

## September 2016

### 1. Register Now for Upcoming ENTICE Professional Development Workshops

Register today at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for these upcoming ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Professional Development Hours are available. 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. Experience ENTICE!

*Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Development* Online Workshop, September 12-25, 2016 - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2016.

*Wildlife Basics for Early Childhood Educators*, September 17, 2016, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2016, or sooner if the maximum number of participants is reached.

*Illinois Pollinators*, September 24, 2016, Illinois Pollinarium, Urbana - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2016.

*Illinois' Wild Mammals*, October 1, 2016, Shawnee National Forest Office, Vienna - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

*Illinois' Woodland Ecology*, October 8, 2016, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2016.

*Illinois' Wetland Ecosystem Organisms*, October 18, 2016, Cache River Visitors' Center, Cypress

*Illinois' Urban Wildlife*, November 5, 2016, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago

### 2. September Kids for Conservation: Illinois Prairie Wildflowers

The September edition of the IDNR's Kids for Conservation® Web page features *Illinois Prairie Wildflowers*. Learn about and view several species of wildflowers that are native to our prairie habitats. Watch the video podcast. Take the quiz to test your knowledge. Educators, there are resources for you, too. "Kids in Action" highlights the work of Katelyn Toigo of Jersey Community High School in Jerseyville. Katelyn was one of the winners of the 2016 Illinois Conservation Foundation's Conservation Achievement Scholarships. Visit

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx> and get started today!

"What Part of a Tree became a Part of Me?" is the October topic.

### 3. Grant Application Forms Available

The application form for each the 2017 *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* and the 2016 *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* programs from the IDNR Division of Education and the Illinois Conservation Foundation are available through the links at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>. Be sure that you read and follow the instructions. Video podcasts to help you complete the application form may also be accessed. Funding for the *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* program is provided by the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie. Funding for the *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* program is donated by the Jadel Family Foundation in Evanston and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie. Start planning your applications now!

### 4. Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant and the Learning Standards

A series of video podcasts has been added to the Web page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHAG.aspx> to show how a schoolyard wildlife habitat area can help you meet some of Illinois' learning standards. Separate video podcasts for grades kindergarten, one, two, three, four and middle school are available. The grant application form for 2016 is

also available on this Web page. Funding for this program is provided by the Jadel Family Foundation in Evanston and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie. Help wildlife as your students learn!

### **5. Visit Our Web Page for a Wealth of Resources**

The IDNR Division of Education's Web page offers a great variety of educational resources and information for teachers, nonformal educators, scout leaders, youth-group leaders and other people interested in learning about Illinois' tremendous natural heritage. The "A to Z" button will allow you to access a list of topics. You'll find basic information, lessons, activity books, grants, educator professional development, correlations to learning standards, video podcasts (with open captioning), trunks and packs for loan and many other items. Let these supplemental resources support your teaching or just learn something new! Updates are made regularly so visit often! <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Education>

### **6. Revised *Field Trip Tips* Web Page**

The *Field Trip Tips* Web page from the IDNR Division of Education can help you find potential field trip destinations at Illinois state parks as well as lessons and resources to prepare the students before the field trip, to implement during the field trip and to follow up after the field trip. All lessons are correlated to current Illinois Learning Standards. The Web site also provides information about the amenities available at each park and lesson topics relevant to each park. Taking your students on a field trip to study Illinois' natural resources can be a great learning experience!

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/fieldtrip.aspx>

### **7. New Video Podcast**

The *Illinois Prairie Wildflowers* video podcast can be found in the Podcasts page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/podcasts.aspx>. The video podcast is also available on YouTube.

### **8. Reserve Resources Trunks and Packs Now!**

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.

### **9. 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!

### **10. 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

### **11. *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](mailto:bob.bluett@illinois.gov).