

**Friends of Warren County Conservation Annual Report**  
**Fiscal Year 2021**  
**July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

**Introduction**

The Friends of Warren County Conservation (Friends) completed its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2020. 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 elected for a term of three consecutive calendar years. The Board elects three officers each year – President, Vice President/Secretary and Treasurer. The Friends Board will consist of no less than five and no more than twelve at large members of legal age, WCCB naturalist and president of the WCCB or designee, for a total not to exceed fourteen members.

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Blair Lawson                | December 2021                    |
| Lisa Niedermayer, President | December 2023                    |
| Monty Freeman, Treasurer    | December 2023                    |
| Steve Derman                | December 2022                    |
| Ashley Vanderflucht         | December 2023                    |
| Vacant                      |                                  |
| Judy Hendricks              | December 2023                    |
| Donna Fink, Vice President  | December 2021                    |
| John Krogmeier              | December 2021                    |
| Veronica O'Hern             | December 2022                    |
| Carla Kuehl-Purdum          | December 2022                    |
| Karen Johlas-Szalkowski     | WCCB Naturalist                  |
| Mark Kickbush/              | WCCB President or 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 meetings in fiscal year 2021, with the meetings being held in person and by Zoom. A meeting was not held in September 2020.

**Membership**

The Friends membership corresponds to the calendar year. Membership totaled 174 in 2021. 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.

## Membership Categories

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Individual         | \$20            |
| Joint/Family       | \$30            |
| Benefactor         | \$50            |
| Corporate/Business | \$100           |
| Lifetime           | \$1,000 or more |

## Volunteering

Volunteering opportunities are listed on the WCCB website. Sign Up Genius is also used to coordinate volunteers for events. According to the 2020-2021 Volunteer Log (July 2020 – June 2021), 281.5 volunteer hours were recorded.

## Fundraising

| Date | Fundraiser        | Income      | Expenses   | Profit      |
|------|-------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 6/21 | Native Plant Sale | \$3,201.58  | \$1,470.00 | \$1,731.58  |
| 4/21 | Osprey 5K         | \$3,831.30  | \$2,453.60 | \$1,377.70  |
| 9/20 | Prairie Picnic    | \$6,265.25  | \$3,646.62 | \$2,618.63  |
| 7/20 | Deer Tag          | \$20,000.00 |            | \$10,000.00 |

(Deer Tag- profit of \$15,850 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 2021

| Date  | Program                           | Expense   | Income              |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 10/20 | Halloween Hike                    | \$610.91  | \$603.40            |
| 2/21  | Wild Women in the Woods           | \$1501.14 | \$2,042.14          |
| 4/21  | Conservation Geocaching Adventure | \$980.10  | No charge for event |
| 5/21  | Plant, Grow and Fly Program       |           |                     |
| 6/21  | Kids Fish Day                     | \$64.02   | No charge for event |

## Funding Request

There were no funding requests outside of the regularly sponsored events.

## **Projects Supported by or Materials Purchased by Friends in Fiscal Year 2021**

| <u>Project/Item</u>          | <u>Expense</u>    |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| FWCC Scholarship             | \$0 No applicants |
| WCCB Summer Camp Scholarship | \$0 No applicants |
| Trek the Parks               | \$100.00          |
| Trek the Trails              | \$200.00          |
| Iowa Trail Run Series        | \$0               |
| 196 registered               |                   |

### **Scholarship**

In 2020 there were no applicants.

### **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 fiscal year 2021, the Warren County Conservation/Annett Nature Center Facebook page had 3,712 likes and 4,029 followers, Instagram had 746 followers and 88 following.

### **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 annually. Depending on the gross receipts for the year, Tax Form 990 (Long Form) or Tax Form 990EZ (Short Form) must be filed. The 2020 taxes were prepared by Gray Financial of Indianola, for the cost of \$350.00. Filing of additional tax forms/tax preparation expense as the result of the Great Western Trail Fund will be paid by the Warren County Conservation Board.

#### **\* Banking**

The Friends have a 'Community Club' checking account with Peoples Bank in Indianola, IA. The checking account balance on June 30, 2021 was \$56,555.78. 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 VISA 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. The Friends board agreed to house and manage the Great Western Trail Funds for the WCCB, which are also managed by Edward Jones of Indianola, IA. The total value of the Edward Jones statement as of June 30, 2021 was \$372,097.67, which includes The Great Western Trail Funds.

**Donations**

Donations made to the Friends group are also managed by Edward Jones. Fiscal year 2020 had \$2,765.00 from memorials and \$2,024.73 from donations. Total: \$4,789.73.

**\*Conclusion**

Each year the Friends Board strives to work jointly with the Warren County Conservation Board members and staff to effectively promote natural resource management and environmental education programs/events. In fiscal year 2021 the Friends continued its efforts to increase membership, financial contributions and volunteerism.

**Friends of Warren County Conservation Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Review**

I randomly selected November 2020 and January 2021 to review. For these months, I reviewed the bank statement, check register book, and QuickBooks report. I certify that the entries for November 2020 and May 2021 have been properly recorded and reconciled.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Krogmeier, Vice President  
February 12, 2022