

**For Immediate Release**

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**Support The Conservation Foundation and Preserve Illinois' Natural Legacy**

*Earth Day Benefit Dinner Tickets Available, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24*

**NAPERVILLE, Ill. (April 2, 2008)** – Preserving Illinois' open lands and conserving its natural plant and wildlife heritage is the hallmark of The Conservation Foundation's work. Since its beginning in 1972, the Naperville-based organization has led the effort to save more than 30,000 acres of open land in northeastern Illinois. The organization cannot do it alone.

Support nature and help The Conservation Foundation continue its urgent environmental work at its annual Earth Day Benefit Dinner, 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, at Bobak's Signature Events, 6440 Double Eagle Drive, Woodridge, Ill.

The organization's largest benefit will include a silent auction featuring hundreds of nature-inspired gifts, as well as a sit-down dinner. The evening's emcee will be Mike Nowak, host of WGN-AM radio's "Let's Talk Gardening," a Chicago master gardener, award-winning columnist for Chicagoland Gardening Magazine and co-founder of the Midwest Ecological Landscaping Association (MELA).

Many local corporations and organizations supporting The Conservation Foundation's environmental initiatives will be represented, including the following platinum sponsors at the \$5,000 level: Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Fox Valley Park District, Icon Digital Design, Itasca Bank, Molex Incorporated, S & E Bramsen Foundation and ScotPress. Gold sponsors at the \$2,500 level include BP America, Chapman and Cutler, Deloitte & Touche, Inland Real Estate, Nicor, Waste Management, Wheaton Bank and Wight & Co.

Two Paul D. Pierotti Memorial Scholarships will be presented to high school students who will study conservation in college. The scholarship fund was created by Dewey Pierotti, president of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, and his wife, Leslie, in memory of their late son, Paul, who was an avid outdoorsman. The annual scholarship is a partnership between The Conservation Foundation, the DuPage Community Foundation and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The Ron Yenerich Scholarship, founded by an advisory council member of The Conservation Foundation, also will be presented.

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## **The Nature Conservation//Add One**

Benefit tickets are \$100 per person. To make reservations, send an email to [cthompson@theconservationfoundation.org](mailto:cthompson@theconservationfoundation.org) or call 630-428-4500, Ext. 10. For information about activities and events sponsored by The Conservation Foundation, including membership, visit [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org) or call 630-428-4500.

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***The Conservation Foundation**, a nonprofit land and watershed protection organization, is dedicated to preserving open space and natural lands, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment in northeastern Illinois. Established in 1972 by business and community leaders, it is the only environmental organization to receive the 2008 Annual Award for Business Excellence from The Business Ledger. Working closely with citizens, elected officials, developers, land use planners, park districts and forest preserves, The Conservation Foundation has helped protect more than 30,000 acres of open space. The Conservation Foundation has more than 4,500 donors and members. Its main office is at the 60-acre McDonald Farm in Naperville, Ill., with a program office located at historic Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery, Ill. For more information about activities, programs and membership, visit [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org) or call 630-428-4500.*