Illinois State Biologist

Qualifications and Experience
Employee of the Illinois Natural History Survey with at least a master’s degree in a biological science or related discipline, such as forestry, ecology, or natural resource conservation; ten years of experience as scientific leader of successful multidisciplinary research programs in public service; extensive knowledge of the biology of Illinois.

Role and Responsibilities
Serves as the authoritative spokesperson on matters relating to the flora and fauna of Illinois for INHS, the Prairie Research Institute, and the State of Illinois. Provides current information on research and scientific inquiries relating to vertebrates and plant and animal communities to the public at large, scientists, industry, and governmental agencies. Is the primary point of contact for potential funders who require trans-disciplinary science to address questions related to the management of vertebrates.

Related Resources
INHS will support participation by the State Biologist in meetings and events of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the American Fisheries Society, the Wildlife Society, and the Natural Areas Association, and other matters and activities requiring the involvement of the State Biologist.

History
The position was established by Public Act 98-0346 and signed into law by Governor Quinn on August 14, 2013. The Executive Director of the Prairie Research Institute appoints the State Biologist. Typically, the Director of the Survey is designated, unless he or she does not meet the qualifications, in which case, a senior research scientist is designated. The Director of INHS has been appointed as the first Illinois State Biologist.

1. Brian D. Anderson, PhD, 2013 - present

12/4/13