

Congratulations to the 2015 ICF Achievement Scholarship Winner!

Emma Buckardt of Deerfield, Illinois is the winner of the 2015 Illinois Conservation Foundation Achievement Scholarship. She will receive \$2,000 to apply to specified expenses at the two- or four-year college or university of her choice.

Emma's interest in conservation comes from a life of caring, which has become the focus for her life. Since early childhood, Buckardt and her family have volunteered for the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Among the projects in which she has participated are teaching people about the importance of nature, including reaching more than 700 people one weekend through an education skit she wrote about the decline and importance of honey bees, and preparing an insect collection. A graduate of the second class of the Center for Conservation Leadership, Emma served as a non-paid intern working on land management projects, including removal of invasive species and planting native species in their place.

The ICF Conservation Achievement Scholarships have been awarded since 2005. In the 11 years of this program's existence, 60 scholarships worth a total value of \$90,000 have been distributed. Generous donations to the Illinois Conservation Foundation from numerous organizations and individuals make this program possible. If you'd like to make a gift to help support the ICF scholarship program, please [click here](#) and select "Youth Achievement Scholarships" in the Program menu!