



“i Volunteer” Newsletter

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Network Program

YOUR IDNR VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK IS AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Volume 3, Issue 1
Spring, 2011

You can read and print the new **IDNR Volunteer Handbook** at:
http://www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer/pdf/volunteer_projects_directory.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.

“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

FIVE STEPS TO BECOME AN IDNR VOLUNTEER

First of all, Thank You for your interest in becoming an IDNR Volunteer!

#1 Check the **Volunteer Projects Directory**. It offers information about our programs, positions and geographic location of volunteer opportunities. Look through the Directory to choose a volunteer opportunity for you in the area where you live or want to volunteer.

#2 Contact the IDNR staff person designated for the program or position listed in the Directory to determine if there is a volunteer opportunity available. Schedule a time to meet with the IDNR staff person. You will be assigned a Volunteer Supervisor who will be there for questions, concerns and anything else that may help you perform your volunteer duties.

#3 Complete Volunteer Paperwork: Application; Job Description/Waiver; and Vehicle Authorization form, if applicable. You will be given a written Job Description and the duties stated in the Job Description are the only volunteer duties that you should perform.

#4 Read and print the **IDNR Volunteer Handbook**. This is your Handbook and it will give you all the information you need to know about serving as an IDNR Volunteer.

#5 Keep track of your volunteer hours. This is important for insurance, reporting and recognition reasons. Turn in your hours to your Volunteer Supervisor frequently, preferably after you volunteer or on a monthly basis if you are a returning volunteer.

Thank you for joining our team of volunteers who share their love of nature, their time, and their dedication to conservation. If you need additional information on the Volunteer Program, please email Dianne Blasa, IDNR *Volunteer Network Program Manager* at dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov.

If you would like information on the Campground Host Program, please contact Barbara Foster, Campground Host Coordinator, at Barbara.L.Foster@illinois.gov.

IDNR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CAMPGROUND HOSTS NEEDED

It's Camping Season—and we are still in need of a few Campground Hosts

White Pines Forest State Park is looking for two campground hosts for the 2011 camping season. White Pines is located at 6712 W. Pines Rd., in Mt. Morris. Please call [815-946-3717](tel:815-946-3717) to learn more about the host position or email Site Superintendent, [Elmer Stauffer](mailto:Elmer.Stauffer@illinois.gov) at: Elmer.Stauffer@illinois.gov

Loren Swanson, Site Superintendent at **Mississippi Palisades State Park**, located at 16327A, Route 84 in Savanna, just advised us he will need hosts for the 2011 camping season. He has camp sites for 4 sets of hosts! You can contact [Loren Swanson](mailto:Loren.Swanson@illinois.gov) at [815-273-2731](tel:815-273-2731) or email: Loren.Swanson@illinois.gov

Apple River Canyon State Park located at 8763 East Canyon Road, in Apple River is in need of additional campground hosts. Please contact [Jay Nottrott](mailto:Jay.Nottrott@illinois.gov), Site Superintendent at [815-745-3302](tel:815-745-3302) if you are interested.

In the Southern part of Illinois

Sangchris Lake State Park is looking for campground hosts. Sangchris is located at 9898 Cascade Road in Rochester. To learn more about this position, please call [Steve Carey](mailto:Steve.Carey@illinois.gov), Site Superintendent at [217-498-9208](tel:217-498-9208) or email: steve.carey@illinois.gov

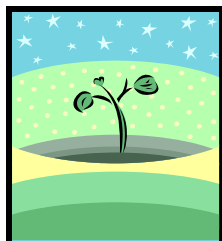
To volunteer as a **Campground Host**, contact your local Park Office, or the IDNR Campground Host Coordinator

at [217-785-8129](tel:217-785-8129) or email: Barbara.L.Foster@illinois.gov

Jim Edgar Panther Creek is looking for campground hosts for its Equestrian Campground to begin immediately. Jim Edgar is located at 10149 Highway 11 in Chandlerville. If you are interested, please call [Mike Wickens](mailto:Mike.Wickens@illinois.gov), Site Superintendent at [217-452-7741](tel:217-452-7741) or email: Mike.Wickens@illinois.gov.

Joey Thurston, Site Superintendent at **Horseshoe Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area**, located in Miller City is in need of campground hosts for the 2011 camping season. Please call [618-776-5689](tel:618-776-5689) to learn more about this position or email: Joey.Thurston@illinois.gov

YOU'RE INVITED TO PUMP UP THE PRAIRIE !



Join the **Salt Creek Greenway Association** in helping to preserve the biodiversity and restore connection to the land on **Saturday March 26th**. They will restore 80 acres of beautiful prairie lands in **Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve**.

Located just 15 miles west of downtown Chicago, this protected prairie is not only a gift to those who love experiencing nature, it is a vital component of sustaining the Midwest. You'll be among fellow nature and prairie enthusiasts, hauling and stacking cut brush.

Come for an hour or join in for the whole morning but don't miss being a part of this important restoration effort.

What to Bring: Bring your Friends, Family and sturdy work gloves. Be prepared to get a little dirty.
Contact: Valerie Spale at stpspale@aol.com or Jack Pizzo at jack@pizzo.info.

For more information about **PUMP UP THE PRAIRIE**, **Salt Creek Greenway Association** and the **Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve** please visit their web site at www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org or call at (708) 865-8736.
How Else Can You Help? Make a 100% tax-deductible donation enabling a purchase of commercial-grade chainsaws, brush-cutters, herbicide and sprayers. No dollar amount is too small to help us purchase the equipment we need to

Pump Up The Prairie.

Looking forward to **PUMPING UP THE PRAIRIE** with you!

MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

IDNR HAS A NEW FRIEND'S GROUP!

The **Friends of Pyramid State Park** formed in January of this year. Their mission is to preserve, improve, support and promote **Pyramid State Park** in Pickneyville. They will conduct charitable and/or educational activities and endeavors designed to develop resources and support for the ongoing preservation, improvement and promotion of **Pyramid State Park**. If you are interested in joining or donating to the group, you can contact **Bill Roe** at lta@onecliq.net.

20TH ANNUAL TWO RIVERS FAMILY FISHING FAIR

Would you like to help a child learn to fish or become a better angler? The **Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair** at **Pere Marquette State Park** in Grafton, offers many opportunities for volunteers. The largest kids Fishing Fair in the State will be held **Saturday, June 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** You can help a child learn knot tying, fish identification, fish cleaning, casting and many other skills. We also need help with set-up and tear-down for the event. This is a **free** event and no license or fishing gear is needed. Everything is provided. Volunteers will receive a Fishing Fair commemorative hat and lunch is also provided. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help the youth of Illinois learn to experience the excitement and relaxation fishing offers or if you have a station you think would be good to add to our Fair to teach children about fishing, contact **Dianne Blasa** at **618-462-1181 ext. 3** or email dianne.blasa@illinois.gov. Volunteer groups and individual volunteers are welcome.

GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE STATE NATURAL AREA

Would you like to bring volunteer assistance to **Goose Lake Prairie SNA** in Morris, IL? You may even want to become one of the partners of the **Goose Lake Prairie Partners**. They are currently working on the upcoming Earth Day activities in April and the **27th Annual Cabin Festival** which will be held **Saturday, June 4th**. The Cabin Festival is an annual event to celebrate cabin living and life in the 1830's. To find out how you can help or donate, contact the **Goose Lake Prairie SNA Visitor Center** at **(815) 942-2899**. You could play a vital part in the preservation of a unique natural area. The list of the **Goose Lake Prairie Partners'** 2011 events is on their Calendar page at http://www.gooselakeprairie.org/pdf_files/2011specialevents.pdf

GREEN RIVER STATE WILDLIFE AREA

Green River State Wildlife Area is located off of Highway 26 between Princeton and Dixon, in Harmon, IL. The site has a wonderful group of volunteers who are always looking for volunteer help with their projects at the **Green River State Wildlife Area**. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact **Deb Carey** at dcarey@grics.net. Deb said: "We are sort of off the beaten path and would love to get more people involved in volunteering. DNR staff does such a great job caring for our natural resources that we wish to assist in any way possible."
Contact Deb if you would like to help.

SAFETY EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is always looking for qualified individuals who would like to become volunteer instructors in its **Safety Education Programs**. An eligible applicant must: be 18 years of age or older; complete all volunteer paperwork; and be a graduate of the student safety course in the specific program for which they are applying for certification as an instructor.

For more information about the Program and on the certification process go to:
<http://dnr.state.il.us/SAFETY/volunteers.htm>



You can access any of the websites mentioned in this Newsletter or send emails by *Ctrl + left click*



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!

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

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 10-16




National Volunteer Week is **April 10-16** this year! We want to recognize and celebrate the efforts of our volunteers. This is also "a time to inspire and encourage people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It is all about demonstrating that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals". *

*Information on National Volunteer Week provided by *HandsOn Network*: <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/nationalprograms/signatureevents/nvw>

IDNR Volunteers contributed more than a quarter million hours last year and provided immense value to our State Parks and Natural Resources. Please tell us about the impact volunteers are making in your community or through your organization by emailing Dianne at dnr.volunteers@illinois.gov.

This is the time for **IDNR staff** to be thinking about who they want to nominate for **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Friends Group of the Year and Volunteer Group of the Year**. IDNR Staff can Email Dianne.Blasa@illinois.gov for more information or go to **SharePoint** for the **Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form**.

 Go Green! Print this only when necessary.

Thank you for helping the State of Illinois be environmentally responsible.