

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

SUMMER, 2011

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IDNR 2011 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR HONORED AT STATE FAIR

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) honored ten individuals and three groups as Outstanding Volunteers of the Year for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the IDNR. The awards were presented during a ceremony in Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair on Saturday, Aug. 20th.

"The IDNR is fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers who are doing great work on projects and programs at state parks and on conservation and natural resources stewardship efforts all over the state," said IDNR Director Marc Miller. "This recognition program is one way we can thank them for the valuable service and expertise they provide to us and to the people of the State of Illinois." This year's honorees are:

- **PHILLIP COLBURN** of Springfield, nominated by Beth Shea, Illinois State Museum
- **JOANNETT (JO) FLEMING** of Morris, nominated by Joe Giacone, Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area
- **JERRY KUCHENBROD and KIM KUCHENBROD** of Armstrong, nominated by David Cassens, Special Events Programs and Promotions National Archery in the Schools Program
- **THE MARSHALL WOOD DUCK ALLIANCE, in memory of TOM ROSEN**, of Toluca, nominated by Tony Colvin, Marshall State Fish & Wildlife Area
- **OREGON TRAIL DAYS COMMITTEE**, of Oregon, nominated by Grant Afflerbaugh, Lowden State Park
- **KURT PLYMIRE and JANET PLYMIRE**, of Streator, nominated by Tom Levy, Starved Rock State Park
- **SALT CREEK GREENWAY ASSOCIATION**, of Leland, nominated by Maggie Cole, Division of Natural Heritage Region II
- **NICHOLAS (NICK) TURNER**, of Springfield, nominated by Beth Shea, Illinois State Museum
- **TOM WILLIAMS, FLO WOJCEICHOWSKI, and the late AMY WILLIAMS**, nominated by Tom Levy, Starved Rock State Park.



IDNR Director Marc Miller with the 2011 Outstanding Volunteers of the Year at the Volunteer of the Year Ceremony in Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair

The following **Outstanding Volunteers of the Year** were not able to attend the Ceremony and will receive Awards in their hometown:

- **DAVID HOLMAN** of Grayslake, nominated by Tara Kieninger, Division of Natural Heritage, and
- **KERRY JONES** of Harrisburg, nominated by Joni Patterson Diggins, Office of Strategic Services, Safety Education Program

2nd ANNUAL GREAT ROCK RIVER SWEEP

Saturday, September 10, 2011

You are invited!

ALWAYS
WEAR YOUR
PFD
WHILE ON
THE WATER

Volunteers are again invited to participate at any of the registered sections listed on the [Rock River Sweep](http://www.rockriversweep.org) website at: <http://www.rockriversweep.org>

"Invite your friends and family to experience a rewarding experience on the water. They might just be pleasantly surprised how much fun a river clean-up can really be. The annual [Great Rock River Sweep](#) is not only a river clean-up, but a celebration as well; a celebration of our [Rock River](#)."

As you provide stewardship for this grand and beautiful natural resource on river sweep day, please take a few minutes and pause; pause to reflect on the natural beauty that abounds along the river. Pause to reflect on the national treasure you are maintaining."
Frank Masterman, Founder of the Great Rock River Sweep

The IDNR Sites that are along the [Rock River](#) and could be part of the [Rock River Sweep](#), with your help, are:

- [Lowden State Park](#), just north of Oregon
- [Castle Rock State Park](#), a few miles downstream from Oregon
- [Lowden-Miller State Forest](#), right across the river from [Castle Rock State Park](#), and
- [Prophetstown State Park](#), just upstream from [Prophetstown](#)

Good Stream Stewardship depends on all of us: The official summer recreational season is winding down, and our [Rock River](#) will continue to require attention. You are encouraged to always leave your river or stream cleaner than you found it. ... [Frank Masterman](#)



Saturday, September 17, 2011

Lt. Governor [Simon](#) invites communities and organizations to plan an [It's Our River Day](#) event. Celebrated on the third Saturday in September, [It's Our River Day](#) is a celebration of Illinois Rivers through education, recreation and conservation. Rivers have been the foundation of communities throughout time, providing food, resources and transportation. By participating in [It's Our River Day](#), communities will come together to learn about, protect and enjoy our vital resource.

These events may include river clean ups, canoe/kayaking trips, educational booths at festivals, fundraisers, recycling days and much more. Help make this year bigger and better by planning an event today.

Register your [It's Our River Day](#) event [here](#).

For more information on [It's Our River Day](#), and for a map of events, visit Lt. Governor [Simon's](#) website at:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/ltgov/Pages/IORD.aspx>

ANNUAL KANKAKEE RIVER CLEAN-UP

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Come celebrate Illinois Rivers month!!! Volunteer for the [Kankakee River Clean-up](#) and/or participate in the many programs offered during the month.

Join us to help keep our river one of the cleanest in the nation. Sign up between 8 and 11 AM at the park's concession stand to clean up litter along the banks of the river and Rock Creek.

Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Upon return, participants will receive a free lunch and a patch.

For more information contact [Stacey Johnson](#) at 815-933-1383, ext.25 or email her at Stacey.johnson@illinois.gov.

GOOD FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE COMPANY

IDNR Friends Groups consist of dedicated organizations and individuals who support a specific project or raise awareness of a site's value. They provide a unique support system for our natural areas across the state. They come from many backgrounds, but they all share one thing - they want to help enhance, preserve and protect IDNR sites, including interpretive and educational activities. **For more information on a Friends Group's current projects or membership opportunities, just hit Ctrl + left click on the website address or you may contact the Group directly.** It is a great way to connect with volunteer stewardship groups across the **State of Illinois**.

Name of Site or Division	Website	Contact Name	Phone	Email
REGION I				
Argyle Lake State Park	www.friendsofargyle.org	Beverly Baker	Contact Site	friendsofargyle@gmail.com
Franklin Creek SNA	www.essex1.com/people/fcpac	Bill Abate	Contact Site	abate@essex1.com
Hennepin Canal State Park	http://www.friends-hennepin-canal.org	Pat Stier	Contact Site	info@friends-hennepin-canal.org
Johnson Sauk Trail State Park		Lorraine Owens	309-852-4262	
Jubilee College State Park		Doug Franks	309-691-7993	
Lake Le-Aqua-Na		Wendell Kurr	815-563-4984	
Morrison-Rockwood State Park		Richard Aceberg	815-778-3719	
Rock Island State Trail	http://www.ritrail.org	George Burrier, Jr.	309-266-5085	gburrier@mtco.com
Starved Rock State Park	http://www.starvedrockfoundation.org	Pam Grivetti	815-667-5356	starvedrockfoundation@yahoo.com
REGION II				
Bluff Spring Fen/Natural Heritage	http://www.bluffspringfen.org	Rick & Mel Manner	847-464-4426	bluffspringfen@gmail.com
Goose Lake State Prairie SNA	www.gooselakeprairie.org	Susie Johnson	Contact Site	cjohnson0969@comcast.net
IL State Beach/Natural Heritage	http://www.illinoisdunesland.org	Paul Kakuris	312-332-3377	ildunesland@aol.com
Moraine Hills State Park	www.FriendsofMoraineHillsStatePark.org	Bob Vetter	Contact Site	info@friendsofmorainehillsstatepark.org
Volo Bog State Natural Area	www.FriendsofVoloBog.org	Dan Haller	Contact Site	info@friendsofvolobog.org
REGION III				
Fox Ridge State Park	http://www.foxridgefoundation.org	Marc Carlton	Contact Site	marcc@uillinois.edu
Shelbyville State FWA	http://www.lakeshelbyvillemuskie.com	Kevin McGill	Contact Site	info@shelbyvillemuskie.com
Weldon Springs State Park	http://www.weldonsprings.org	Mary Mitchell-Stites	217-935-2644	info@weldonsprings.org
REGION IV				
Pere Marquette State Park		Laef Lorton	618-498-2167	lortonlaw@gtec.com
Sanganos Conservation Area	www.sanganos.org	Bo Arnold	217-741-1373	boa3@myway.com
Stemler NP/ Natural Heritage		Carrie Magill or		carrie6@htc.net
"		Bob & Nancy Weck		bnweck@htc.net
World Shooting & Rec. Complex		Kay Courtney	618-282-3044	kajoco@htc.net
REGION V				
Cache River /Tunnel Hill/Ferne Clyffe	http://www.friendsofcache.org	Carrie Walczak	618-634-2231	info@friendsofcache.org
Giant City State Park	http://www.giantcity.org		618-457-4836	giantcity.org@earthlink.net
Fort Massac State Park		Sue Barfield	618-524-2245	suebarfield@comcast.net

NOTE: If you visit the links above you are leaving this site. The IDNR does not control and cannot guarantee the relevance, timeliness, or accuracy of the materials and information provided by other agencies or organizations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF UPCOMING EVENTS

The Friends of the Cache River Watershed are seeking volunteers to help in the Hunting and Fishing Days tent on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, at John A Logan College.

Volunteers are also needed for Cache River Days in Ullin on Saturday September 10.

Either a morning or afternoon shift would be greatly appreciated.

To volunteer, please call Lynn Wolff at 618 549-7901 or email lwolff@midwest.net

YOUR NEW IDNR VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can read and 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



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

We're on the Web!

www.dnr.state.il.us/volunteer



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

 Go Green! Print this only when necessary.

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