

“i Volunteer” Newsletter

Fall, 2011

Vol. 3, Issue 3

Welcome FRIENDS OF PYRAMIND STATE PARK!

FRIENDS OF PYRAMID STATE PARK was formed in January of this year. Their mission is to preserve, improve, support, and promote Pyramid State Park, in Pickneyville, Illinois. The Group already has accomplished a lot and has a long list of goals they wish to reach.

“The Park is a diamond in the rough that can be cut to brilliance with additional financial and other resources. The overall goal of the Group is to demonstrate that the mined lands that comprise Pyramid can be recycled back into the community in ways that benefit wildlife, agriculture and the economy. With the proper blend of conservation and sustainable development, the coal lands that comprise Pyramid will become that brilliant diamond.” (excerpt from their Mission Statement)

They have identified and instituted initial projects and have a list of future projects including developing activity for young people and a volunteer program for the park. If you are interested in joining or volunteering with the **Friends of Pyramid State Park**, you can contact Bill Roe at 618-357-8773 or email him at lta@onecliq.net.



“i Volunteer” Newsletter

The “i Volunteer” Newsletter is published quarterly by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Special Events, Programs and Promotions, Volunteer Network Program, IDNR Region IV Office, 4521 Alton Commerce Parkway, Alton, IL 62002.

Email: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

Additional and Updated information for IDNR Friends Groups

Better Fishing Assn. of Northern Illinois, Inc. website: <http://www.better-fishing-assoc.org>
Contact Tom Wall at info@better-fishing-assoc.org

Rock Cut Rail Crew NFP website: <http://www.rctrailcrew.org> Contact Chris Kelley at administrator@rctrailcrew.org

Save the Prairie Society website: <http://www.savetheprairiesociety.org> Contact Lawrence Godson at lawrencegodson@yahoo.com

Salt Creek Greenway Association website: <http://www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org>
Contact Valerie Spale at stpsspale@aol.com

Kickapoo Mountain Bike Club website: <http://www.kickapoombc.org> Contact Andy Warren at awarren@mchsi.com

CLIFFTOP NFP website: <http://www.clifftopalliance.org> Contact Pen & Carl Daubach at clifftop@htc.net

Southeastern Illinois Prescribed Burn Assn. website: <http://www.sipba.org> Contact Richard Johnson at richjinson@yahoo.com

Friends of Giant City website: <http://www.giantcity.org> Contact Mary Kelly at friendsofgiantcity@gmail.com

You can view our entire list of IDNR Friends Groups at <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/friends.htm>

Veterans Conservation Corps Forming at State Parks

Illinois Veterans interested in working on a volunteer basis on projects that restore the state's natural habitats can join the Veterans Conservation Corps at **Volo Bog State Natural Area, Moraine Hills State Park & McHenry Dam**

By becoming a member of the Conservation Corps, volunteers become part of a team that is dedicated to protect Illinois' natural resources. VCC volunteers gain new skills and knowledge, work with natural resource professionals and connect with people who have the same interests.

The Veterans Conservation Corps is a joint program from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The VCC is forming a combined group at **Volo Bog State Natural Area in Ingleside** and **Moraine Hills State Park & McHenry Dam in McHenry**. Volunteers are needed for a variety of projects.

Veterans interested in becoming a member of Veterans Conservation Corps are encouraged to first contact their local IDVA office or Veterans Assistance Commission office:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/pages/conservation-corps.aspx>

McHenry County Office 815-338-9292

Lake County Office 847-689-4798

County Veterans Assistance Commission:

McHenry County 815-334-4229: Website:

<http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/vac/Pages/index.aspx>

Lake County 847-377-3344: Website:

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/veterans/Pages/Default.aspx>



THANK YOU to Salt Creek Greenway Assn. for organizing a very successful National Public Lands Day at Wolf Road Prairie! Over 35 volunteers helped clear buckthorn from more than an acre of IDNR land! For upcoming events and volunteer opportunities visit their website at: <http://www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org>

“The Power of Friends Groups”



You can listen to a podcast of the Outdoor Illinois editorial on “The Power of Friends Groups” at: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/podcasts.aspx> . The editorial was in the October issue inside front cover.

You can enjoy every issue of the Outdoor Illinois by signing up for your own subscription. The monthly magazine gives current information on hunting, camping and fishing and you can learn more about Illinois' natural and cultural resources.

Subscribe to Outdoor Illinois magazine online at: <https://www.illinoisePAY.com/epay/GetSite?cmd=get&siteId=575>

Volunteers needed at Argyle Lake State Park, Colchester

Upcoming Events: **Atkinson McCord Cemetery Tour** Saturday, October 29—10:00a.m.—Noon

2011 Canoe/Kayak Tour of Lake Argyle, Saturday November 5—10:00a.m.—Noon

Woodland Wonders Nature Hike, Saturday November 19—10:00 a.m.—Noon



Winter Woodland Wonders Nature Hikes, Saturday, December 3—10:00a.m.—Noon and Saturday December 17—10:00 a.m.—Noon.

For more specific information or to volunteer, please call the park visitor center at **309-776-3422** or email Bridget.Hinchee@illinois.gov

ATTENTION: High School Students and Conservation Groups

You are invited to participate in the second annual **Youth Conservation Congress**, November 19 and 20, at Illinois Beach State Park, Zion IL. Participants must be a high school Sophomore through Senior. A maximum of 2 chaperones and 8 students for those requesting overnight accommodations. Overnight accommodations are limited, so register now.

Youth presenters needed!! Participants from established conservation groups are asked to prepare a 5 to 10 minute presentation on one of the following topics: **Resource Conservation, Recreation, Stewardship, or Innovation** to highlight your accomplishments.

Event Details

Online Registration

Click on above underlined links for more information

DID YOU KNOW?

284 Volunteers +269 bags of trash + 18,560 pounds of debris +123 tires +hundreds of other items = the Great Rock River Sweep! THANK YOU to the volunteers and staff for organizing the 2nd Annual Great Rock River Sweep of 2011!

For future Sweeps, view their Website at: www.rockriversweep.org

Happy 30th Anniversary to Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee

On September 25th, **The Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee** celebrated their 30th Anniversary. Since 1987, the **Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee** has been continuing their volunteer involvement by working to reconstruct the Franklin Creek Grist Mill in Franklin Grove. The original early American corn meal and wheat flour producing mill, constructed in 1847, was the "largest and most complete" grist mill in Lee County. The newly reconstructed Franklin Creek Grist Mill became operational in 1999. Now the **Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee** operates and maintains the facility. Along with milling demonstrations, the building is open to the public and serves as a visitors center for the natural area. **Happy Anniversary and Thank You** for your Commitment to IDNR. For more information on the **Franklin Creek Preservation Area Committee** contact William Abate at abate@essex1.com.



CALENDAR EVENT

SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY is hosting a free presentation on "Invasive Plants" Friday, October 28, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at the LaGrange Library, 10 W. Cossit, in LaGrange. Invasive Plants are spreading in our yards and our preserves, and along our roadways and waterways. How do we identify them and how do we control them? Peter Carlson, a certified naturalist and an environmental analyst, will provide samples and hand-outs followed by a PowerPoint presentation to help answer these questions. The session will end with an open discussion inviting opinions about the pros and cons of controlling these plants. For more information contact lawrencegodson@yahoo.com

Your new VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK is available online!

Please read and/or print the new **IDNR Volunteer Handbook** at:
http://www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/pdf/Volunteer_handbook.pdf

If you are a volunteer with the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**, this is YOUR Handbook!

It will give you all the information you need to know about serving as an IDNR Volunteer.

It contains important information on volunteer responsibilities; insurance; personal property and equipment; benefits; hours, safety; emergency information and many tips.

Your **Volunteer Time Sheet** is also included in the **Handbook**. Make as many copies as you need so that you can report your volunteer hours to your Volunteer Supervisor. If you are a **Volunteer Group**, please print copies for your members.

We hope the **IDNR Volunteer Handbook** will answer a lot of your questions and concerns and help your volunteer experience with **IDNR** be safe and enjoyable.



For more information, to change your email address or to subscribe or unsubscribe to the **"i Volunteer" Newsletter** you may email: **Dianne Blasa**, the Volunteer Network Program Manager at: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov



The IDNR Volunteer Network Program utilizes thousands of volunteers each year. The volunteers who devote their time and efforts are a vital resource in the management and protection of our natural and recreational resources. Our volunteers are individuals, community organizations, youth groups, retired people, families and people of all ages and backgrounds who would like to help us fulfill our mission "to manage, protect and sustain Illinois' natural and cultural resources, provide resource-compatible recreational opportunities and promote natural resource-related public safety, education and science". Thank you volunteers for giving back to your community!