

News *Release*

For Immediate Release: January 17, 2017

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Nominations are now open for the ***George and Barbara Fell Award***

Rockford, Ill. -- The **Natural Land Institute** is now accepting nominations for the **2017 George and Barbara Fell Award**. The **DEADLINE** to submit a nomination for an individual with outstanding achievements in land conservation is Friday, February 3, 2017. The award is named for **George and Barbara Fell** who founded the Natural Land Institute in 1958 and devoted their lives to the protection of natural areas in Illinois. They were committed to protecting Illinois' natural heritage so rare and endangered plant and animal species would be here for future generations.

The presentation of the land conservation award will be at the Natural Land Institute's Annual Dinner on **Tuesday, March 21, 2017**, 6:00–9:00 p.m. at Giovanni's Restaurant & Convention Center, 610 N. Bell School Rd., Rockford, Illinois.

Nominating Guidelines:

Nominees for the award should demonstrate creativity or leadership in the preservation or stewardship of natural areas, restoration of natural areas, or have a history of promoting an understanding of the natural world in our region. They can work or volunteer in any area of activity related to land conservation, such as natural resource management, education, journalism, law or science. Nominees may have shown financial leadership that supports land conservation. Priority will be given to nominees with distinguished lifetime accomplishments and impact made in the service area of Natural Land Institute. Current Trustees of Natural Land Institute are not eligible.

Submit a nomination by filling out the form available for download on the NLI website, http://www.naturalland.org/docs/Fell_Award_Nomination_Form_2017.pdf. Mail the nomination form and any optional supplemental materials and photos to Natural Land Institute, 320 S. Third St., Rockford, IL 61104 or email the nomination to info@naturalland.org. **Nomination deadline: February 3, 2017.** To request a form or for more information call 815-964-6666, email: info@naturalland.org.

MORE

Past recipients of the George and Barbara Fell Award:

- 1997 - Barbara Fell (Rockford, Illinois)
- 1998 - Dorothy Wade (Oregon, Illinois)
- 1999 - Bruce Ross-Shannon (Rockford, Illinois)
- 2000 - Keith and Mary Blackmore (Forreston, Illinois)
- 2001 - Jack and Joyce Armstrong (Rockford, Illinois)
- 2002 - Mary B. Bushnell (Stillman Valley, Illinois)
- 2003 - Tim Keller (Sterling, Illinois)
- 2004 - Mark Keister (Winslow, Illinois)
- 2006 - Lee Johnson (Shirland, Illinois)
- 2007 - Dr. Richard Newsome (Beloit, Wisconsin)
- 2008 - Russell Johansson (Rockford, Illinois)
- 2009 - William Howenstine (McHenry, Illinois)
- 2010 - Nancy Hamill Winter (Stockton, Illinois)
- 2011 - Richard and Karen Gadke (Capron, Illinois)
- 2012 – Judy McCleary (Roscoe, Illinois)
- 2013 – Jerry Paulson (Caledonia, Illinois)
- 2014 – Dave and Nancy Voss (Rockford, Illinois)
- 2015 – Randy Nyboer (Morrison, Illinois)
- 2016 – John (Jack) White (Urbana, Illinois)

About the Natural Land Institute

The Natural Land Institute is a 501(c)3, non-profit land trust and conservation organization based in Rockford, Illinois, which has protected more than 16,000 acres of natural land in Illinois since 1958. NLI's current service area covers twelve counties in northern Illinois. NLI's mission is to create an enduring legacy of natural land in northern Illinois for people, plants and animals. The President of the Board of Trustees is Mark Maffei. For more information and to donate: www.NaturalLand.org.

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