

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Brent Manning

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar Oral History project

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-006

Brent Manning, long-time Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources under Governors Jim Edgar and George Ryan, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 18, 2010 Location: Manning's office at DuPage Co Forest Preserve Dist

Date: Feb 19, 2010 Location: Manning's office at DuPage Co Forest Preserve Dist

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston MA

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 100 pgs Total Time: 2:40 + 2:37 / 2.67 + 2.62 = 5:17 / 5.28

Session 1: Early childhood through service as Dir. of Dept. of Conservation - 1993

Session 2: Flood of 1993, reorganization of Dept. of Natural Resources & beyond

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 03/30/2010.

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Abstract

Brent Manning, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2010-006

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Brent Manning was born on March 17, 1953 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up in nearby Pawnee, spending much of his time enjoying life outdoors on his grandparents' farm. Following graduation from high school, he attended Eastern Illinois University, majoring in the relatively new field of Environmental Biology, plus zoology. He went on to earn a Masters Degree in 1976, and soon found work with Illinois Central Industries, working for the firm on a range of environmental issues.

In 1986 Manning began work with Ducks Unlimited, assigned first as the regional director for northern Illinois, then moving to a national-level position for Ducks Unlimited in 1989. In late 1990 newly elected Governor Jim Edgar selected Manning to head the Department of Conservation, with the charge of professionalizing the agency. Manning worked on a wide array of issues and projects, including a Conservation Congress, Conservation 2000, and several major land acquisitions, including Site M (Jim Edgar Panther Creek). The Department of Conservation was incorporated into the newly created Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 1995, with Manning serving as its first director. He also oversaw the design and construction of a new headquarters for DNR. Manning continued to serve as the Director of DNR throughout the George Ryan administration as well.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Jim Edgar; Illinois Department of Conservation; Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Creation of DNR; George Ryan; Rod Blagojevich; George Fleischli; Ducks Unlimited; Al Grosboll; Steven Schnorf; Joan Walters; Conservation 2000; Conservation Congress; Department of Mines and Minerals; Jim Edgar Panther Creek; Savannah Army Depot; Medeowyn – Joliet Army Depot; Asian carp; zebra mussels; deer management; Eastern Illinois University; George Ryan's commutation of death sentences.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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