



## June is Great Outdoors Month

**June 3, 2011** - President Obama officially declared June as “Great Outdoors Month” by recently signing a proclamation. Governor Quinn also adopted the proclamation saying it’s a great opportunity to celebrate the natural beauty and rich blessings of our nation and our state. Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway Director, Anaise Berry, says “This designation emphasizes the significance of not only utilizing our region’s natural resources to gain a greater appreciation for the natural beauty all around us, but also the impact ‘getting outdoors’ has in adding to happier and healthier lives.” Supporters of the proclamation hope it will have a positive impact on young people, on bringing families together, on our environment and on promoting stewardship and conservation of natural resources.

Locally the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway provides many opportunities for people to experience the great outdoors. “People can enjoy guided nature walks and outdoor theater, as well as music, arts, botanical and wine festivals from Ottawa to Havana. See the results of the largest wetland restoration outside of the Florida Everglades at The Nature Conservancy’s Emiquon Preserve in Lewistown, view waterfalls and hike paths in the lesser explored Matthiessen State Park in Utica. Grab an Illinois River Road Birding Guide or a new Geocaching Guide.” Berry says there are literally hundreds of things to do and see. Visit [www.illinoisriverroad.org](http://www.illinoisriverroad.org) to experience it all.

Click [here](#) to view the proclamation.

The Illinois River Road byway stretches 291 miles alongside the Illinois River through Central Illinois and is notable for its natural and historic qualities. Its six gateway communities include Ottawa, Princeton, Peoria, Pekin, Canton, and Havana. The route was designated a National Scenic Byway in 2005. Learn more at [www.illinoisriverroad.org](http://www.illinoisriverroad.org). The Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway is a program of the Economic Development Council for Central Illinois and a company of The Heartland Partnership.

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