



# Annual Report

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

## 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 2015-16 FY were:

Jeremy Meyer, Chair  
Julie Reuter, Vice Chair  
Wendy Hainstock, Treasurer  
Sandy Walton, Secretary  
Kathi Atkinson, Volunteer Coordinator

## Awards/Grants

Grants Received:

1. Jackson County Area Tourism Association Mini-Grant in the amount of \$420 for advertising costs for the Jackson County Safari program.
2. IDPH grant in the amount of \$1,500 for natural playscape additions at the Hurstville Center, including: sand pit, sun clock, discovery tables, raised beds, pond box, picnic table and a kid's picnic table.
3. Build with Bags grant for \$500 for the purchase of a recycled plastic picnic table for the south plaza at the Hurstville Center.
4. Iowa Ornithology Union for \$215 for bird surveys at Prairie Creek Recreation Area.

## Administrative

- Friends of Jackson County Conservation & Jackson Co. Conservation served 9,157 people through environmental education programs and events.

## Fundraisers

- In January Friends decided to take on the Pavilion project at Prairie Creek Recreation Area as part of Phase 1 for the park. A committee was formed to make plans for the pavilion and fundraising efforts. Fundraising Goal: \$120,000 by Spring 2017. Funds raised through June 30, 2016: \$23,665 (includes Rotary donation of \$10,000 and Friends commitment of \$10,000).
- A Spring Luncheon was held in conjunction with a program about snakes presented by Rebecca Christofel. The Luncheon was held Sunday, April 17 from Noon-2:00. Approximately 50 people enjoyed

a taco bar for a freewill donation. \$287 was raised for the Pavilion.

- We participated in the national Great Give Day on May 3 and due to website glitches it was extended to May 4. It was held through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. \$5,871.50 was contributed from donors for the Pavilion and \$1,481.94 was donated towards the endowment. \$1,000 was transferred from Friends checking account to the endowment.
- An awareness event, 'Picnic at the Park', was held on Saturday, June 25 at Prairie Creek Recreation Area at the pavilion site to showcase the park and promote the pavilion. \$206 was raised at the event. A picnic lunch was served which included hot dogs and hamburgers and sides. Some participants enjoyed a hike to the rock shelter and splashing in the creek.
- A letter campaign was held for the Pavilion. More than 250 letters were sent out to past donors, past and current members, program participants, area businesses and organizations.

### Projects Funded and Supported

- Prairie Creek Pavilion
- Supported Jackson County My Community My Future Summer Youth Corps.
- Purchased binoculars for education staff to use for programs.
- Sponsored the summer naturalist intern. Tony Vorwald returned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer.
- Helped secure funds for updates to the Hurstville natural playscape area, including: picnic tables, sand pit, sun dial, toy box, discovery tables and two additional raised beds. IDPH helped fund these projects and Dean Nelson and the MCMF YC helped build the components.
- Continued support of the trumpeter swan reintroduction program and live education animals at the Hurstville Center.
- Provided bus scholarship for area schools for field trips: including the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Maquoketa Students' trip to Isle Royale (\$500) and Marquette 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders to the Hurstville Center (\$113.50).
- Supported public and youth programs and events: including summer day camps, Dubuque bald eagle watch, bird feeder workshop, bird house workshop, rain barrel workshop, OWLS events.
- Baldwin Marsh invasive species work.

### Prairie Creek Pavilion

- This was our big project for FY 15-16 & FY 16-17
- Fundraising Goal: \$120,000
- Fundraisers held: Spring Luncheon, Picnic at the Park, Letter Campaign
- A committee worked with Mark Sheets on the initial designs and a bid packet. Ament Design created a rendering of the pavilion to use for fundraising efforts.