

2013 Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Inductees

A Galena couple who have introduced hundreds of Illinois children to safe hunting practices and the thrill of wild turkey and deer hunting have been selected for induction into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, a program of the Illinois Conservation Foundation.

MARCIA AND KEN POLHAMUS GALENA



Marcia and Ken Polhamus are longtime Illinois Department of Natural Resources volunteer hunter safety education instructors, host a number of ICF youth hunts, and volunteer as Illinois coordinators of the National Wild Turkey Federation's JAKES youth program. Most recently the couple was recognized nationally as "Heroes of Conservation" finalists by *Field and Stream* Magazine.

The Polhamuses always remind us that it's all about the kids. Their efforts to help children experience hunting and a safe outdoors are helping protect our state's great hunting heritage for many years to come.

The Polhamuses – whose own sons began hunting at an early age – have made a mission of introducing kids and their parents to the excitement of hunting. They have been conducting youth hunts since 2010 at the ICF's Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center (TfYCEC) farm near Pecatonica in Winnebago County. They have also taught safe hunting practices and conservation stewardship to hundreds of youth and adults as volunteer hunter education instructors, while providing support and donating equipment to the Illinois Conservation Police to enhance safety in outdoor recreation and natural resources protection.

Ken and Marcia have been generous donors to a variety of ICF fundraising efforts, including providing support and materials for the new Learning Center at the Torstenson Youth Conservation Education Center. They also donated half of their *Field and Stream* prize money to the ICF for the Torstenson Center.

In addition to their volunteer efforts involving youth, Marcia Polhamus has hosted two Women in the Outdoors workshops at the TfYCEC, encouraging women to participate in shooting sports, fishing, hunting, camping, and other outdoor recreation pursuits. She has also provided instruction at the workshops on traditional skills such as soap making and preparing pressed flowers.