

**April 2017**

**1. April Kids for Conservation®: Northern Cardinal**

The April edition of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of the "*Northern Cardinal*." You can learn basic facts about this species in the information section. Watch the video podcast, too. Take the quiz to test your knowledge. Educators, there are resources for you to utilize. NEW! We have developed a version of the information section specific to early childhood educators. "Kids in Action" features the second-grade students of Belle Aire School in Downers Grove who planted a butterfly garden on the school grounds. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx> and get started today! The May topic is the "*White Oak*."

**2. Beall Woods State Park Programs**

Beall Woods State Park near Mt. Carmel is hosting the following programs that may be of interest to educators. Registration is not required for these programs, and there is no admission fee. For more information, contact Jacque Cullison, Natural Resources Coordinator, at [jacque.cullison@illinois.gov](mailto:jacque.cullison@illinois.gov) or 618-298-2441.

*Woodland Wildflower Hikes*

Saturdays: April 1, 8 and 15 at 1:00 p.m.

This plant's sap was used as a dye by Native Americans. Another plant has a rootstock that tastes like a radish. Discover past uses of our native flora and interesting characteristics about each wildflower species during a 1.5-mile hike along the trails of the Nature Preserve. Feel free to bring along your camera to capture the intricate design and delicate nature of these spring beauties.

*Celebrating Earth Day*

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

Over the past nine years, several stewardship projects have taken place at the park. With assistance from school groups, volunteers and IDNR staff members, wildlife habitat has been enhanced, the aesthetic value increased and exotic invasive species have been removed. Join us for a 1.5-mile hike to see the accomplished projects. Please meet at the north shelter.

**3. Upcoming Programs at Dickson Mounds Museum**

The following programs are being held at Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown in April. For more information, call 309-547-3721.

*Tot Time*

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Adults and their tots will have fun exploring, discovering and learning on the first Thursday of the month from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Museum's Discovery Center. Spend quality time with your tot, while each of you makes new friends. A different topic and craft are featured each month. Registration is not required, and admission is free. Participants will enjoy light refreshments. This program series is sponsored by Havana National Bank, G-M Mechanical of Canton and Doug Dennis of Manito. Join us on April 6, 2017, for "Baby Critters." Brown's-Oakridge Zoo of Smithfield will bring a live tiger or bear cub for tots to learn about.

*Kids' Day: It's Magic*

Saturday, April 22, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join us for this new Kids' Day program, featuring "The Magic of Mitch Williams." The one-hour show starts at 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Museum Lobby. Seating is limited. Tickets are free. Hands-on crafts to take home will be available for kids to enjoy making before and after the show. Age: 5 years and up with adult

#### *Gardeners' Big Day*

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The day's event begins with keynote speaker Ella Maxwell, horticulturist from Hoerr Nursery, certified arborist and Tazewell County Master Gardener, highlighting the lessons she has learned from 30 years of gardening. Sessions include turf tips, mole and rodent control and breaking gardening myths. All gardeners are welcome to register for the day-long workshop. Register at [go.illinois.edu/BIGday2017](http://go.illinois.edu/BIGday2017) or call 309-543-3308. Fees apply. The event is sponsored by the University of Illinois Fulton-Mason Master Gardeners and Naturalists, Spoon River Gardeners, Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds and University of Illinois Extension Fulton-Mason-Tazewell unit.

#### *Hickory Ridge Concert Series*

For more than 20 years, people have gathered at Dickson Mounds on the third Saturday of every month for an evening of musical entertainment. Hosted by Chris Vallillo, an accomplished musician and performer in his own right, the series features roots/folk music and other genres offered by a talented variety of performers. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. There is an \$8 fee for adults and \$5 for youngsters. On April 15, 2017, David G. Smith and Dave Moore will perform. Visit <http://ginridge.com/extras/hickory-ridge-concert-series/> for information about the artists.

#### *Illinois Valley Archaeological Society*

The Illinois Valley Archaeological Society (IVAS) gathers at Dickson Mounds Museum at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. Each month there is a presentation on contemporary archaeological research in the region that is open to the general public. The lecture is followed by the monthly meeting of IVAS members.

#### **4. Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant – Two Options Now Available**

Applications will be accepted by the IDNR Division of Education through November 30, 2017, for the *Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* program. New for the program this year are two application options. Option One will allow you to apply for a standard pollinator garden. With this option, the plant species are predetermined. You and the students must decide how best to use these species in your available space. Other items to be purchased are limited with this option. Option Two allows the applicant to determine what type of wildlife habitat to develop. You can view both options at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHAG.aspx>. Please use the supporting video podcasts to assist you in completing the application form. Help wildlife species while taking learning to life!

#### **5. ENTICE Professional Development Workshops for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019**

Register today at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by the IDNR. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, supplemental resources on the topic and the opportunity to work with resources professionals on a variety of topics. Professional Development Hours are available. Shown below are upcoming workshops for summer and fall 2017. Workshops will continue to be added to the schedule as arrangements are made so check the Web site often. Experience ENTICE!

*Monarch Mania!*, Gardner Camp, Hull, July 18, 2017  
*Wetland Wonders*, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, July 29, 2017  
*Illinois Butterflies and Moths*, Cache River Visitors' Center, Cypress, August 1, 2017  
*Forest Ecology and Wildlife*, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs, August 3, 2017  
*Introducing Early Childhood Students to Nature*, Dickson Mounds Museum, Lewistown, September 9, 2017  
*Illinois Butterflies and Moths*, Burpee Museum, Rockford, September 16, 2017  
*Illinois Butterflies*, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, September 23, 2017  
*Using Resources Trunks to Teach Next Generation Science Standards*, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, September 30, 2017  
*Introducing Early Childhood Students to Nature*, Heller Nature Center, Highland Park, October 7, 2017  
*Introducing Early Childhood Students to Nature*, Kendall County Forest Preserve District, Yorkville, October 7, 2017  
*Introducing Early Childhood Students to the Nature of Fall*, Giant City State Park, Makanda, November 4, 2017  
*Aquatic Ecosystems: Lake Michigan Ecology*, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, November 4, 2017

#### **6. IDNR Mason State Nursery has Native Seeds and Plants for Sale**

The IDNR Mason State Nursery has developed a seed mix of Illinois native forbs and grasses that is suitable for use in developing a monarch/pollinator habitat. One packet of these seeds will cover 1,000 square feet. The cost is \$40.00 per packet plus shipping and handling. Seeds of the following plants are included: leadplant *Amorpha canescens*, prairie coreopsis *Coreopsis palmata*, Ohio spiderwort *Tradescantia ohiensis*, purple coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*, pale coneflower *Echinacea pallida*, rattlesnake master *Eryngium yuccifolium*, prairie blazing-star *Liatris pycnostachya*, white prairie clover *Dalea candida*, purple prairie clover *Dalea purpurea*, obedience plant *Physostegia virginiana*, prairie cinquefoil *Drymocallis arguta*, yellow coneflower *Ratibida pinnata*, compass-plant *Silphium laciniatum*, prairie dock *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, smooth aster *Symphotrichum laeve*, marsh blazing-star *Liatris spicata*, Illinois mimosa *Desmanthus illinoensis*, common milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*, wild bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*, golden Alexanders *Zizia aurea*, partridge pea *Chamaechrista fasciculata*, sweet black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*, black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*, prairie dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis*, little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* and side-oats grama *Bouteloua curtipendula*. The Mason State Nursery also has 40 species of Illinois native plants available for sale in containers. These plants are \$4.00 each, but they must be picked up at the Mason State Nursery in Topeka, Illinois. Delivery is not available for the container plants. Native trees and shrubs are also available for purchase. For more information and/or to order, contact the Mason State Nursery at [DNR.MasonStateNursery@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.MasonStateNursery@illinois.gov) or 309-535-2185. Ordering information is posted at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/Forestry/Pages/Tree-Nurseries.aspx>.

#### **7. Illinois Native Bees and Illinois Milkweeds Posters!**

The IDNR has two new posters available! *Illinois Milkweeds* and *Illinois Native Bees* can be ordered through the publications order form at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications>. These two-sided posters are great resources that can be used in a variety of ways. Thanks to the IDNR Office of Mines and Minerals, the *Illinois Rocks and Minerals* poster is once again available, too.

#### **8. Reporting Monarch Educational Activities**

The IDNR and its partners in the monarch initiative are collecting information about educational activities related to monarch butterflies. If you conducted any activities in 2016 or 2017 related to educating people in Illinois about monarch butterflies or to enhancing or developing monarch habitat in Illinois, please send us a brief description (no more than three sentences) describing each activity. Include the date, a description of the activity, the targeted audience (if an educational activity), the organization or person leading the activity and an email address for someone who can answer questions about the activity. Submit the information to [dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov). We will post the information on the IDNR Web site at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/monarchgen.aspx>. This Web site is not intended to promote upcoming activities. We want to share information about efforts that have already taken place to help monarchs and their habitat. We will continue to accept information through 2017 and beyond. Please do not send photos. Thank you!

### **9. Resources Trunks and Packs Support Your Lessons in Many Ways**

Have you reserved any resources trunks or packs from the IDNR for your teaching, scout troop activities, or other youth programs? They are great for summer camp activities! The topics include: amphibians and reptiles; aquatics; birds; fossils; state symbols; insects/spiders; invasive species; mammals; Native Americans; prairies; and trees. The *Field Trip Pack* is designed for exploring nature with young children. Let the IDNR's resources trunks and packs provide you with the teaching tools that you need. The trunks and packs are available at lending locations statewide. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx> for links to all of the resources trunks and packs. Several lending locations have recently changed, so be sure to check the list for updates in your area. The trunks include correlations to current national and state learning standards. Make your reservation today!

### **10. New Video Podcast**

The *Northern Cardinal* video podcast can be found in the Podcasts page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/podcasts.aspx> after March 31, 2017. This video podcast is also available on YouTube.

### **11. Learning Standards Interactive Web Page**

Looking for IDNR lessons to help you meet the Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core Standards, Illinois Social Science Standards or Illinois Early Learning Standards? Now you can easily find them with the new interactive Learning Standards Web page from the IDNR Division of Education at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>. You can search by grade level, topic, learning standard and/or subject area. Try it today!

### **12. Central Illinois Educators: Fishing and Aquatic Ecology Programs Now Available from the IDNR**

Educators, if you teach in any of the following counties, the IDNR can help you bring hands-on aquatic education to your students. These programs work to develop positive attitudes towards natural resources, conservation and fishing in young people. Lessons align with the state and national learning standards and are adapted to all grade levels. For more information or to schedule a program, contact Van Grissom at 217-720-3501 or [van.grissom@illinois.gov](mailto:van.grissom@illinois.gov).

Adams, Brown, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Hancock, Iroquois, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Mason, McLean, Menard, Morgan, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Vermillion

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