

Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Class of 2012

Philip ‘Chauncey’ Niziol, Westchester

Chauncey Niziol, outdoor writer and broadcaster, is host of ‘Chauncey’s Great Outdoors’ on WMVP ESPN 1000 in Chicago at 6 a.m. each Saturday, featuring interviews with outdoor experts offering information on fishing, camping, hunting, cooking, boating, hiking and other outdoor recreation. Niziol has been a fixture on Chicago and regional media since 1989, promoting outdoor recreation to adults and, as often as possible, to children. Nominators cited Niziol’s dedication to encouraging youth participation in the outdoors. Niziol’s efforts include helping to manage and support a Boy Scout camp in rural Michigan at which scouts, many from the inner city, enjoy outdoors activities. Niziol also promotes youth participation in Chicago area fishing tournaments and fishing derbies, at Chicago Park District and regional forest preserve district activities and events, and at outdoors shows and nature centers.

Casimir ‘Cass’ Sliwa, Chicago

The late Casimir ‘Cass’ Sliwa focused his life-long love of fishing and the outdoors by dedicating himself and recruiting others to the cause of enhancement, preservation and promotion of the Lake Michigan fishery as the longtime president of Salmon Unlimited of Illinois. Nominators hailed Sliwa for decades of advocacy for hatchery production, stocking and fishing for salmon in Lake Michigan – and in environmental cleanup and protection to ensure that the Lake Michigan fishery would be available for generations to come. Sliwa served multiple terms as president of Salmon Unlimited, raising funds to help build and promote Lake Michigan sport fishing, while working tirelessly to promote fishing. He served as an advisor to the Illinois DNR on Lake Michigan commercial and sport fishing issues and served as a delegate to the Illinois Conservation Congress. Sliwa was a charter member of the Waukegan Citizens Advisory Committee that worked for many years on plans to clean up Waukegan Harbor. Cass Sliwa passed away in 1998 at age 63.

Warren Gale, Orion

Quad Cities area conservationist Warren Gale has been one of Illinois’ foremost advocates for conservation education of youth and safety education for youth and adults in the outdoors for four decades. Gale is a longtime board member of the Rock Island Conservation Club and has served as a board member and president of the Quad City Conservation Alliance. Gale has been a volunteer hunter safety education instructor for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources since 1982, along with assisting in safety education programs in Iowa and with the National Bowhunters Education Foundation. Gale has been an active participant in Illinois Conservation Congress sessions, promoting conservation education in schools, safety education in the field, and promoting sport shooting, archery, fishing and other outdoor recreation throughout the region.

Allie Lymenstull, Quincy

Promoting outdoor recreation, waterway and habitat protection for more than 60 years in western Illinois, conservationist and outdoors activist Allie Lymenstull is known as a “watchdog of the river” and a ‘beacon of integrity’ by the friends and colleagues who nominated him for the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame. World War II veteran Lymenstull is the longtime president of the Mississippi Valley Hunters’ and Fishermen’s Association. In addition to his advocacy of outdoor recreation, Lymenstull has been one of western Illinois’ chief proponents of wetland and river restoration efforts along the

Mississippi River. Lymenstull has provided valuable counsel to Illinois Department of Natural Resources site staff and biologists and has promoted conservation programs through membership in the Quincy Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and the Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources. Said one nominator: "No person in West Central Illinois has dedicated more time and effort to conservation than Allie Lymenstull."