

ILLINOIS



CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 2010

CONTACT:

Chris McCloud

217/785-0075

Januari Smith

217/558-1544

Conservation Professionals, Recreation Advocates Selected for 2011 Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame

Banquet and Induction Ceremony to be held March 26 on Oakbrook Terrace

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Four individuals will be honored for decades of conservation work and advocacy of outdoor recreation opportunities as they are inducted into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, a program of the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF).

Dr. Thomas C. Dunston, Dr. David Kenney, Bob Long, Jr. and Ed Mullady were selected from dozens of nominees submitted by citizens from throughout Illinois for induction as the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame class of 2011. The induction ceremony will be conducted during the annual Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace.

“We are pleased to recognize these four individuals for their dedication to the preservation, promotion and enhancement of the natural wonders of our state, as well as their efforts at expanding recreation opportunities for all of our citizens,” said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller, who serves as chairman of the board of directors of the ICF. “From the efforts of Bob Long and Ed Mullady to promote fishing and to protect the Illinois fisheries they love – to the works of Drs. Dunston and Kenney on wildlife, land conservation and stewardship – we celebrate their accomplishments by adding these gentlemen to the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame.”

Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Class of 2011

Dr. Thomas Dunstan, Macomb

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. Dr. Dunstan joined the faculty of WIU in 1970, retiring in 2007 as acting director of the Institute for Environmental Studies. In addition to developing course work for students focusing on improving wildlife ecology and management, Dr. Dunstan worked with state, federal and non-governmental agencies to protect and expand wildlife habitat for bald eagles. Dr. Dunstan was among the chief proponents of the Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge Nature Preserve near Hampton and the Cedar Glen Eagle

Roost near Warsaw. He promoted public awareness of the need to protect and expand wildlife habitat as part of bald eagle events throughout the Illinois and Mississippi River basins, as well as in dozens of scientific and other publications, including his 1978 article “Our Bald Eagle: Freedom’s Symbol Survives” in *National Geographic*. In a 2007 editorial on the de-listing of the bald eagle, the *Chicago Tribune* singled out Dunstan as “Among the bald eagle’s saviors...a giant of his generation.”

Dr. David Kenney, O’Fallon, MO

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 Illinois Department of Conservation from 1977 to 1984. During his tenure as Illinois conservation chief, Kenney worked to expand the state’s public land holdings for outdoor recreation, increase funding for hunting and fishing programs and fish and wildlife management, and initiated a number of capital improvement programs and projects through which outdoor recreation enthusiasts continue to benefit today. Those include completion of the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery and Helfrich Game Propagation Center and planning for development of North Point Marina on Lake Michigan and the Golconda Marina on the Ohio River. Kenney backed trails expansion, including establishment of the Rock Island State Trail, and additional public lands including those at the Kinkaid Lake and Turkey Bluffs State Fish and Wildlife Areas. Following his service at the Department of Conservation, Kenney has worked on countless conservation and natural resources stewardship and land-protection efforts, and he is a life member of the American Brittany Club as part of his long commitment to sporting dog training.

Bob Long, Jr., Chicago

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 and youth fishing took hold in 1991 when he joined the Fishin’ Buddies fishing and conservation education program on Chicago’s south side. The program was established to instill in youth through fishing and conservation programs a love of the outdoors and a need to protect the land, air and water. As an extension of those efforts, Long has managed Mayor Richard Daley’s “Fish ‘N Kids” program through the Chicago Park District, providing fishing opportunities at park district lagoons, the Chicago River and the Chicago lakefront to more than 12,000 children and their families each year. The program provides fishing tackle, bait and instruction free of charge to introduce inner city youth to the excitement of catching fish and protecting nature.

Ed Mullady, Kankakee

Ed Mullady has published *The Sportsman’s Letter*, one of the nation’s longest-running outdoors publications, since 1958. 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 protecting the Kankakee River basin. When Mullady isn’t writing about fishing, he may be reporting on fishing and outdoor recreation on his Sportsman’s Letter show on WKAN Radio. Or he may be conducting fishing seminars, educating thousands of anglers of all ages on the excitement of fishing in Illinois. Or he may be crafting and updating his popular maps detailing fishing and other recreation opportunities along the Kankakee River. Mullady has also served with distinction on public and private committees, task forces and commissions focused on protection, restoration and stewardship of the Kankakee and other waterways in northeast Illinois. Among the many honors bestowed on Mullady was the 2001 Isaak Walton League “Russell Sinclair News Media Award” for advocacy of wetland and wildlife conservation.

Hall of Fame Banquet Information

Proceeds from the annual Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet assist in funding the ICF Youth Achievement Scholarship program. Proceeds from the banquet also support other ICF initiatives benefitting outdoor recreation and natural resources protection.

The banquet will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Drury Lane Conference Center, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Tickets are \$100 each (or \$900 for a table of 10).

For reservations or more information, contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, phone (217) 785-2003, or www.ilcf.org.

The ICF is an IRS 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1995 to support the programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

###