

November 2019

1. Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant – Application Due by November 30

The *Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* program from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) can provide funds for teachers, nature center personnel and adults who are youth group leaders in Illinois (grades prekindergarten through 12) to enable students to develop or enhance wildlife habitat on the school grounds or another public place. Butterfly gardens, pollinator gardens, wetlands, prairie gardens, bird nesting boxes and bat roosting boxes are just some of the projects that qualify. You can find the application form, instructions and other relevant information through the Web page at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHAG.aspx>. The application deadline is November 30, 2019. Funding for this program is provided by donations to the Illinois Conservation Foundation by the Jadel Youth Fund and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation.

2. Tree Health Tool Kit

Your students can become citizen scientists as they monitor the health of local trees through this unit developed by staff members of The Morton Arboretum. Activities about tree monitoring/pest detection, tree risk assessment, tree stress scenarios, data sharing and building awareness are included. Tools for monitoring are also part of the pack. Data collected is entered into the “Healthy Trees Healthy Cities” app. You can monitor the trees on your school grounds or in the local community. Targeted to middle school and high school students and based on Next Generation Science Standards MS-LS2-4 and HS-LS2-7, the *Tree Health Tool Kit* is available for loan from six locations in northeastern Illinois in a pilot program from the IDNR. The activities are also great for use by youth groups, Envirothon, home-schooling educators, afterschool programs and youth camps. You can find the lending locations at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx>. Make your reservation today!

3. Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant

Teachers of grades prekindergarten through 12 in Illinois, including home-schooling teachers, may apply to the IDNR through the ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program to receive funding for natural resources-related field trips. Bus transportation and substitute teacher fees are the primary expenses covered. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2020. The optional preliminary application deadline is January 15, 2020. Visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx> for the application form, instructional video podcasts and complete grant instructions. This program is made possible through the generous donations of the D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation in Wilmington, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie and the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park. Funding is administered by the Illinois Conservation Foundation.

4. Earth Day in the Parks

Earth Day in the Parks is a natural resources stewardship program for students. Available at participating IDNR state parks, museums and historic sites, events are held in April and May. Students are at the site for about two hours and conduct activities such as planting native wildflowers and grasses, building and installing nesting/roosting boxes and removing nonnative, invasive plants. Teachers must apply to attend the event at a specific site. A drawing is held for each site from the applications for that site. Only the winners from the drawing are allowed to bring their students to the event. Applications are accepted from January 1, 2020, through February 28, 2020. The drawing will be held in early March. Participating parks/museums/historic sites are listed at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/EDITPinstruct.aspx> and the application form may be accessed from that Web page, too.

5. Illinois' Pollinators Resources Trunks

The new *Illinois' Pollinators* resources trunks for loan from the IDNR Division of Education contain teaching tools to help you and your students explore the variety of pollinators in our state. Targeted to grades prekindergarten through six, there are resources included for classroom use as well as a backpack with field guides and equipment for pollinator observation in the field. Sections in the trunk include "What are Pollinators?," "Why are Pollinators Important?," "How Does Pollination Work?," "Helping Pollinators" and "Pollinator Gardens." Lessons are correlated to Next Generation Science Standards and Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. There are currently 30 lending locations available. See the list of lending locations and the contents checklist at the following Web address. <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx> An additional 12 *Illinois Pollinators* resources trunks will be available for loan soon!

6. ENTICE Professional Development Workshops

Register soon for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by the IDNR. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, supplemental resources on the topic and the opportunity to work with resources professionals. Professional Development Hours are available. Correlations to relevant Next Generation Science Standards and/or Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards are provided. Shown below are the workshops for fall 2019 and spring 2020. Visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for details, the complete list of workshops and to register. Experience ENTICE!

Illinois Urban Wildlife

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago

November 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wildlife is all around us, even in downtown Chicago! Educators of grades prekindergarten through four are invited to participate as we learn where to look for urban wildlife, what you can expect to find, how to identify species and how to improve urban wildlife habitat at your school. Natural resources professionals and educators will instruct about these topics and more, including how species adapt to the urban environment, how humans affect urban wildlife and how to use urban wildlife topics as the foundation for locally relevant, place-based teaching. Receive supplemental educational materials to enhance your teaching. Teachers of other grade levels are welcome to register and attend the workshop but may need to adapt the materials as appropriate. Professional Development Hours are available. REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019, OR AS SOON AS ALL AVAILABLE REGISTRATION SPACES ARE TAKEN.

Tracks, Scats and Habitats

Starved Rock State Park, Utica

November 23, 2019, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Often when exploring nature, instead of seeing an animal, we find what it left behind. Join us in this exploration of animal signs and how they relate to habitats. We'll be practicing our skills on an outdoor field trip, too. We'll show you how to incorporate the topic into your lessons and provide resources to help you do so. Although targeted to teachers of grades prekindergarten through four, other educators are welcome to register and attend the workshop but may need to adapt the materials as appropriate. Professional Development Hours are available. REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019, OR AS SOON AS ALL AVAILABLE REGISTRATION SPACES ARE TAKEN.

Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease

Giant City State Park, Makanda

March 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Protein synthesis is a topic that many students will not be interested in studying, yet you can make it relevant by using this unit. Prion diseases are caused by errors in protein synthesis. One of those diseases, chronic wasting disease, is affecting the white-tailed deer population in Illinois. During this workshop for middle school and high school teachers, you will preview the six lessons and activities, video and other materials in the unit, "*Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease*." You'll receive this DVD unit and other supplemental materials. The information from this workshop can be used in teaching about protein synthesis, genetics, DNA replication, wildlife management and other topics. Professional Development Hours are available.

Illinois Butterflies

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago

March 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Flutter in and join other educators of grades prekindergarten through four as we are introduced to the butterflies of Illinois! Butterfly life history, identification, conservation and adaptations will be discussed. Information on developing butterfly habitat will also be included. Learn about Monarch Watch and other butterfly conservation programs. Correlations between the information presented and Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards and Next Generation Science Standards will be addressed. Supplemental educational resources will be provided. Professional Development Hours are available. Teachers of other grade levels are welcome to register for this workshop but may need to adapt the materials for their students, as appropriate.

Wildlife Basics for Early Childhood Educators

Starved Rock State Park, Utica

March 21, 2020, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This workshop for educators of grades prekindergarten through two will provide you with the information and resources that you need to successfully teach about and observe wildlife. We'll focus on the life history of common wildlife species, and we'll go on a hike to look for wildlife and their signs. You'll receive training in using basic equipment. We'll also discuss developing wildlife habitat on your school grounds. We'll show you how to support the teaching of several of the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards for science and Next Generation Science Standards with your students. You'll take away numerous resources to use with young children when learning about nature. Professional Development Hours are available.

Asian Carps: Activities for Middle School and High School Students to Support the Teaching of Next Generation Science Standards

Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton

April 18, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Asian carps are nonnative fishes that have invaded the waterways of Illinois and many other states. These species are responsible for enormous economic, recreational and environmental impacts. At this workshop, we'll provide an introduction to their life history as well as data to quantify their effects. Containment methods being used in Illinois to keep Asian carps out of Lake Michigan will be discussed. Student lessons relevant to Next Generation Science Standards MS-LS2-4 and HS-LS2-7 will be incorporated. Although targeted to middle school and high school educators, teachers of other grade

levels are welcome to attend but may need to adapt the information as appropriate. Professional Development Hours are available.

Illinois Tree Squirrels

Kennekuk Environmental Education Center, Kennekuk County Park, Danville

April 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

How much do you really know about squirrels? Come to this workshop and learn about the life history of Illinois' tree squirrels. We'll go for a hike to observe squirrels and evidence of their presence. We'll look at how you can use squirrel observations to help you meet some of the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards in science and Next Generation Science Standards. Although targeted to teachers of grades prekindergarten, kindergarten, one, two and four, all educators are welcome to register for this workshop but may need to adapt the materials for their students, as appropriate. Supplemental resources will be provided. Professional Development Hours are available.

Learning about Birds for Early Childhood Educators

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe

May 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For this workshop in the Wildlife Basics for Early Childhood Educators series, we will focus on learning about common birds that you and your students can easily see and learn about. We will teach basic facts about birds and will learn how to identify birds. We will discuss different types of field guides and how to use them, so you can choose the best one for your purposes. We will learn proper techniques for using binoculars. Our new skills will be tested with a hike on the grounds of the Chicago Botanic Garden to observe birds. Information regarding plants for your school grounds that can help you attract birds will be provided, too. We will provide you with activities, resources and hands-on experiences to get you started when you return to the classroom. Although targeted to educators of grades prekindergarten through two, educators of other grade levels are welcome to register but may need to adapt the materials as appropriate. Professional Development Hours are available.

Illinois Prairies

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe

June 6, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Imagining the vast prairies of Illinois' past is difficult, but you can visit a restored prairie if you join us for this workshop at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Designed for educators of grades kindergarten through eight, you'll learn about prairie ecology as well as the history of the prairie in Illinois and how humans have affected prairies. We'll take a walk through the prairie and discuss the prairie plants that we find. Illinois-specific educational resources will be provided and suggestions will be given for using the prairie and prairie-related resources from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help you meet Next Generation Science Standards. Teachers of other grade levels are welcome to register and attend the workshop but may need to adapt the information. Professional Development Hours are available.

Illinois Raptors

Illinois Raptor Center, Decatur

June 13, 2020

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Educators of grades prekindergarten through eight are invited to register for this workshop to learn about the hawks, owls, vultures, falcons and eagles of Illinois at the Illinois Raptor Center in Decatur. Life history and identification information will be provided. Staff from the Illinois Raptor Center will have live raptors to observe, too. You'll participate in educational activities related to raptors and will receive

many resources to help you incorporate the topic into your curriculum. Professional Development Hours are available. Teachers of other grade levels are welcome to register and attend the workshop but may need to adapt the information as appropriate.

Illinois Turtles

Cache River State Natural Area, Cypress

June 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for this workshop as we learn about the life history and identification of Illinois' 17 species of turtles. We will take a hike to look for turtles, and you will participate in hands-on, educational activities. Resources will be provided to help you incorporate the topic into your curriculum. Although targeted to teachers of grades prekindergarten through four, educators of other grade levels are welcome to register for the workshop but may need to adapt the information and activities, as appropriate. Correlations to relevant Next Generation Science Standards and Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards will be provided and discussed. Professional Development Hours are available.

Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Development

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Headquarters, Springfield

June 17, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

How's your habitat? Join us to learn how you and your students can take action to improve wildlife habitat on your school grounds. Educators of grades prekindergarten through middle school will learn basic habitat design, development and maintenance techniques. Become aware of grant opportunities and obtain supplemental materials to help you get started with your own schoolyard habitat development. Staff from the University of Illinois Extension's Horticultural Program at the Logan-Menard-Sangamon unit office will be featured. Professional Development Hours are available.

Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease

Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford

June 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Protein synthesis is a topic that many students will not be interested in studying, yet you can make it relevant by using this unit. Prion diseases are caused by errors in protein synthesis. One of those diseases, chronic wasting disease, is affecting the white-tailed deer population in Illinois. During this workshop for middle school and high school teachers, you will preview the six lessons and activities, video and other materials in the unit, "*Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease.*" You'll receive this DVD unit and other supplemental materials. The information from this workshop can be used in teaching about protein synthesis, genetics, DNA replication, wildlife management and other topics. Professional Development Hours are available.

7. November Kids for Conservation®: *Color Adaptations*

The November edition of the IDNR Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of "*Color Adaptations.*" You can learn basic facts about this topic in the information section. Watch the video podcast, too. Educators, there are resources for you to utilize. "Kids in Action" features students who are taking action to benefit the environment. The November 2019 topic will be available starting November 1, 2019, at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx>.

8. Borrow a Trunk or Pack for Your Teaching and Youth Programming

Resources trunks/packs from the IDNR's Division of Education are Illinois-specific units on topics including pollinators, trees, aquatics, mammals, birds, prairies, insects/spiders, state symbols, invasive species, fossils, Native Americans, amphibians/reptiles and nature exploration. Available for loan

statewide, they are filled with items for hands-on learning. Teachers, homeschooling educators, scout and youth group leaders, nature center personnel, librarians, day care center staff and families are among the people who can successfully use these resources. A two-week loan period is suggested. There is no charge to borrow the trunks/packs, although a refundable deposit may be requested. Lessons are correlated to the Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core Standards and Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, as appropriate. Suggested grade levels are provided but modifications can be made for use at other grade levels. Visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/ItemsForLoan.aspx> to access the list of lending locations and more trunk-related information. Several changes in lending locations have recently occurred. We have added some new lending locations and added some new trunks/packs at several current lending sites. Be sure to check the lists for the most recent updates.

9. Video Podcast – *Color Adaptations*

The *Color Adaptations* video podcast can be found on the Podcasts page at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/podcasts.aspx>. This video podcast is also available on YouTube.