

2015 IPLEA WINTER RETREAT

Sponsored by IPLEA
January 12 & 13, 2015

Aurora, Illinois

REVIEW

A lot of things happened at the 2015 IPLEA Winter Retreat. It started Sunday night with the IPLEA Board meeting at the **Aurora Comfort Suites City Center** hotel. A new two year term was starting the next morning for the Board and the elections took place that night. Congratulations and good luck to the new 2015-2016 IPLEA Board-

Board President Tracy Chapman, Will Co. FP
Board Vice President Rick Splittgerber, Kane Co. FP
Treasurer Dave Pederson, DuPage Co. FP
Secretary Leo Roganowicz, Rockford Park District
Director of Membership Dave White, Naperville Park District
Director of Training Bill Davidson, Cook Co. FP
Director of Website & Social Media, Dave LaBadie



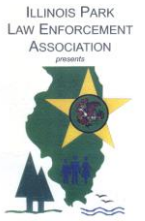
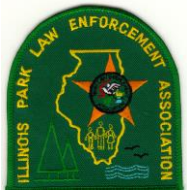
The 2015 Winter Retreat started Monday morning with twenty three people from twelve different departments. Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police Sergeant Rich Riedel put together the whole days training. He brought in a US Fish and Wildlife Agent and a team of CPO's to cover the gamut on conservation policing.

The US Fish & Wildlife Agent led a morning session. The agent discussed federal laws pertaining to animals, such as the Lacey Act that covers plants and animals transported out of the State. Many of these laws are felonies and may only need part of the animal to apply. You may want to re-think what you do with feathers you find, especially if they are from a protected bird.



Sgt. Riedel and a team of CPO's covered the new conservations laws for 2015. Being snowmobile season, Sgt. Riedel also took the class through the Snowmobile Registration and Safety Act. Officers were reminded of the newer law requiring snowmobilers to have proof of liability insurance for the snowmobile if they are not riding on their own property. Sgt. Riedel also went over the OUI laws for boat and snowmobile. IDNR forms were provided for everyone to take back to their departments with the reminder that the IDNR needs to be notified of boat, ATV, and snowmobile accidents and arrests. The ATV program requiring a usage sticker is still not being enforced because the stickers are not available.

Please refer to the IPLEA website for a further information
www.IPLEA.org



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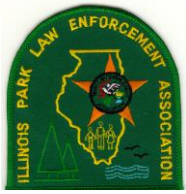
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After the lunch buffet, CPO's Matt Anderson and David Wollgast presented a case review. They took the class through the intricate details of how they were able to charge a bow hunter with poaching and uncover a large scale poaching operation. The case started with the poacher shooting what turned out to be a State record buck. This massive State record buck's mount and other mounts and pelts were displayed and discussed at the Retreat.

The case started with a private group seeing the buck they have been photographing on their private property in Grundy County. The group then sees the same buck end up as the cover photo for a hunting magazine with the shooter claiming to have taken it from another county. The CPO's explained the details and background information they developed on the case, leading them to believe the State record buck was taken on land without landowner permission. The CPO's researched the information and locations, building their case. The CPO's went through extensive preparations, checking all possible alibies to finally interview the suspect and gain a confession. The poacher and his colleagues were later arrested for numerous hunting violations and the State record buck, along with many other mounts were seized. The presentation was a great example of case building, interview preparation, and determination. Congratulations to the IDNR CPO's and their dedication to conservation law enforcement.



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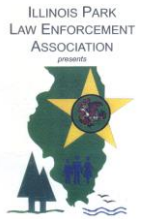


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The retreat resumed Tuesday morning with Attorney Cherie Travis. Attorney Travis works for the Cook County Sheriff's Office and specializes in animal related laws and cases. Attorney Travis is a highly motivated speaker and is very knowledgeable on animal related cases. She provided the class with many tools and statutes to use on future animal abuse and neglect cases. Many local and topical cases involving dogs, horses, and other animals were discussed. Videos were provided showing how to approach and read a dog.

An important message Attorney Travis conveys in her presentation is the cost of unnecessary dog shootings by police. Police departments around the country have paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars in law suit settlements for dogs shot by police. Provisions need to be made for controlling or removing dogs from scenes, like raids and searches. Outside of immediate danger and officer safety, shooting dogs these days is not an answer, but viewed as the lack of preparation.

The 2015 Winter Retreat ended at lunchtime Tuesday. IPLEA would like to express a sincere thank you for the time these presenters and instructor from the IDNR and Cook County Sheriff's Office gave in making the 2015 Winter Retreat a great success.

IPLEA hopes to see you at its future training sessions. Stay tuned for information on the Spring Workshop, the Fall Conference, and other upcoming events.