

May 2017

1. May Kids for Conservation®: White Oak

The May edition of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of the "White Oak." 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. We have developed a version of the information section specific to early childhood educators. "Kids in Action" features the students of Lake View High School in Chicago who planted a rain garden on the school grounds. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx> and get started today! The June topic covers the fishes in the "Illinois Perches" family.

2. Beall Woods State Park Programs

Beall Woods State Park near Mt. Carmel is hosting the following program in May. Registration is required, but there is no admission fee. For more information, contact Jacque Cullison, Natural Resources Coordinator, at jacque.cullison@illinois.gov or 618-298-2441.

Kids to Parks Day: Tricky Tracks

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

During a walk in the woods, down a road or even in your yard you might come across animals' tracks. Some of them can be easy to identify, while others may be a little tricky. Practice your track identification by participating in the following activities at Beall Woods State Park: Track Bingo; Creating Plaster Tracks; Track Rubbings; Tricky Tracks; and Where-When-Who. Please call 618-298-2441 to register by May 13, 2017.

3. Upcoming Programs at Dickson Mounds Museum

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

Tot Time

Thursday, May 4, 2017, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Adults and their tots will have fun exploring, discovering and learning on the first Thursday of the month in the 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 Havana National Bank, G-M Mechanical of Canton and Doug Dennis of Manito. The topic for May is "Wildflowers."

Let's Fly a Kite

Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of kite flying. Visitors of all ages may enjoy learning how to fly pole kites, wind resistance exploration, trying out "wings", fun with bubbles and making their own kite craft to take home. The program will be presented by Heather McMeekan, M.S., founder of the annual Macomb Kite Festival. She has been an avid kite enthusiast for more than 25 years and promotes kite-flying as a recreational, motivational and therapeutic activity suitable for all ages and ability levels. Enjoy live music performed by the Bug Trotters, a group of friends who get together to play Old-Time Square Dance music. Together, they represent more than a half-dozen central Illinois bands, but for Illinois State Museum events they perform under the Bug Trotters name. They will be providing lively tunes played on fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin and harmonica. This event will be held outdoors, but may be

moved inside in the case of inclement weather. Participants should dress appropriately for this outdoor activity and bring their own sunscreen, hat, blankets or lawn chairs and water if needed. Dickson Mounds is hosting the event with help from the City of Lewistown, the Emiquon Partnership and the University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalists. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. All ages are welcome.

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. Applications Now Being Accepted for 2018 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants

Visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx> to find the instructions and application form for the 2018 *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* program from the IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Foundation. Teachers and home-schooling educators of grades prekindergarten through 12 in Illinois may apply. Take learning to life with an *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant*. The application deadline is January 31, 2018. All funds for this program are donated.

5. 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! All funds for this program are donated.

6. 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

7. 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!

8. Biodiversity of Illinois CD-ROM Series Conversion to Web-based Format – More Species Added

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 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.

9. New Video Podcast

The *White Oak* video podcast can be found in the Podcasts page at

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/podcasts.aspx> after April 30, 2017. This video podcast is also available on YouTube.

10. 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!

11. 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

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