



Annual Report

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Mission Statement

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Brief History

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was created in 1999 to help with fund raising for the building of the Hurstville Interpretive Center. It has since expanded its fund-raising efforts and other projects to support all aspects of the conservation department.

Board Members

Board Members can serve two 3-year terms. Board members during the 2018-19 FY were:

Jeremy Meyer, Chair

Bruce Fisher, Vice Chair

Wendy Hainstock, Treasurer

Sandy Walton, Secretary

Jennie Willcox, At Large

Kathi Atkinson, Board Rep

Jessica Wagner, Staff Rep

Membership

A mailing was done in February to encourage more membership renewals. \$1,715 was brought in for membership during the fiscal year.

Projects/Programs

- Sponsored the 15 Year Celebration of the Hurstville Interpretive Center!
- Sponsored the summer naturalist intern position; increased our contribution to \$3,000.
- Continued support of the trumpeter swan reintroduction program and live education animals at the Center.
- Continued to hold a native plant sale to encourage people to grow native species in their gardens.
- A phenology calendar was created and sold in the gift shop.



Friends Members Ann Burns, Barb McCray, Pam True & Mary Hayward serve up some delicious homemade desserts at the 15 Year Celebration in August.

Bus Scholarship

Each year Friends allocates funds to help with the cost of transportation for student field trips related to environmental education. This year, the group made a \$1,200 contribution to the 7th grade Isle Royale trip for Maquoketa and Bellevue students.

Endowment

We started the fiscal year with \$57,485.35 in our endowment fund (agency & donor accounts). We participated in the 5th annual Great Give Day in May sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. We also did an endowment mailing campaign in October. We ended the fiscal year with \$65,804.46. We increased our endowment fund by more than \$8,000 through great give day contributions, other donor contributions, interest and Friends annual contribution.

Gift Shop

Friends continues to maintain the gift shop at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. It is stocked with local wine, honey

and handmade items as well as nature toys, story books, field guides, t-shirts, and many other items that relate to nature. The gift shop brought in over \$2,000 in revenue this fiscal year.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee focused its efforts toward raising awareness and motivating Jackson County residents and businesses to behave more sustainably. The Committee's efforts included outreach or partnerships with businesses, other not-for profit organizations, students, and everyday consumers:

- Conducted outreach to community organizations to encourage use of reusable tableware rather than single use plastic tableware at their fundraising and organization meetings
- Purchased reusable plastic plates with lids to sell at community dinners to provide an outlet for reusable and portable tableware to be used by community members
- Created and contributed newsletter articles promoting behaviors that enable sustainability



Friends Members Karen Manning and Ann Burns pose with their reusable mugs at the Maquoketa Caves First Day Hike event.

Fundraisers

- Codfish Hollow: Friends began the Codfish Hollow Fundraiser in the summer of 2017. Friends' members and volunteers provide food for the band members at Codfish Hollow. All funds raised in 2018 were designated for the Hurstville Pedestrian Trail.
- Hurstville Pedestrian Trail: in January, the Friends group committed to raising \$65,000 to help the Conservation Board finish the 0.7-mile segment of the trail to connect to the Hurstville Center.
 - A letter campaign was done in February 2019 to solicit donations for the trail.
 - Geology & Jazz was held March 2019 to raise funds for the trail. Friends members made dishes for a dinner following a program 'Geology & Jazz' by Dale Easley. 40 people attended and \$950 was raised
 - As of the end of the fiscal year, Friends has close to \$10,000 of the funds needed.

Programs

- Friends supported public and youth programs and events at the Hurstville Interpretive Center and throughout the county, including: day camps, soap class, bird house workshops, basket weaving classes and bald eagle event.
- Friends sponsored the band at the 15-year anniversary part for the Center
- Friends of Jackson County Conservation & Jackson County Conservation served over 12,000 people through environmental education programs and events.

Awards/Grants

- Jackson County Area Tourism Assoc. awarded us \$750 to advertise our programs and events on Facebook.
- Briggs 4th grade teacher Jenna Olson secured a \$250 visa gift card through WE Volunteer to purchase wildflowers for the pollinator garden at Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Briggs students helped plant the flowers in the cual-de-sac near the Pavilion in May.



Briggs students have fun planting wildflowers at Prairie Creek!



From left to right: summer intern Shelley Gossman demonstrates erosion with youth at summer camp; participants at a basket weaving class show off their finished baskets.

FJCC helps the conservation department in so many ways!

