

There is no doubt that Illinois citizens are inspirational and outstanding advocates for Illinois' natural resources. Over the past 17 years, the Illinois Conservation Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) corporation first proposed by members of the citizen-powered Conservation Congress in 1994, has raised more than \$30 million through donations from conservation-minded individuals and collection of monies from environmental fines. The funds are held in ICF accounts for disbursement to organizations conducting programs deemed worthy by the ICF board.

Established by law in 1994, ICF is administered by a citizen board of directors chaired by the director of the Department of Natural Resources. The missions to preserve and enhance our precious natural resources by supporting and fostering ecological, educational and recreational programs benefit all citizens of Illinois and future generations. Donations from individuals, businesses and organizations over the years prove Illinois is a leader when it comes to public support for conservation.

One annual fund-raising effort, the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet, also serves as the forum to recognize Illinoisans for their long-standing commitment to natural resources protection, conservation and enhancement of outdoor recreation opportunities. Since its inception in 2002, 34 Illinoisans have been inducted into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame (list available at www.ilcf.org). During the



March 26 banquet, held at the Drury Lane at Oak Brook Terrace, the list of inductees will grow by four.

Dr. Thomas Dunstan, professor emeritus of biology at Western Illinois University, is one of the nation's foremost authorities and researchers on birds of prey, including the bald eagle. In addition to developing course

work for students focusing on improving wildlife ecology and management, Dunstan worked with state, federal and non-governmental agencies to protect and expand wildlife habitat—particularly related to protection of bald eagles.

Dr. David Kenney, professor emeritus of political science at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, is a noted historian, author and conservationist who served as director of the Department of Conservation from 1977 to 1984. As conservation chief, Kenney worked to expand the state's public land holdings for outdoor recreation and initiated a number of programs, including Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery, Helfrich Game Propagation Center, North Point Marina, Golconda Marina and the Rock Island State Trail.

Bob Long, Jr. is one of Illinois' best-known advocates and promoters of youth fishing and the participation by youth in the outdoors as "The Fishin' Guy" for the Chicago Park District. Long's involvement in youth education took hold in 1991 when he



joined the Fishin' Buddies, and continues as manager of Mayor Daley's "Fish 'N Kids" program through the Chicago Park District.

Ed Mullady has published *The Sportsman's Letter*, one of the nation's longest-running outdoors publications, since 1958 from his home base in Kankakee. Nominators and other friends refer to Mullady as the "Godfather of the Kankakee River" in recognition of his passion for, knowledge of, and dedication to protection of the waterway and the natural habitat of the Kankakee River basin.

Each of this year's inductees has devoted careers to the protection and conservation of our resources. You can show your support for these outstanding individuals as you support the Illinois Conservation Foundation at the Hall of Fame banquet March 26 at Oak Brook Terrace. Proceeds from the banquet, including an auction of outdoors goods, merchandise and art, will benefit this remarkable conservation program that exists only because of you.

Yours in conservation,

Marc Miller, Director



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For additional information about the March 26 Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet at Drury Lane at Oak Brook Terrace, call Kathy Wheeler at (217) 785-2003 or e-mail kathy.wheeler@illinois.gov. Banquet tickets may be purchased online at www.ilcf.org.

Nominations for the annual Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame are due in September. The form is available at www.ilcf.org. 2011