Created in 1994, the Illinois Conservation Foundation has received more than $30 million to invest in the future of Illinois' natural resources.

The Earth is Ours to Share

Story By Kathy Andrews

The role of the Illinois Conservation Foundation and its partners is to preserve and enhance our precious natural resources by supporting and fostering ecological, educational and recreational programs for the benefit of all people now and for generations to come.

Educational Activities

- Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants: Educators may apply for funding to create or enhance schoolyard habitat areas. Projects have included prairie plots, butterfly gardens, creation of wetlands and building bird nesting boxes.
- Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants: Funding for Illinois teachers, including home-school teachers, to take natural resources-related field trips.
- Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education: Provides natural resources training for educators through hands-on, interdisciplinary workshops led by natural resources professionals.

Recognition Programs

- The Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame was established in 2002 to honor individuals who have made significant commitments to natural resource protection and outdoor recreation in Illinois (see side bar). Nominees may include those outdoor sportsmen and women who have made significant contribu-

The Illinois Conservation Foundation was created in 1994 as a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. The Foundation supports the work of the Department of Natural Resources and raises private support for public conservation priorities. The Foundation, through the Illinois Conservation Endowment, serves all the citizens of Illinois exclusively in support of natural resources conservation.

The concept of a foundation came from a recommendation of Illinois' first Conservation Congress, a volunteer group representing citizens from throughout the state. ICF is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors. To date, ICF has raised more than $30 million.

To learn more about making a contribution, upcoming fund-raising events, obtaining an ICF credit card, establishing a memorial, charitable planned giving programs or matching corporate gifts, call (217) 785-2003, write Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or visit www.ilcf.org.

tions or exhibited unparalleled dedication in preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources or outdoor recreational opportunities in Illinois. The nomination form is available at www.ilcf.org.

• Established in 2005, the ICF Youth Achievement Scholarship outreach program recognizes high school juniors and seniors in Illinois for their work in and dedication toward preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources conservation. Each of the students selected for the awards receives a $1,000 scholarship presented at the annual Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Banquet.

Important Causes

• Helping nourish those in need through the Illinois Sportsman Against Hunger program.

• Purchased equipment for the Conservation Police Search and Rescue Squad and vehicles for Department of Natural Resources wildlife staff.

• Helped forge reforestation agreements with Illinois corporations resulting in equipment purchases to help plant millions of trees.

• Built the state's first artificial reef, an 800-foot-long granite rubble structure in Lake Michigan providing habitat for smallmouth bass and other nearshore species.

• Projects to enhance habitat for the endangered Illinois mud turtle and Indiana bats, and reintroduction of the river otter into Illinois waterways.

Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Inductees

2002
- James Helfrich, Department of Conservation assistant director
- Jack Ehresman, Peoria Journal-Star outdoors columnist
- Gene Morgan, high school biology teacher
- John Husar, Chicago Tribune columnist
- Frank C. Bellrose, authority on waterfowl and wetlands

2003
- Henry Barkhausen, DOC director
- Bill Cullerton, Sr., WGN Radio "Great Outdoors" program host
- Jim Edgar, governor and advocate for natural resources

2004
- J.R. Black, advocate for preservation of the Kankakee River basin
- Gaylord Donnelley, dedicated environmentalist
- Bonnie Jo Fee, educator
- Floyd Kringer, DOC wildlife biologist

2005
- Kenneth V. Fiske, open land protection and conservation
- Dr. W. D. Klimstra, director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- Brent Manning, director DOC/DNR
- William L. Rutherford, Sr., environmental stewardship and open space preservation

2006
- Ralph Frese, conservation of the Fox River
- Don Swensson, founder, Quad City Conservation Alliance
- Robert Torstenson, developed farm into model of land management

2007
- Carl Becker, conservationist and steward of the state's natural resources
- Jared Garver, wild turkey restoration
- John Kidd, Jr., founder, Fishin' Buddies youth fishing club
- Glen C. Sanderson, authority on raccoons and development of non-toxic shot

2008
- Don Dubin, advocate for fishing opportunities
- George B. Fell, protection of natural areas
- John R. "Duke" O'Malley, Daily Southtown outdoors columnist

Donor Spotlight Danny Cox

Why the ICF is important to me

"I have participated in the Illinois Conservation Foundation Celebrity Quail Hunt since its inception because I believe it is our responsibility provide youth safe and enjoyable experiences outdoors. A day afield provides an excellent backdrop for continuing the tradition of hunting, reinforcing hunter safety, how to care for game and what it means to put your harvest on the table. And when you convey these messages in a fun manner, you make an impression that lasts a lifetime."

—Danny "Coxie" Cox, *Freeburg*
Pitcher, St. Louis Cardinals (1983-1988, playing in the 1985 and 1987 World Series), Philadelphia Phillies (1991-1992), Pittsburgh Pirates (1992-1993) and Toronto Blue Jays (1993-1995, won 1993 World Series)

Become a donor

The Illinois Conservation Foundation's popular Celebrity Quail Hunt will be held at the Rend Lake Resort Nov. 2-4. Proceeds from the 15th annual event will benefit ICF youth hunting programs and activities. For registration or other information, phone (217) 785-2003.