



NEWS

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Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Welcomes Three Conservation Advocates in 2014 Class

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Three individuals with decades of service promoting conservation causes and natural resources education have been selected for induction into the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame.

Daniel E. (Dan) Basore of Warrenville, Paul E. Kelley of Hudson, and Charles S. (Charlie) Potter, Jr. of Lake Forest have been selected as the Class of 2014 for the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, a program of the Illinois Conservation Foundation. They will be introduced during a ceremony at Conservation World at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield on Aug. 16, and they will be inducted at the annual Illinois Conservation Foundation Gala at the Hilton Chicago/Indian Lakes in Bloomingdale on Oct. 4.

“Dan Basore, Paul Kelley and Charlie Potter have helped connect tens of thousands of Illinoisans – and people from around the country – to the joys of spending time outdoors here in Illinois. They are great ambassadors for outdoor recreation – and for decades have helped anglers, trappers, and hunters of all ages experience the history, heritage and excitement of the great outdoors,” said Illinois Conservation Foundation Executive Director Eric Schmidt.

Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame Class of 2014

Dan Basore, Warrenville

Dan Basore has been teaching and promoting the joys of fishing to children and adults in Illinois and throughout the Midwest for more than 30 years. Basore’s famed “Historical Fishing” exhibit is a popular feature at outdoors shows, museums, fishing clubs, and kids fishing clinics. Basore displays and provides insightful commentary on items ranging from prehistoric fishing tools

dating to 6,000 years ago to priceless fishing lures from the 19th and early 20th centuries. For 25 years, Basore has written the Fishing History column for *Midwest Outdoors* magazine. One nominator referred to Dan Basore as “a living Smithsonian for the fishing community,” taking pride in explaining the history of fishing, and in helping get children interested in fishing and a love of the outdoors.

Paul Kelley, Hudson

For more than 50 years, Paul Kelley has promoted the importance and heritage of trapping in Illinois as a member of the Illinois Trappers Association, serving as the group’s president for more than a decade. As a staunch advocate for hunting and trapping in the state, Kelley organized a coalition of supporters to convince legislators to reject attempts to do away with trapping in Illinois in the 1970s. He worked with trappers and legislators in support of license fees and furbearer stamps to fund conservation, research and education programs in the state. Kelley has also promoted youth hunting and trapping programs, helping found a Wilderness Camp in central Illinois, and instructing at a youth outdoors camp through the Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources. Kelley has also taught courses for novice trappers and Illinois Conservation Police officers to promote legal and ethical trapping.

Charlie Potter, Lake Forest

Charlie Potter is well known throughout America for his leadership in the conservation arena, and in the Midwest as host of the Great Outdoors Show on WGN Radio. Potter grew up in Illinois and has deep roots in the state. Potter’s passion for waterfowl and conservation is reflected in his book “Following the Flight” that chronicled the migration of ducks and geese from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Potter is President and CEO of the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Chairman of Great Outdoors, LLC, a leading outdoor industry exposition company, and is the past CEO of the North American Wildlife Foundation (Delta Waterfowl Foundation). Potter has worked on projects to enhance wetlands, wildlife habitat, open space and the efficiency of conservation funding throughout the U.S. and Canada. Potter is a past chair of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and is a past board member of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Advisory Board. He has received the prestigious Chevron/Times Mirror Conservationist of the Year Award and numerous other honors for conservation advocacy and promotion of outdoor recreation opportunity. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, National Land Trust Alliance, Mississippi Wildlife Federation, PERC, Sand County Foundation, Lake Forest Open Lands, and The Wetlands Initiative as part of his work in the conservation field. He is a life sponsor of Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl Foundation and the National Rifle Association.

The Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame was established in 2002 to recognize and honor individuals who have made significant contributions to or exhibited unparalleled dedication in preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources or outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation is an IRS 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1995 to support the programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For more information on the ICF or the Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame, check the ICF website at www.ilcf.org or phone 217-785-2003.