

August 2018

1. ENTICE Professional Development Workshops

Register soon at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) professional development workshops for educators sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (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 upcoming workshops for summer and fall 2018. Visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com> for details, the complete list of workshops and to register. Experience ENTICE!

Monarch Mania!, Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center, Pecatonica, August 25, 2018

Join us to learn about the life history and conservation status of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). You will take part in hands-on activities and will receive supplemental educational resources to help you meet several Next Generation Science Standards and/or Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards with your students. We'll provide options for actions that you, your students and the community can take to help monarchs, too. Although targeted to teachers of grades prekindergarten through five, educators of all grade levels are welcome to register for the workshop but may need to adapt the materials and information. Professional Development Hours are available. REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018.

Asian Carps: Activities for Middle School and High School Students to Support the Teaching of Next Generation Science Standards, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, September 15, 2018

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, experts from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will provide an introduction to the life history of Asian carps 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. REGISTRATION FOR THIS WORKSHOP WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018.

Pollinators and the Prairie, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, September 22, 2018

Explore the hidden world of pollinators and their unique relationship with the plants they pollinate. This workshop will give you a hands-on look at plants and pollinators in action, including a visit to The Morton Arboretum's prairie and beehives. Experience hands-on activities that can be instantly implemented into your curriculum. Relevant correlations to Next Generation Science Standards will be provided and discussed. Although targeted to teachers of grades kindergarten through four, all educators are welcome to register for this workshop but may need to adapt the materials for their students, as appropriate. Professional Development Hours are available.

Introducing Early Childhood Students to the Nature of Fall, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, September 29, 2018

Fall is a great season for young children to explore nature! There is so much to see and learn. Join us to discover what nature can tell us in fall. We'll take a hike to put our knowledge to work and will feature the *Field Trip Pack* from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). We'll be incorporating animal tracks, animal signs, seeds and changes in leaves, too. 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. Although targeted to grades prekindergarten through two, all educators are welcome to register for the workshop, but the information may need to be adapted, as appropriate. You'll take away numerous resources to use with young children when learning about nature. Professional Development Hours are available.

Wildlife Basics for Early Childhood Educators, Kendall County Forest Preserve District, Yorkville, October 6, 2018

Illinois Tree Squirrels, Giant City State Park, Makanda, November 3, 2018

Illinois Biodiversity 101, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, November 3, 2018

2. Visit the IDNR Division of Education's Tent at the Illinois State Fair!

The IDNR Division of Education will be featuring a "Saving Species" theme in Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair, August 10-19, 2018, in Springfield. To support the Illinois Bicentennial, we'll be looking at how natural resources conservation has evolved in the state and examples of how the IDNR continues these efforts today. There will be activities for all ages on these topics. We have resources for educators, and the first 5,000 families will receive a packet of native plant seeds for establishing a pollinator garden.

3. Illinois Mining Poster Series

The IDNR Office of Mines and Minerals has produced a series of 12 posters related to mining in the state. Topics include: *Chert and Flint*; *Clay and Shale*; *Coal and Peat*; *Fluorite*; *Fuller's Earth*; *Galena*, *Sphalerite and Pyrite*; *Industrial Sand*; *Limestone*; *Salt and Iron Ore*; *Sand and Gravel*; *Saving Species*; and *Tripoli*. Each poster is 24" x 36" and is printed on one side only. Posters can be ordered through the online publications page at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications>.

4. It's Not Too Early to Be Thinking about Grant Opportunities

The *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* and the *Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* are competitive grant programs sponsored by the IDNR Division of Education with the assistance of the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF). These grants can help you take learning to life by supporting natural-resources related field trips and the development of wildlife habitat, such as pollinator gardens, butterfly gardens, prairie plots and wetlands, on the school grounds. For details and to access the application forms, visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>. Both grants are funded entirely by private donations to the ICF. We thank the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation, D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation, Independence Tube Corporation and Jadel Youth Fund for their continued support.

5. Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards Set #3

A limited number of *Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards Set #3* are available now. Please send your request on school letterhead. Whether you are completing your set of trading cards or starting a new one for your classroom, send your request today! The trading cards provide information and images for a variety of Illinois species. There are 63 species cards per set. Mail requests to IDNR Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.

6. Bicentennial Bits

The IDNR is posting “Bicentennial Bits” twice each month (third and fifteenth days) on Facebook in honor of the 200th anniversary of Illinois’ statehood. The first posting of the month will discuss a conservation success story in the state, while the second will highlight the work of the IDNR offices and divisions. Posts can be accessed through the main IDNR Facebook page and the IDNR Division of Education’s Facebook page.

7. August Kids for Conservation®: *American Bullfrog*

The August edition of the IDNR Kids for Conservation® Web page features the topic of the “*American Bullfrog*.” You can learn basic facts about this topic in the information section. Watch the video podcast, too. Take the quiz to test your knowledge. Educators, there are resources for you to utilize. We have developed a version of the information section specific to early childhood educators. “Kids in Action” features students who are taking action to benefit the environment. The topic is posted at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/outreach/kidsconservation/Pages/default.aspx>. The September topic is “*Dragonflies*.”

8. Make Your Resources Trunks and Packs Reservations Now for Fall Programs

Resources trunks/packs from the IDNR’s Division of Education are Illinois-specific units on 12 topics. 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.

9. *Illinois Bats* is the Latest Addition to the Flora and Fauna Poster Series

The IDNR Division of Education offers numerous posters about Illinois’ flora and fauna to support your educational efforts. They can be ordered through the publications order form at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/publications>. These two-sided posters are great resources that can be used in a variety of ways.

10. Reporting Monarch Educational Activities

The IDNR and its partners in the monarch initiative are collecting information about educational activities related to monarch butterflies. If you conducted any activities in 2017 or 2018 related to educating people in Illinois about monarch butterflies or to enhancing or developing monarch habitat in Illinois, please send us a brief description (no more than three sentences) describing each activity. Include the date, a

description of the activity, the targeted audience (if an educational activity), the organization or person leading the activity and an email address for someone who can answer questions about the activity. Submit the information to dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov. We will post the information on the IDNR Web site at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/monarchgen.aspx>. This Web site is not intended to promote upcoming activities. We want to share information about efforts that have already taken place to help monarchs and their habitat. We will continue to accept information through 2018 and beyond. Please do not send photos.