
IDNR Fall 2010 Volunteer Opportunities



Fort Massac State Park, Metropolis

Fort Massac Encampment ~ October 17 and 18

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up of the area, clean-up during the event and clean-up and tear down after the event.

Contact: Terry Johnson, Site Superintendent at: terry.johnson@illinois.gov
or call the park office at 618-524-4712.

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

There will be a **Cypress Creek Christmas Bird Count** on Monday, December 13, all day. The volunteers begin by meeting at U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge Office in Ullin, at 6:00 a.m. for instructions and assignment of territory. The object is to count all birds of a species you see.

For inquiries call 618-634-2231. IDNR is in partnership with U.S. Fish & Wildlife in the preservation & restoration project of the Cache River Watershed.

Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton

The Site Interpreter needs help with **Forest Foraging** - an edible food program on Saturday Oct. 30 and **Owl Hikes** on Fridays, October 8 & 15. This is a wonderful time of year to volunteer! If you like to hike, cook, prepare or serve food, please contact **Scott Isringhausen**, Site Interpreter at: scott.isringhausen@illinois.gov or call the Visitor Center at 618-786-3323 x 22.

“i Volunteer” Newsletter

The “i Volunteer” Newsletter is published quarterly by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Special Events, Programs and Promotions, Volunteer Network Program, IDNR Region IV Office, 4521 Alton Commerce Parkway, Alton, IL 62002.
Email: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

GET INVOLVED~IDNR PROGRAMS



~Sportsmen Against Hunger~

Hunters are encouraged to donate their entire deer harvest to food banks and charities. Participating meat processors will grind the venison into two-pound packages of burger. With the start of deer season, the **program will provide \$50 to assist with the processing cost of whole deer donations.** Your tax-deductible donation to assist with the cost of the processing can be made by noting on your check: "Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger" in the memo section, payable to the "Illinois Conservation Foundation" and mail to Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Sportsmen Against Hunger Program, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271. Consider volunteering your harvest to help the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger Program feed the needy in Illinois. You can find a list of our Meat

Processors on our website at: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/SportsmenAgainstHunger.aspx> .

For more information you may call 217-785-5091

or email: tracy.shafer@illinois.gov.

~Veterans Conservation Corps~

Illinois Veterans interested in working on a volunteer basis on projects that restore Illinois' natural habitat can join the Veterans Conservation Corps today! This is a program with the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs structured in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Volunteers are needed and we have a variety of opportunities available so there is something for everyone. You can become part of a team that is dedicated to protect our natural resources, gain new skills and knowledge as you work with natural resource professionals and connect with people who have the same interests. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Veterans Conservation Corps, the first step is to meet with your **Veteran Service Officer** in your area or call the **Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs** at 800-437-9824.



~Volunteer Internship for College Credit~

College students who are interested in receiving college credits may volunteer in any of IDNR's Volunteer Network Program Divisions, Sites or Districts. This program offers a great opportunity to learn more about and gain experience in working with the natural resources of Illinois. It is a chance to gain new skills, work with natural resource professionals and network with people who share mutual interests in the outdoors. This is a non-paid volunteer program and must be organized through a college or university for credit. The IDNR Volunteer Supervisor will keep track of the student's hours, work, etc. for reporting to the College or University. For more information about the Internship/College Credit Program please contact:

Dianne Blasa, at dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov .

~Kids Volunteer~



The IDNR *Volunteer Network* Program offers kids an opportunity to volunteer. Kids can make a difference on our land and in our environment through volunteering.

The only requirement is that minors under the age of 16 are part of an organized group or working side by side with a family member that will provide adult supervision. Scouts could plant trees, build trails, put up bird boxes, or clean up trash. School groups could take a hike and identify plants; test the water quality in a nearby stream; or learn about wildlife living in your local park. This is a good way to get outdoors and give something back to your community! Many of our Park sites offer School and Scout volunteer opportunities.

There are so many ways to lend a hand! Check the IDNR Volunteer Projects Directory at

http://www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/pdf/volunteer_projects_directory.pdf for a park site near you

or email **Dianne Blasa** at dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov.





You can access any of the websites mentioned in this Newsletter or send emails by just clicking on the link or CTL + click on link



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

We're on the Web!

www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer

And Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/IL-Department-of-Natural-Resources-Special-Events-Programs-Promotions/314054658535?filter=1>

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

IDNR Volunteers of the Year



We had a great time at the Illinois State Fair August 21st where Outstanding Volunteer of the Year plaques were presented by IDNR Director Marc Miller to 8 individuals and 3 groups during a ceremony in Conservation World.

"Our volunteers are doing great work by helping at state parks, and with our other programs, such as nature preserve restoration, the urban fishing program, and safety education just to name a few. This recognition program is one way we can thank them for the valuable service and expertise they provide to us and to the people of the State of Illinois" **IDNR Director Marc Miller**



To Volunteers:

It is always a pleasure to meet all of the talented, creative and motivated volunteers at the Volunteer Ceremony . I hope to get to meet more of you!

This Newsletter relies on Your submissions! What volunteer projects, or adventures are you and/or your Friends Groups having? Do you need more volunteers?

To IDNR Staff:

Send me your volunteer needs; write an article about how your volunteers have helped you; send me pictures of volunteers at your events.

Email me!
dianne.blasa@illinois.gov

Keep up the good work and keep your submissions coming!