

February 2017

1. Governor Rauner declares May 2017 to be *Monarch Butterfly Month* in Illinois

2016-324 Monarch Butterfly Month

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is the official state insect of the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, monarch butterflies, as well as other pollinating species such as bees and bats, help move pollen from one plant to another, fertilizing flowers and making it possible for plants to produce food needed to feed people and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, the population of the monarch butterfly has declined at an alarming rate, a decrease of more than 90 percent in the past 20 years; Illinois has been designated as a high-priority area for monarch conservation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service; and,

WHEREAS, the monarch was identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the most recent Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, created by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); and,

WHEREAS, many factors contributed to the decline of monarchs and other pollinators, such as habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has already taken several steps to educate citizens on preserving and restoring the monarch population: the IDNR coordinated an Illinois Monarch Butterfly Summit on September 9, 2016; monarchs and native bees were highlighted in the Division of Education tent at the 2016 Illinois State Fair; and an education webpage and nine video podcasts are posted on the IDNR website; and,

WHEREAS, every citizen has the ability to make a difference and restore the monarch butterfly population by planting milkweed, reducing pesticides and herbicides, educating others, establishing monarch waystations, and supporting other monarch conservation efforts;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as MONARCH BUTTERFLY MONTH in Illinois, and encourage all Illinoisans to value and recognize the importance of the monarch butterfly and help restore the monarch butterfly population.

Issued by the Governor November 17, 2016

Filed by the Secretary of State December 28, 2016

2. Perch Family Added to *Wild About Fishes!*

Information and images for the fishes in the Family Percidae have been added to the IDNR Division of Education's *Wild about Fishes!* Web page at

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/WAFPerch.aspx>. Click on the links to learn about and view these often colorful fishes of our state.

3. 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. For more information and/or to order, contact the Mason State Nursery at DNR.MasonStateNursery@illinois.gov or 309-535-2185. Ordering information will also be posted soon at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/Forestry/Pages/Tree-Nurseries.aspx>.

4. Flying WILD at Volo Bog State Natural Area – a Bird Workshop for Educators

Thursday, March 9, 2017 or Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. each day

6 Professional Development Hours available

Request a registration form by emailing dnr.volobog@illinois.gov or visiting www.FriendsofVoloBog.org.

“Through activities involving language arts, social science and math experiences, coupled with community outreach and service learning applications, Flying WILD offers a whole-school approach to environmental education using birds as the focus. Targeted for the middle-school audience, though widely adaptable, Flying WILD offers practical hands-on classroom and outdoor field investigation experiences connecting real-world experiences in bird biology, conservation and natural history. Project-based classroom applications, service learning and community involvement are encouraged through sections of the guide dedicated to the planning and implementation of birding festivals.” (taken from <http://www.flyingwild.org/>) Flying WILD is supported in Illinois by Illinois Audubon Society and the IDNR at Volo Bog State Natural Area.

5. New 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.

6. Upcoming Programs at Dickson Mounds Museum

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

Tot Time

Adults and their tots will have fun exploring, discovering and learning on the first Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Dickson Mounds Museum’s Discovery Center. Spend quality time with your tot, while each of you makes new friends. A different topic and craft will be featured each month. Registration is not required. Admission is free. Participants will enjoy light refreshments. This program series is sponsored by the Havana National Bank and G-M Mechanical of Canton. The February 2, 2017, topic is “Ancient Elephants.”

Eagle Day Festival

The Eagle Day Festival will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, in Lewistown, Havana and at Dickson Mounds Museum. This free event begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues through 3:00 p.m. Activities include crafts for kids, live raptor programs and bird watching. Participate in the scavenger hunt, too. Dickson Mounds Museum will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. with kids’ hands-on activities featuring Illinois wildlife from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Eagle Day Festival is sponsored by the City of Havana, City of Lewistown, Lewistown Chamber of Commerce, Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds Museum, Forbes Biological Station, Havana Oktoberfest Committee, Havana Park District, Illinois River Biological Station,

Mason County Arts Council, The Nature Conservancy, Therkildsen Field Station and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Return to Spoon River

In April 1915, the American poet Edgar Lee Masters published *Spoon River Anthology*, the famous collection of poems that narrates the epitaphs of people who lived in the fictional town of Spoon River. The poems recount life in small town America: stories of friendships, sharing and community but also of hypocrisy, prejudice, and local intrigue. *Return to Spoon River* features present-day residents of Masters' home towns of Lewistown and Petersburg, reading the epitaphs in a sign of homage to the poet, bringing back the atmosphere and the daily sentiments of the inhabitants of small town America today. *Return to Spoon River* is an Italian Movie Production by Movie Movie and Rai Cinema and created by film makers Francesco Conversano and Nene Grignaffini with the assistance of Italian cinematographer Roberto Cimatti and Italian editor Stefano Barnaba. This movie presentation is sponsored by the Illinois State Museum-Dickson Mounds Museum, The Fulton County Arts Council, the City of Lewistown and the Lewistown Society for Historic Preservation.

Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 Time: 1:00 p.m. Fee: Free, Donations Appreciated

7. Earth Day in the Parks 2017

Earth Day in the Parks is a program to involve students in natural resources stewardship at Illinois state parks. Applications may be submitted through February 28, 2017. Visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/EDITPinstruct.aspx> for the application form and instructions. Two state parks are participating this year: Goose Lake Prairie State Park in Morris; and Argyle Lake State Park in Colchester.

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 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. 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. 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. Workshops will continue to be added to the schedule as arrangements are made so check the Web site often. Experience ENTICE!

10. February Kids for Conservation®: Eastern Fox Squirrel

The February edition of the IDNR's Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of the "*Eastern Fox Squirrel*." 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 students of Pleasant Lane Elementary School in Lombard who have worked to bring native plants back to their neighborhood. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx> and get started today! The March topic is "Illinois Turtles."

11. Nine New Illinois Wild Mammals Trunks Added – Several Lending Locations Add Trunks

Have you reserved any resources trunks or packs from the IDNR for your teaching, scout troop activities, or other youth programs? 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 have just been updated to include correlations to current national and state learning standards. Nine new *Illinois Wild Mammals* trunks have been placed with lending locations in Geneseo, Wilmington, Lewistown, Centralia, Clifton, Columbia, River Forest, Chicago and Collinsville. Kaskaskia College Library in Centralia, Frank Holten State Recreation Area in East St. Louis, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee, Concordia University in River Forest, Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria Heights and Matteson Area Public Library District in Matteson are all also recipients of new trunks for their locations.

12. Biodiversity of Illinois CD-ROM Series Conversion to Web-based Format – More Files Posted

The IDNR Division of Education is in the process of converting the information and images from the *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM series (*Volume I, Aquatic Habitats; Volume II, Woodland Habitats; Volume III, Prairie and Edge Habitats*) into a searchable, Web-based format. Files are being added as they are completed, so check back often. There are approximately 200 files posted. There will be approximately 1,500 species in this field guide when it is finished. Visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/Biodiversity-of-Illinois.aspx> to access the files that have been posted to date.

13. New Video Podcast

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

14. 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!

15. 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.

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

17. Project Squirrel Mobile Phone App

With the Project Squirrel mobile phone app, your students can easily become involved in citizen science activities that can be incorporated into lessons to support the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The app is free and both Apple and Android versions are available. Go to iTunes or the Google Play Store and download the app today. All citizens can take part in the data collection. You can learn more about Project Squirrel at <http://www.projectsquirrel.org/>. The Project Squirrel mobile phone app is sponsored by the Chicago Academy of Science's Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, the IDNR, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Motorola.

18. *Wild Illinois History* Leads Students on a Journey to Learn About History and Wildlife Conservation

The IDNR is offering a "virtual" trip for late-elementary schoolteachers, students and their parents. With a few mouse clicks, students can journey back to the earliest days of the Illinois Territory when voyageurs and Native Americans hunted the prairies, forests and rivers. *Wild Illinois History* helps students in grades three through five focus on early French exploration, along with river and settlement geography. Students can learn how wildlife helped Native Americans and early settlers survive. They also can see how wildlife is a part of our lives today. A fictional French trapper in the 18th century Illinois Territory leads students on the trip. Brief story-telling slideshows are mixed with fun, interactive activities. For teachers, *Wild Illinois History* offers lesson plans, activities, photos, posters and correlations to Illinois Learning Standards. Try it out at <http://www.wildillinois.org/>. For more information, contact Bob Bluett, IDNR Wildlife Diversity Coordinator at 217-782-7580 or bob.bluett@illinois.gov.

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