

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, millions of dollars, both public and private, are spent each year for the control of invasive plant and animal species in Illinois' waters, wildlands and agricultural lands; and,

WHEREAS, invasive plants and animals threaten Illinois' waters and wildlands by competing with and destroying native plants and animals, and by disrupting complex food webs and habitat systems; and,

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the productivity and economic viability of Illinois' agricultural lands and waterways by creating unnatural competition; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois' waters and wildlands draw hundreds of thousands of tourists and recreational users each year; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois' agricultural lands and waterway are vital to the economic livelihood and health of the state's citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois' citizens experience losses in revenue due to reduced production in crops and forests, reduction in tourism, commercial fishing and agricultural lands due to invasive species; and,

WHEREAS, awareness of invasive species is an important first step towards behavioral change, which can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species; and,

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2014 as **INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all individuals and public and private groups to sponsor and participate in activities to help all Illinois residents and visitors gain a better understanding of the impact of invasive species on Illinois' waterways, wildlands and agricultural lands.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this SECOND *day of* APRIL *, in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
FOURTEEN *, and of the State of Illinois,*
one hundred and NINETY-SIXTH *.*

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR