

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2009

**ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$32,350 IN GRANTS
FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
Grants Support Youth, Environmental Education, Outdoor Recreation Projects**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Conservation Foundation today announced the awarding of grants totaling \$32,350 to nine programs and projects focusing on youth education and environmental stewardship.

“The ICF Grant Program helps provide young people and families with hands-on experiences in the outdoors, helping them understand and appreciate the natural world,” said Marc Miller, the director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and chairman of the Illinois Conservation Foundation Board of Directors.

The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) grant program is supported by private donations, including funds raised at the annual Illinois Outdoor Hall of Fame banquet. Applications for the grant program were reviewed and approved by the ICF Board of Directors. The grant program has awarded more than \$300,000 in grants for nearly 150 programs and projects in recent years.

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. Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

For more information on the grant program, contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, phone 217/785-2003, or visit the ICF web site at www.ilcf.org.

A list of this year’s grant recipients, grant amounts and a brief project description is below.

Allerton Park and Retreat Center, Monticello, \$5,000 for the facility’s ADA accessible interpretive trail boardwalk extension. (Contact: Barbara Schleicher, 217/333-3287 ext. 204).

Du Page Rivers Fly Tyers (DRIFT), Lemont, \$4,500 to expand instruction in fishing, fly tying, and conservation education. (Contact: Fred J. Schmitz, 630/257-0295).

IDNR Division of Education, Springfield, \$4,000 to support the IDNR “Earth Day in the Parks” initiative for school students to participate in conservation stewardship projects at state parks. (Contact: Valerie Keener, 217/785-0973).

IDNR Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton, \$4,000 to support the annual Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair. (Contact: Scott Isringhausen, 618/786-3323).

McCulley Heritage Project, Kampsville, \$3,050 for the Student Forestry Field Days program. (Contact: Michelle Berg Vogel, 618/653-4687).

Metro East Patriot's Day Committee, O'Fallon, \$1,000 to support the Kids, Dads and Fishtales program. (Contact: Brenda Crisp, 618/874-6505).

Pleasant Dale Park District, Burr Ridge, \$5,000 for the Lake Carriage Way ADA accessible fishing dock and canoe/kayak launch. (Contact: Kathryn Parker, 630/662-6220).

Trailnet, St. Louis, \$5,000 to support the Eagle Days 2010 on Jan. 16-17 on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge in Granite City, IL (education program on bald eagles for youngsters and families) co-sponsored by local and regional conservation agencies including the IDNR. (Contact: Kathleen Stomps, 314/436-1324 ext. 111).

Uni-Pres Kindercottage, East St. Louis, \$800 to support the Fishing is Fundamental program. (Contact: Brenda Crisp, 618/874-6505).