

Friends of Warren County Conservation Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2018
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Introduction

The Friends of Warren County Conservation (Friends) completed its 23rd year in 2018. Friends support the Warren County Conservation Board (WCCB) by fundraising and volunteering.

Executive Board of Directors

The Friends organization is governed by a twelve member Board of Directors. The Board elects three officers each year – President, Vice President/Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors terms are three years.

Ashley Vanderflight, President	December 2020
Lisa Niedermayer, Vice President	December 2020
Monty Freeman, Treasurer	December 2020
Steve Derman	December 2019
Randy Edwards (resigned April 2018)	December 2019
Donna Fink	December 2018
Judy Hendricks	December 2020
John Krogmeier	December 2018
Blair Lawson	December 2018
Steve Weaver (resigned Sept. 2018)	December 2019
Peg Hutchinson	December 2019
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski	Non Elect
Sue Boll/Ace Hendricks	WCCB Representative

Meeting

Friends meeting are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Annett Nature Center. Meeting agendas are posted on the Warren County Conservation Board website. The Friends held 11 official meeting in fiscal year 2018. A meeting was not held in September 2017.

Membership

The Friends membership corresponds to the calendar year. Membership totaled 183 in 2018. At benefactor level or above, members receive one half-price rental of the Annett Nature Center. The Warren County Conservation Board's newsletter is mailed to members four times a year. Members also receive an early invitation to special events. Member recruitment efforts included Friends of WCC booths at the Indianola YMCA and Ted Lare Farmers Market and a membership mailing sent in January.

Membership Categories		Number/Category	
		2017	2018
Individual	\$20	28	29
Joint/Family	\$30	46	64
Benefactor	\$50	58	58
Corporate/Business	\$100	20	25
Lifetime	\$1,000 or more	4	5

Volunteering

Volunteering opportunities are listed on the WCCB website. Sign Up Genius is also used to coordinate volunteers for events. According to the 2018 Volunteer Log (June 2017 – June 2018), 614.5 volunteer hours were recorded.

Fundraising

Fundraiser	Income	Expenses	Profit	Participants
Native Plant Sale	\$4,194.33	\$1,024.15	\$3,170.88	
Osprey 5K	\$2,324.97	\$1,353.71	\$971.26	55
Prairie Picnic	\$8,149.48	\$4,124.60	\$4,024.88	120
Deer Tag	\$12,800.00	\$280.00 (PayPal fees)	\$6,120.00	
(Deer Tag- profit of \$12,800 was split equally between the IA Dept. of Natural Resources and the Friends of Warren County Conservation.)				

Public Programs Sponsored by Friends in Fiscal Year 2018

Program	Participants	Expenses	Income
Wild Women in the Woods	29	\$1,050.86	\$1,304.00
Parks Tour & Wine Tasting	22	\$1,160.10	\$691.00
Halloween Hike	190	\$663.29	\$626.99
Kids Fish Day	40	\$331.35	No Charge
Day Camp			
Plant, Grow and Fly Program		\$50.00	
Blank Park Zoo Program/Indianola Library 104			

Funding Requests

2017

Butterfly Survey	\$500.00
Wineglasses	\$229.96
Tipi Cover	\$528.00

2018

Grill	\$2,500.00
Butterfly Survey	\$500.00
Bluebird House Material	\$500.00
Buffalo Hide	<i>\$350.00 request was not approved</i>

Projects Supported by or Materials Purchased by Friends in Fiscal Year 2018

<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Priscilla Butterfly Exhibit (Panels)	\$18,298.00
Central Iowa Trek the Parks	\$150.00
FWCC Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Advertise (Indianola YMCA/newspaper)	\$500.00
Promotion (carbineers & pens)	\$412.00
Native Plant Seed (Cardinal Flower & Royal Catchfly)	\$200.00
Des Moines Outdoor Fund	\$150.00

Scholarship

In 2018, a scholarship committee was formed to develop Friends of Warren County Conservation Scholarship criteria and application to award two \$1,000 (college) scholarships per year. In 2018, one \$1,000 scholarship was awarded.

Website, Facebook and Instagram

The website for the Warren County Conservation Board includes information regarding the Friends group - meetings, membership and volunteer opportunities. Facebook is used to promote Warren County Conservation programs, projects and fundraising events. During 2018, the Warren County Conservation/Annett Nature Center Facebook page had 2,532 likes.

Financial

Taxes

The Friends of Warren County Conservation is a chartered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, filed with the Iowa Secretary of State. This tax exemption status requires filing a federal tax return form annual. Depending on the gross receipts for the year, Tax Form 990 (Long Form) or Tax Form 990EZ (Short Form) must be filed. The 2017 taxes were prepared by Gray Financial of Indianola, for the cost of \$350.

Banking

The Friends have a 'Community Club' checking account with Peoples Bank in Indianola, IA. The checking account balance on June 30, 2018 was \$135,497. The checking account authorized signatories are Monty Freeman (Friends Board treasurer) and Karen Johlas-Szalkowski (Warren County Conservation Board Naturalist).

Credit Accounts

The Friends have a Wal-mart credit card and a Peoples Bank credit card used to purchase supplies for Friends and Warren County Conservation Board events and activities. The balance is paid in full each month. The Warren County Conservation Board reimburses the Friends monthly for items purchased for WCCB sponsored events and activities.

Annual Audit

The Office of the Auditor of State (Iowa) annually audits Warren County finances. The Friends financial accounts are included in the County audit, in the 'Nonmajor

Governmental Funds” section. The Friends insure all financial transactions are appropriate and fiscally responsible. The Friends Treasurer oversees all banking transactions and investment accounts.

Investments

The Friends financial investments are managed by Edward Jones of Indianola, IA. The Friends investments are medium risk investments, including mutual funds. An investment committee was formed to determine the logistics of accepting/managing the Great Western Trail Funds for the WCCB and donations made to the Friends group.

Donations

The Friends group received a donation of \$124,164 from Phyllis Geyer, which was designated for a lodge at the Annett Nature Center grounds.

Conclusion

Each year the Friends Board strives to work jointly with the Warren County Conservation Board members and staff to effectively promote resource conservation and environmental education programs/events. In fiscal year 2017 the Friends continued its efforts to increase membership, financial contributions and volunteerism.

Friends of Warren County Conservation Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Review

I randomly selected October 2017 and March 2018 to review. For these months, I reviewed the bank statement, check register book, and Quickbooks report. I certify that the entries for October 2017 and March 2018 have been properly recorded and reconciled.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Niedermayer, Vice President
February 28, 2018