

October 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!

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 - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

Illinois' Urban Wildlife, November 5, 2016, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago - Registration closes at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, October 28, 2016.

2. October Kids for Conservation®: *What Part of a Tree became a Part of Me?*

The October edition of the IDNR's Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of trees as food for wildlife. "*What Part of a Tree became a Part of Me?*" discusses how all parts of a tree are used for food by other species. 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 Elizabeth Moore of Rock Island High School. Elizabeth 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! The November topic is "*Canada Geese.*"

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. *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM Series Conversion to Web-based Format

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.

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. New Video Podcast

The *What Part of a Tree became a Part of Me?* 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.

7. 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.

8. 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!

9. 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

10. 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.

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.