January 31, 2014. Funding for the program is provided by the Independence Tube Corporation in Chicago and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie. Check the IDNR website for application and more information at this link: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>

Pere Marquette Bald Eagle Days: Enjoy watching bald eagles on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers near Pere Marquette State Park this winter by participating in one of the park's popular Bald Eagle Days tours. The informative programs about bald eagles are conducted on select dates from late December through early March. All programs begin at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m., and reservations are required by calling 618-786-3323. To check the schedule of program dates, click here: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/R4/PRM/EagleDaysBrochure.pdf>

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