



"i Volunteer" Newsletter

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Illinois
Department of
Natural
Resources

IDNR CAMPGROUND HOST PROGRAM

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Do you have an enthusiasm for working with the public and love to camp? If so, the perfect option for some volunteers is to serve as a **Campground Host**. We offer a free campsite in any of approximately 55 state parks in exchange for 35 hours a week. Hosts, in return, are given a designated campsite with water and electrical hookups at no charge for the duration of their stay. Often couples serve as campground hosts, dividing up the necessary tasks between them. We have a need for hosts at all of our campgrounds. Some sites have already been filled. The hosts that we know we need for the upcoming 2011 camping season are for:

Mississippi Palisades State Park, Savanna - 815-273-2731

Red Hills State Park, Sumner - 618-936-2469

Johnson-Sauk Trail SRA, Kewanee - 309-853-5589

Horseshoe Lake SP, Miller City - 618-776-5689

Call any of these sites and ask for the **Site Superintendent**. Also, look for an updated list in future issues. Thank you to those who volunteered as Campground Hosts in the past. We hope you will contact your site to reserve your place in 2011!




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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 address: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

GRANT AVAILABLE TO FRIENDS GROUPS

"Our nation's public lands need our support every day. That support comes from "Friends Groups" who promote and help maintain public lands. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) seeks to strengthen these organizations and unleash their potential to serve their local public lands. *Every Day Grants*, sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc., are designed to provide funding to strengthen the organizational effectiveness of community based 501 (C) (3) Friends Groups. NEEF will award 20 grants of up to \$5,000 each to enable them to better serve the lands they love. **Applications are due January 30, 2011.**" Friends Groups can find out more and apply at: http://www.neefusa.org/grants/every_day_grants_2011.htm. For questions, about the *Every Day Grants*, you can email: grantsadmin@neefusa.org.

OUR VOLUNTEER "WISH LIST"

Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside

Volo Bog State Natural Area in Ingleside, Illinois is accepting applications for Volunteer Weekend Naturalists, Docents and Interpretive Office Support. Training will begin on **Saturday, January 22** and continue on **Saturdays, January 29 and February 5**. Weekend Naturalists are adults who lead guided tours of Volo Bog one weekend day per month. Prospective Weekend Naturalist volunteers are encouraged to attend the Wednesday Wetland Botany on **December 29**. Docents assist in the Visitor Center on one weekend day per month. Interpretive Office Support is a weekly position, on a Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteers are asked for a minimum commitment of one year. For an application, and to set up an interview, phone Naturalist **Stacy Iwanicki** at **815-344-1294**. Volunteer applications are also available at www.FriendsofVoloBog.org, or <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/R2/VOLOBOG.HTM>.

Moraine Hills State Park, McHenry

Moraine Hills State Park in McHenry, Illinois is accepting applications for Volunteer Docents. Docents at Moraine Hills provide a welcoming presence in the Nature Center, answer questions about the park and share tips on enjoying the many ecosystems, trails and activities at this site. Docents are adults with some familiarity of the site, are outgoing and wish to share their passion for Moraine Hills State Park. Volunteers are asked for a minimum commitment of one year. For an application, and to set up an interview, phone Naturalist **Stacy Iwanicki** at **815-344-1294**. Volunteer applications are available at the Visitor Center and also at www.FriendsofMoraineHillsStatePark.org.

Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park, Sheffield



The **Friends of the Hennepin Canal** can use volunteers for their Adopt-A Trail project. The volunteers can choose to cleanup litter on one or more sections of the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park. The sections cover a mile, more or less.

The available Hennepin Canal sections can be viewed at the Friends website: www.friends-hennepin-canal.org/adopt-a-trail

The **Friends of Hennepin Canal** website will also provide all the information an individual or group will need to Adopt-A-Trail.

FIND A FRIEND ~ ON THE WEB

IDNR is blessed to have so many wonderful **Friends Groups** who help support and volunteer at our sites, parks and with our Divisions. Quite a few of the groups have developed great websites! If you would like to find a **Friends Group** to join, you can read about their mission and goals on their site ~ here are a few!

Region I - Northwest

Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois, Inc.: www.better-fishing-assoc.org

Friends of Argyle Lake State Park: www.Friendsofargyle.org

Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Committee: www.essex1.com/people/fcpac

Friends of the Hennepin Canal: www.friends-hennepin-canal.org

Friends of Rock Island Trail: www.ritrail.org

Starved Rock Historical and Educational Foundation, Inc.: www.starvedrockfoundation.org

Region II - Northeast

Friends of Bluff Spring Fen: www.bluffspringfen.org

Goose Lake Prairie Partners, Inc.: www.goselakeprairie.org

Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society: www.illinoisdunesland.org

Save the Prairie Society: www.savetheprairiesociety.org

Region III - East-Central

Fox Ridge Foundation: www.foxridgefoundation.org

Kickapoo Mountain Bike Club: www.kickapoombc.org

Weldon Springs Foundation: www.weldonsprings.org

Region IV - West-Central

Conserving Lands in Farm, Forest, Talus, or Prairie: www.clifftopalliance.org

Friends of Sanganois: www.sanganois.org

Region V - South

Friends of Giant City: www.giantcity.org

KIDS VOLUNTEER!



In 1980, **Boy Scout Troop 92** set a goal of increasing the wood duck population by constructing, installing, monitoring and maintaining boxes in Chain O Lakes State Park in Spring Grove and to create a continuing project that promoted environmental awareness, team work and outdoor fun. Fifty houses were constructed in 1980 and subsequent troop members (nearly 100 scouts and 30 leaders, with one of the

original scouts, now a leader) have cleaned boxes annually and repaired and replaced boxes as needed. 2010 was their 31st year with the wood duck nesting project. There is no way of knowing how long a volunteer will be committed to a task. We are extremely thankful to **Boy Scout Troop 92** for continuing their volunteer work and for helping increase the wood duck population at Chain O' Lakes State Park!





For this issue and past issues of the "i Volunteer" Newsletter visit:
www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/newsletter.htm



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service January 17, 2011

Purpose: To help keep Dr. King's legacy of service to others alive.



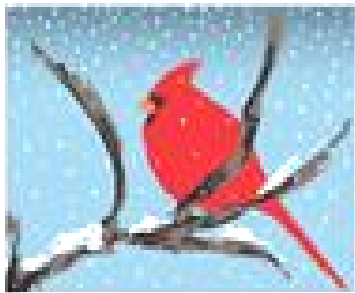
The IDNR Volunteer Network Program utilizes thousands of volunteers each year. The volunteers who devote their time and efforts are a vital resource in the management and protection of our natural and recreational resources. Our volunteers are individuals, community organizations, youth groups, retired 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". For more information, you may email Dianne Blasa, the Volunteer Network Program Manager at: dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

To change your email address or to subscribe or unsubscribe to the "i Volunteer" Newsletter email:
dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/IL-Department-of-Natural-Resources-Special-Events-Programs-Promotions/314054658535?v=wall>

You can access any of the websites mentioned in this Newsletter or send emails by just clicking on the link or CTL + click on link



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Program

The devotion of your time is vital in the management and protection of our natural and recreational resources in Illinois. Thanks to your efforts, a lasting difference was made in your community. Your help is very much appreciated. **We look forward to working with you in 2011 and beyond!**

