

Councilperson At Large

Robert D. (Bob) Bluett was mentored by 4 giants in the field of furbearer ecology and management: Neil Payne (UW-Stevens Point), Chuck Pils (WIDNR), Mike Tewes (Texas A&M-Kingsville) and George Hubert, Jr. (ILDNR). With their encouragement, he became a TWS-Certified Wildlife Biologist® in 1989. Later, he served as President of the Illinois Chapter of TWS. Personal highlights of a 28-year career with ILDNR's Furbearer/Wildlife Diversity Program included working with fellow biologists, administrators, researchers, contractors, and legislators to recover river otter and eastern woodrat, oversee research that led to de-listing bobcat, golden mouse, and marsh rice rat, offer an online trapper education course, promote fur hunting and trapping using strategies identified by DJ Case & Associates, institute a regulatory framework for wildlife control operators, author or co-author >25 peer-reviewed articles, implement monitoring and habitat conservation strategies for the Illinois chorus frog, survey large rivers for presence of smooth softshell turtles, and open harvest seasons for river otter and bobcat. Bob finds some time for "biologizing" in his retirement as it's hard to abandon things that intrigued and inspired him as a kid.

