FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2012

CONTACT: Chris McCloud
(217) 785-0075

Earth Day in the Parks Promotes Natural Resources Stewardship for Students

Sixth annual event will be held across the state on several dates in April and May

SPRINGFIELD, IL – More than 875 students will visit Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) state parks in April and May for the sixth annual Earth Day in the Parks event. Earth Day in the Parks is an initiative of the IDNR to introduce students to environmental stewardship.

“Students participating in Earth Day in the Parks will have an opportunity to perform meaningful natural resources stewardship activities, including planting trees, planting native wildflowers, developing amphibian breeding pools, building and installing fish attractors and a number of other activities,” said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

Sponsored by the IDNR Office of Strategic Services and Office of Land Management, Earth Day in the Parks offers students the opportunity to get outdoors and work in nature. Their hands-on experiences will lead them to develop a sense of ownership of the natural resources in the state while also increasing available wildlife habitat. Students and teachers are encouraged to return to the park to study the effects of their work.
“We believe that participating schools realize that this is more than just a field trip. This is an investment in the future generation of conservationists,” said Director Miller. “We hope that these students will continue to visit the parks, not only to check on the success of their projects, but perhaps to volunteer and develop a personal connection to a natural place.”

School groups were selected by random drawings from an application process conducted earlier this year. Grants from the Illinois Conservation Foundation and the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund help to support the events.

-more-

358**12
The list of Earth Day in the Parks sites, dates and participating schools are shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earth Day in the Parks sites:</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participating School(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argyle Lake State Park</td>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>Southeastern High School, Augusta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640 Argyle Park Road</td>
<td>(morning)</td>
<td>Time: TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester, IL 62326</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (309)776-3422</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyle Lake State Park</td>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>Astoria High School, Astoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640 Argyle Park Road</td>
<td>(afternoon)</td>
<td>Time: TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester, IL 62326</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (309)776-3422</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beall Woods State Park</td>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>Red Hill High School, Bridgeport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9285 Beall Woods Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 9am-noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Carmel, IL 62863</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (618)298-2442</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beall Woods State Park</td>
<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>Grayville High School, Grayville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9285 Beall Woods Avenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 9am-noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Carmel, IL 62863</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (618)298-2442</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cache River State Natural Area</td>
<td>April 13th</td>
<td>Dongola High School, Dongola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930 Sunflower Lane</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 10:00am-noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belknap, IL 62908</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (618)634-9678</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Lake State Recreation Area</td>
<td>April 18th</td>
<td>Booker T. Washington STEM Academy, Champaign and Milligan Academy, Decatur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>725 1900 East</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 9:00am - 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeWitt, IL 61735</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (217)935-8722</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldon Hazlet State Park</td>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>Lebanon High School, Lebanon and Mulberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20100 Hazlet Park Rd.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grove Junior High, Mulberry Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlyle, IL 62231</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time: 9am-11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (618)594-3015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eldon Hazlet State Park
20100 Hazlet Park Rd.
Carlyle, IL 62231
Phone: (618)594-3015

May 2
Carlyle High School, Carlyle
Time: 1pm – 3pm

-more-
Ferne Clyffe State Park
Rt.37, P.O. Box 10
Goreville, IL 62939
Phone: (618)995-2411
May 1
Goreville CUSD #1,
Goreville
Time: 9am- noon

Fort Massac State Park
1308 East 5th Street
Metropolis, IL 62960
618-524-4712
April 27th
Franklin Elementary
School, Metropolis and
Unity Elementary School,
Brookport
Time: 11am-2pm

Fox Ridge State Park
18175 State Park Road
Charleston, IL 61920
Phone: (217)345-6416
April 18th
Arcola High School,
Arcola
Time: 9:30am- 2pm

IDNR Headquarters
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217-524-4126
April 26th
Cornell Grade School,
Cornell and Carlinville
Primary School, Carlinville
Time: 9:30am.- 11:30am

Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area
10149 County Hwy. 11
Chandlerville, IL 62627
Phone: (217)452-7741
April 12th
Astoria High School,
Astoria
Time: 9:30am- 1:30pm

Jubilee College State Park
13921 West Route 150
Brimfield, IL 61517
(309)446-3758
April 17th
Brimfield Grade School,
Brimfield and Kiefer School,
Peoria
Time: 9am- 1pm

Mermet Lake Conservation Area
1812 Grinnell Road
IL 62908
Phone: (618)524-5577
April 20th
Metropolis, Jefferson and
Franklin Elementary Schools, Belknap,
Metropolis
Time: 11am- 2pm

Pyramid State Recreation Area
1562 Pyramid Park Rd.
Pinckneyville, IL 62274
Phone: (618)357-2574
April 25th
St. Bruno School,
Pinckneyville
Time: 10am – noon

Rock Island State Trail
311 East Williams, P.O. Box 64
April 18th
Dunlap Grade School,
Dunlap
Wyoming, IL  61491                              Time: 9:30am- 11:30am
309-695-2228

-more-
Trail of Tears State Forest
3240 State Forest Road
Jonesboro, IL  62952
618-833-4910
April 17th
Anna-Jonesboro High School
Anna
Time: 12:30pm- 2:30pm

Tunnel Hill State Trail
Highway 146 East
P.O. Box 671
Vienna, IL  62995
Phone: (618)658-2168
May 2nd
Brookport Elementary School, Brookport
Time: TBD

Volo Bog State Natural Area
Brandenburg Road
Ingleside, IL  60041
Phone: (815)344-1294
April 19th
Matthews Middle School, 28478 W. Island Lake
Time: noon – 2:30pm

Weldon Springs State Park
4734 Weldon Springs Rd
Clinton, IL  61727
Phone: (217)935-2644
May 3rd
Washington-Monroe Elementary School, Lincoln and Thomasboro Grade School, Thomasboro
Time: 9am- 11:00am

**Media interested in photo/video opportunities can call the individual park office to set up interviews or other requests**