

October 2015

1. Explore Our Newly Revised Web Page!

Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education> and learn about the many resources and programs available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education. You'll be able to find information easily through the new Web page design. Try the "A to Z" button for a quick list of links to all of our topics. Explore today and find out what you have been missing!

2. Interactive, Searchable Lessons Index

The IDNR Division of Education has added a section to the Web site that allows educators to easily search for IDNR lessons to support the curriculum. You can search by topic, learning standard (Common Core, Next Generation Science Standard, Illinois Early Learning and Development), grade level, subject area or any combination of these items. You can quickly determine if an IDNR lesson will meet your teaching needs by reading the description and clicking on the link to the lesson. All lessons were developed with learning standards as their foundation. Start using these Illinois-specific lessons soon! <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>

3. Video Podcasts

Mourning Doves and *Fall Colors* are the newest video podcasts available from the IDNR Division of Education. You can access them and all of the other educational video podcasts at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/podcasts.aspx> or through YouTube.

4. Kids for Conservation® for October: Fall Colors

The IDNR Division of Education's Kids for Conservation® program is requesting information monthly from Illinois youth (younger than age 18). We will feature photos, stories/poems/artwork and a map with locations highlighted about the monthly topic. All submissions must be the products of Illinois youth. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx> for details. Kids for Conservation® is great for schools, youth groups and families to participate in. The October topic is "Fall Colors." Send us photos of leaves displaying fall colors in Illinois (please don't include people in the photos), the county where you saw them and/or stories about fall leaves, and we'll post them on our Web page. The November topic is the "Wild Turkey."

5. Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Preliminary and Final Application Deadlines are Approaching Soon!

Have you ever wanted to plant a butterfly garden on the school grounds? Would you like to add some native trees to the school property to increase wildlife habitat? These and many other projects that develop or enhance wildlife habitat can be supported with funding from the *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* program. Teachers and youth-group leaders are eligible to apply for up to \$1,000 to apply to the project. The application form and instructions are posted at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>. Video podcasts are available on this Web site, too, to provide tips for completing the application form and to help answer questions you may have. The preliminary application deadline is October 31, 2015. The final deadline is November 30, 2015. All funding for this grants is donated. We thank the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation of Skokie, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and the Illinois Conservation Foundation for their continued support.

6. IDNR's Resources Trunks and Packs: Make Your Reservation Now!

Resources trunks and packs for loan from the IDNR are wonderful for use to support teaching lessons, with scout troops, with 4-H groups and for other educational activities. 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. Our Standards Web page (<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>) can help you find lessons associated with the trunks. The trunks and packs are available at lending locations statewide. Visit <https://www.dnr.partner.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx> for links to all of the resources trunks and packs. Several lending locations have recently been added or updated, so be sure to check the list for changes in your area. Coming soon! We are revising the *Illinois' State Symbols* trunk to include our State Vegetable, State Pie and State Tartan.

7. Upcoming ENTICE Professional Development Schedule

Register now for upcoming ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) workshops from the IDNR. ENTICE workshops offer training on Illinois-specific topics and supply you with the tools needed to implement the topic into your curriculum immediately. Participants learn from resources professionals, take part in activities and spend time outdoors (where appropriate). Professional Development Hours are available at all ENTICE workshops. Listed below are the workshops scheduled through February 27, 2016. For workshop details and to register, visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.

Illinois Prairies, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, October 17, 2015

Winter Wildlife on the Prairie, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, November 14, 2015

Illinois Prairies 101, Online, January 11-24, 2016.

Illinois Aquatics 101, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, February 13, 2016

Wildlife Basics for Early Childhood Educators, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest, February 27, 2016

8. 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](tel: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