

2024 Year in Review

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



From Our Board

Dear friends,

Forest preserves provide clean air and water and protect biodiversity. Forest preserves provide public access to nature, programs, and recreational amenities. Forest preserves are the common ground beneath our feet — spaces for gathering, celebrating, and connecting. Forest preserves provide and improve awe-inspiring natural areas that thrive when we are good stewards, together. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County manages nearly 27,000 acres, maintains 175 miles of trails, and operates education centers that enrich the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

In 2024, we bid farewell to longtime board members Diane Addante, Brian Battle, and Penny Chanez. We thank them for their service to our mission.

Gifts at every level make a difference and help to continue a proud tradition of conservation through strong public-and-private partnerships. We thank you for your love of the DuPage forest preserves. Your generosity allows the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to make wise decisions, guided by the greatest needs for the Forest Preserve District, every year.

Thank you for being a friend!

Sincerely,

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's Vision

To be a nationally recognized conservation agency that envisions a community in which all citizens share a connection with nature and an appreciation for cultural history

Our Mission

To advance the vision of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County through philanthropic endeavors

Our Board of Directors & Staff

Chair

Mike Dyer, Wheaton

Vice Chair

Bob Watt, Itasca

Treasurer

Ashley Guest, Winfield

Secretary

Joe Suchecki, Naperville

Member

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Member

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Member

Penny Chanez, Lombard

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Chief Partnership & Philanthropy Officer

Audra Bonnet

Donor Relations Coordinator

Chrissy Dawson

Executive Support Specialist

Lulú Hertenstein

Corporate & Community Giving Officer

Francie Sheahan

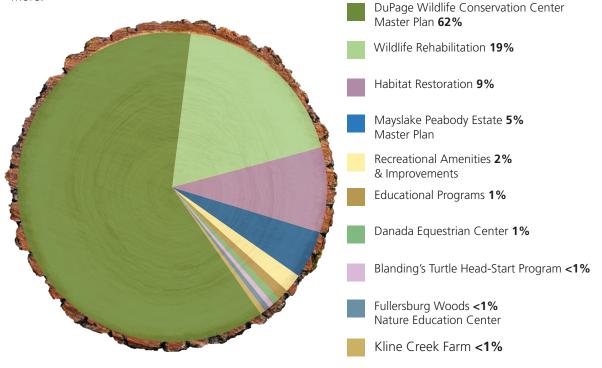
Executive Assistant

On the cover: Blackwell Forest Preserve / © Mark Baldwin



Where Your Gifts Made a Difference

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County 501(c)(3) helps the community support the Forest Preserve District's mission. Nearly 1,000 individuals, corporations, civic groups, and foundations made gifts to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District to support the master plan, native wildlife rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and more.



DuPage County Voters Say "Yes"

In November, DuPage County voters supported the Forest Preserve District's referendum, which demonstrated the community's commitment to its mission and vision. The Friends is grateful to voters for your willingness to approve additional resources through the tax levy. We remain committed to engaging the community in philanthropy for your DuPage forest preserves.



Contributions \$35 Grants	Statement of Activities	
Grants Donations Special Events Income Investments Miscellaneous Total Income S54 Expenses Forest Preserve District Program and Project Support Other Grants Event Supplies All Other Expenses Total Expenses S 86 Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Assets Current Assets Cash and Investments S8 Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Without Donor Restrictions	Revenues	
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Forest Preserve District Program and Project Support Other Grants Event Supplies All Other Expenses Total Expenses Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Assets Current Assets Cash and Investments Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Without Donor Restrictions 575 586 Accounts Payable Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	Total Income	\$548,319
Other Grants Event Supplies All Other Expenses Total Expenses Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Assets Current Assets Cash and Investments \$8 Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Without Donor Restrictions 58 66 67 68 68 68 68 68 68 68 6	Expenses	
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All Other Expenses \$86 Total Expenses \$86 Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Assets Current Assets Cash and Investments \$8 Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions 33 Without Donor Restrictions 5	Other Grants	62,000
Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Assets Current Assets Cash and Investments Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions \$86	Event Supplies	19,043
Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Assets Current Assets Cash and Investments Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Samuel Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024) Samuel Summary (as of De	All Other Expenses	29,935
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Current Assets Cash and Investments Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Without Donor Restrictions 5	Financial Position Summary (as of Dec. 31, 2024)	
Cash and Investments \$8 Liabilities Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions \$3 Without Donor Restrictions 55		
Accounts Payable Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Without Donor Restrictions 5		\$888,615
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions Without Donor Restrictions 5	Liabilities	
With Donor Restrictions 3 Without Donor Restrictions 5	Accounts Payable	2,949
Without Donor Restrictions 5	Net Assets	
	With Donor Restrictions	366,976
Total Net Assets \$8	Without Donor Restrictions	518,690
	Total Net Assets	\$885,666

In Support of the Forest Preserve District's Mission

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Species Recovery

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District partnered with the Forest Preserve District to complete the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center Master Plan Phase II Improvements, a transformational investment for wildlife rehabilitation and visitor engagement. Your generosity helped bring this visionary project to life, and we eagerly anticipate the opening of the new visitor center.

In addition to project funding for the wildlife center, the Friends provided support for wildlife care, including the Blanding's turtle species-recovery program. This program is part of a regional network of agencies and organizations who work to boost populations of the state-endangered species in the wild. We celebrate everyone who contributed for native wildlife.

Habitat Restoration

Continuous management efforts are required to protect local biodiversity and sustain high-quality natural areas in the forest preserves. Strategies for restoration include the selective removal of invasive plants, collection and distribution of native seeds, and use of prescribed fire. Thanks to fundraising efforts and a matching grant, the Friends helped to fund habitat management in an important woodland at Churchill Woods Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn. Contracted work helped to complement the volunteer stewardship efforts in the woodland.







In Support of the Forest Preserve District's Mission

Recreational Amenities & Preserve Improvements

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District offered the opportunity to dedicate new or existing benches in the forest preserves. Donations for such preserve improvements help to fulfill some of the Forest Preserve District's master plan inititatives, provide accessibility along the trails, and a way to memorialize or pay tribute to a loved one, friend, or special companion.

Education Centers & Programs

Donations for the education centers helped to provide resources not only to engage the public but also maintain natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. Your donations represent a deep love for the educational programs these centers provide to DuPage residents.







With Thanks to Our Community Partners

We build relationships with corporations, foundations, and civic groups to help support DuPage forest preserves and nature-based opportunites year-round. All contributions benefit the Forest Preserve District's mission, master plan and initiatives, and supplement tax revenue for the beneift of your community.

CNH Industrial Foundation

Domtar

Ecolab Foundation

Edward Jones — Financial Advisor: Mike Dyer

Friends of Danada, Inc.

G. Carl Ball Family Foundation

International

Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation

Molex

Nicor

nora fleming

Ranch Spur Charitable Trust

Republic Bank of Chicago

Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Target

Wheaton Bank & Trust







The following donors and community partners committed through Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County or Forest Preserve District. To discover more about the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing ways to help care for DuPage forest preserves, visit dupageforest.org/friends.

\$1 Million+

Estate of Charles Johnson

\$25,000 - \$99,999

International Elaine Libovicz Fidelity Charitable TC Energy

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous Robert & Toni Bader Charitable Foundation, Inc. G. Carl Ball Family Foundation CNH Industrial Foundation **Ecolab Foundation** Larry C. Larson

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Chicago Region Trees Initiative Domtar Jeffrey Jens Faith Lambrecht Bob and Diane Miller Molex Nicor Gas Company Schwab Charitable Marilyn Schweitzer and Michael Firman Daniel W. Soline **Target**

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous Mary and Harold Bamford III Ann Boisclair Edward Jones — Financial Advisor: Mike Dyer Friends of Danada, Inc. nora fleming Elaine Novak Jans Ranch Spur Charitable Trust Republic Bank of Chicago David and Eileen Stang Stantec Consulting Services, Inc Michael and Diane Webb Wheaton Bank & Trust Mark Wight Jerry and Jody Zamirowski

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous (two) Diane and Joe Addante The Baran Family Fund Lois Barnett Seth Becker and Helen Nam Roman and Molly Boed Robert and Marcy Cap James and Valerie Carroll Christopher Burke Kevin Condon Patricia Reilley and Michael Daniel Dietzler Mike Dyer Ferrari Plumbing, Inc. Jeff and Bonnie Gahris Corryn Greenwood Judith Grev Joel Herning Susan Johansen The Kannegiesser Family Mary Lotz Mary Ann Mahoney Mary Ellen and Patrick Mauro Carol McGee Robert R. McCormick Foundation Montano's Landscaping Morgan Stanley Sharon and Thomas Murphy Susan A. Page Donald and Susan Panozzo The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation Edith M. Podrazik Timothy Ramsey Rice Lake Square Robinson Engineering Ltd. Monica Sentoff John Schroeder Janet Strain Terri Tarka Diane Telander Steven and Gayle Tyriver V3 Companies, Ltd. Mike and Dorothy Vondra Foundation Margaret and Craig Votava

Vulcan Materials Company

Foundation

West Chicago Garden Club Wickencamp Family Fund James Wolfe

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous (four) Coral Baran Bowman Carmax Anthony and Joyce Carey Rosemary and Robert Carroll Chicago Ornithological Society Van Cushing Claudia and David D'Hooge Eva Dahm **Downers Grove Junior** Women's Club Dawn Draus DuPage Birding Club Exelon Robert E. Fisher Judy and George Fitchett Howard Goldstein and Peggy McGrath Illinois Legislative Sportman's Caucus Rachel Itano The Kerschen Family Madeline and Kenneth Kwiatkowski Flock of Readers Book Club H. Susan Jones Charitable Fund of DuPage Foundation DJ and Catherine LaChapelle Robert Lyon John Manley Guy and Sharon Matthew Rebecca McDade Lydia McKay Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc Milton Township Kathleen Murphy David and Loretta Nienke Michael Ondek Kerry Perry Michael Pizzuto Plote Construction Inc.

Ann and J. Torr Potterton

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\$500 - \$999 Contd. Chandra and Sangeeta The Provenzale Family Thomas and Karen Pulver Kelly Quinn David and Amy Reeter Jefferson and Catherine Reiter Nancy Rivas Martha and Bruce Sanders Lisa Savegnago and Ronald Johnson John Schofield Marlen V. Schuett Scott Day John and Maria Shalanko Steven and Megan Shebik The Shimkus Family Kristin Shulman Sharon and George Sifnotis Ann Storm Joseph and Daphne Suchecki Steven Szafranski John and Marion Tableriou Jerry and Amy Tavolino Tina Tyson-Dunne Robert Watt Hans and Lisa Weckerle Wheaton Lions Club Chet and Jeanette Wilczak Thomas Williams and Kelly Quinn Nancy Wirtz Charles and Sandra Youngstrom Doug Zimmer

\$250 – \$499

Anonymous (five) Julie Ames Donald Arnold and Susan O'Brien John and Janet Baar Deborah Bernat Diann Bilderback BLA, Inc. Dan and Susan Black Stephen Boyle Alan and Margaret Busic Karyn and Carl Charvat Susan Christensen Peter and Kathleen Connolly Pamela Conrad The Conservation Foundation Cotter Consulting, Inc.

Anamari Dorgan **Evalee Dumas** Martin Dunne Terry A. Ekl Penn French Rick and Kim Gieser Dan and Julie Glavin Heather Graf Kathryn and Douglas Harder Judy and Tom Haynes Daniel Hebreard Ken and Lulú Hertenstein Hillary Holecek Izzie's Garden Denis and Melissa Kania Tony Ketelaar and Ellen Hikes Pat Killian James Koehler John and Catherine Kos Patrick Kolzow Gerald Krozel Michael and Karen Krucek William L. Kundert Sandra Lampo Tommy Lim Lombard Junior Women's Club Joan Looi George W. Luvisi Jr Francine Manilow John Martin Material Service Testing, Inc. Joyce May Belinda Morgan Chris Moss Al Murphy William Murray Annette Musil Keri Myslinski Joy Nakayama Bill Nieman and Rita Nathanson Curtis Nekovar Kim Neuberg Carol O'Neal James OShaughnessy **Bhavin Patel** Diane and Robert Reed Renaissance Charitable Foundation Neil and Marilynn Ringquist Douglas Rundell S.T.A.T.E. Testing, LLC Pamela Sasser Richard and Kim R. Schlytter

Michael and Connie Schmidt

Mary Cowen

Tom Schutz Geraldine Sczygiel Sierra Club River Prairie Group Glenn Schultz and Susan Siska Jenny Skokun Adam Smith Kathleen Suchan Matthew and Elizabeth Tatro John Tokar and Sandra Risvold **Moises Torres** Joanne and John E. Trumbull George and Francene Turnpaugh Brian Urban Steve and Liz Van Arsdell Peggy Vos Dan Wagner James and Melodee Walker Paula Wallrich Norman and Donna Wandke Jim Weil Marla Westerhold Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Corporation Richard and Elizabeth Whitney Dennis and Rosemary Wisnosky Kristine Zimmermann

\$100 - \$249

Anonymous (five)

Benjamin Adler Aldo I Aquilera **Edward Allard** Connie Allekian Nancy Allured Lisa Alsen Carl F. Alston, Sr. Tom Althoff Stephen and Mary Ann Anderson Robin Andrews The Andrusyk Family Libby Aronson Neal Lofchy and Catherine Ashdown Sandra Banas Mark and Lauren Baran William and Marjorie Bardeen Debbie Barrett Melody and Daniel Barszcz Ken and Marge Bartels

Thank You for Being Our Friend

\$100 – \$249 Contd.
Daniel Basore
Fred and Kathleen Bauters
Bethany Bayci
Leslie and James E. Bayles,
Jr.
David A. Shaw and Janice K Becker
Glynis Benbow-Niemier
Nicole Bernroitner
Tim and Kate Blackwelder
Amy L. Boggess
Bond Dickson & Conway
Christine Borek
Nancy Borges Jeffrey and Melinda
Chapman
Michele Bovey
Deanne and Joseph Bovio
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Brandon
Martha H. Bright
Susan and Mark Brinskelle Lauren Britton
Carol Brkljacic
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Cathleen Carter
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Charles Diewald
Glenn Domovic
Nadine Drilling
Bruce Dudzik

Diana Dumont Prete

Jane Ellingsworth

Glenna Eorgoff

William and Holly Dyer

K.

Epic Games Evanston Fledge Watch Yuhong Fang Maria Fedirko Mary Lynn Ferkaluk Carolyn and Melvern Finzer Sharon Finzer Jeannine Flolo Michael J. Foley Carol Ford Julie and Tim Frakes Camille Franchi Catherine Franczyk Lawrence and Linda Frey Karie Friling Nick Fuller C E Furgiuele Glenn Gabanski Patricia Gabris Deborah Gaither Allen and Patricia Gebala Joyce Giaquinta Jill Goldstein Terry Gonzalez Carol Graczyk Linda and James Graziano Carol and Ozzie Greenwald Dona Gustafson Cindy Hackbush Marilyn and Grace Halbreich Linda and Tom Hartigan Sally Hatcher Mark and Lois Hawkins Sean Hayden and Jacqueline L. Harrison Patricia Higgins Andrew and Terri Hill Janet Hitzman Terrence and Mary Hlavaty Mike and Karen Holden Leanne Holland Edward and Evalyn Holy David and Valerie Hough John Hudak John and Judith Huff Linda Ignace **ILM Environments** Jessica Interlandi Kathy Isoda Eric and Rachel Ittner Jeff and Heidi Jacobson Eric Jason Jefferson Jay Reiter Edwin and Patricia A. Johnson Julia Jones **Deborah Jones** Virginia Judd

Susan E. Kaley Judith and Paul Kasper Ali and Rana Keifari Daryl and Jane Kellenberger Laura Kelly Laurie Kieta David and Vickie Klick Karl and Maria Knecht James and Margaret Knight Mark and Jenice Koerner Keith Kowalewski Barbara Krause Mary K. Krigbaum Wanda Krill Alan Kubicz Michael LaBrot Patrick Lach Barbara Lapcewich Angela Larson Cathy Lavis Paul and Eileen LeFort Julie Lehman Bill and Karen Lepke Keith Letsche Julia Liesse Lisle Women's Club Jean Livingston Maureen Livingston Hillary Loeb Singer Mary Loggins Brian Long Laura Luc-Gorby Joseph Lyon Gregory Lyon Stephanie Lyons-Olsen Deborah K. Mackay Janice MacLeod Brian and Colleen Malone Joyce Mantels Margaret and Robert Mark Kenneth Marshall Richard Martin Margie Martinson-Brezina James and Elizabeth McDonald Laura McElligott Matt McGee Brian McKee Heather McKee Paul and Renata McLean Beatrice Medina Barry Mehrman Karen Melody Margie Martinson-Brezina James and Elizabeth McDonald Laura McElligott Matt McGee

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\$100 - \$249 Contd. Brian McKee Heather McKee Paul and Renata McLean Beatrice Medina Barry Mehrman Karen Melody Jonathon Miller Kay and Melvin Miller Michael and Jennifer Mladucky John Monino Christy Monroe Denise Morgan Corey and Sharon Motel Cathy Mousseau Linda Murphy Barbara Nagengast Katie Naylor Andrew and Linda Neff Bruce Nelson Lisa Norkus Gerald and Mary Ann Norton Patricia Noska Patrick O'Connor Pier and Barbara Oddone Bonnie Olson Joyce A. Olson Barbara O'Meara Michael Ondek **Gerard Oprins** Alan Pacquer Phil and Linda Painter Dan Pal Kevin Palmby Kevin and Mary Ann Parks Mary Pasciak Tracy Pawlak Ann Peart David and Amy Pederson Grace Pekar Sheila Peters Connie and Dan Peterson

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Family Charitable Fund

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Surasak Pratuangtham

James and Kim Piotrowski

The Peto Family

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William Phillips

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Memorial & Tribute Gifts

In Honor

All the Workers Saving the Injured Wildlife

Kathryne Piazza

Ann Arellano

Tom Eisenhart

Chicago Wacker Site Peregrine Fledglings

Jennifer Johnson

Diane Miller

Robert Miller

Doug Cole

Audrey Gullotto

Ducky

Jesse Czach

Duke's Fourth Birthday

Rebekah Wilson

Eclipse and Megatron, the Evanston Falcon Fledglings

Evanston Fledge Watch

Joanna M. Klos

Christopher Renkosiak

Judy Grey

Kathleen Kaempen Kieran Kaempen and Lori Kipp Paul Clement Riana and Riley Kaempen

Lisa Shamrock

Luke Shamrock

Michele Wood

Samantha and Chris Wood

The Mourning Doves Building a Nest on Our Porch

Leslie Abrahamson

My Friend, Annette

Talia Teplitzky

Nancy Kett

Colleen Lundell

Patti Buh

Cathy Clements

Richard Bank

Jessica, Jim, Mike and Alex Interlandi

Robbie Pfister

Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club

Robert and Valencia Boden

Robert Boden

Robert Schillerstrom

BLA, Inc.
Bond Dickson & Conway
Bowman
Chandra Prasad
Christopher Burke
Cotter Consulting, Inc.
Dan Wagner
Daniel Dietzler
Day & Robert, P.C.

Donald Zeilenga Ekl, Williams & Provenzale, LLC Elizabeth Tatro

Gerald Krozal James Wolfe

John Kos

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Mike and Dorothy
Vondra Foundation
Plote Construction Inc.
Robert August Koranda
Memorial Foundation
Robinson Engineering,
Ltd.

S.T.A.T.E. Testing, LLC Stephen Van Arsdell V3 Companies, Ltd. Wight & Company

Thea Whitaker

Amy Lohan Naomi Wu Ouinn Istwan

William Maio

BLA, Inc. Bond Dickson & Conway

Bowman Chandra Prasad Christopher Burke Cotter Consulting, Inc. Dan Wagner Daniel Dietzler Day & Robert, P.C. Donald Zeilenga Ekl, Williams & Provenzale, LLC James Wolfe John Kos Material Service Testing, Inc. Michael Pizzuto Mike and Dorothy Vondra Foundation Plote Construction Inc. Robert August Koranda Memorial Foundation Robinson Engineering, S.T.A.T.E. Testing, LLC Stephen Van Arsdell

V3 Companies, Ltd.

Wight & Company

In Memory

Alexis Tableriou and Colby Deguiseppe

John Tableriou

All My Dogs Who Loved the Parks

Rebecca McDade

Ann & Albin Palider

Carl Lidd

Barby Patronski

George W. Luvisi Jr.

Betty Stange

Lawrence Stange

Bibli

Christine Heim

The Big Judge

Andrew Lee

Brett Sydor and His Love of Animals, Especially **Birds of Prev**

Joyce Bowman-Kunath Carol Lueth

Carl Hoppe

Kathleen Murphy

Charles Xavier the Sauirrel (Ms.)

Tom Lyman

Chris Conrad

Pamela Conrad

Clyde Bachmann

Ashley Guest

Daniel Motel

Sharon Motel

Delores Doe Winter

Penn H French

Dobrosav Dobrosavlievic

Ana Krstic

Erv Neumaier

Chris Toufexis

Gary W. Lambrecht

Faith Lambrecht

The Geese of Lombard Lagoon

Gerald J. Tavolino

George Peavey

Julie Liesse & B.J. Ryan

Indy, the Grand Dog

Dan Glavin

Renaissance Charitable

Foundation

Janet Lawrence

Ann Laboe **David Conroy**

John Cather

Janet Cather

John Stastny

The Hausman Family

Judith A. Downs

Dora Lynn Zorich Donna Piazza

Kathleen Sove

David C. Arnold

Laura, Carbon and Tallulah Zeleznik

Debbie F. Zeleznik

Michael Matthew

Guy Matthew

Moe Girkins

Kevin Condon

Nicholas Gross

Shannon Johnson

Red

Beatrice Medina

Robert Olsen

Paul Spinelli

Shadow, Junior, Spike, Raven, and Jeter

Melody Barszcz

Shirley Burr

Richard M. Coffey

Stanley and Maria **Borek**

Christine Borek

Stephen Fischer

Barbara Monaghan and

Family

Bethany Gray

Carol Rickards

Cathy D'Attilo and Family

Cheryl Mickey

Corsalus Financial

Jeannine Kannegiesser

Karen Holden

Dennis Cronin

Dona Gustafson

Donna Weber

Douglas Rundell

Fidelity Charitable

Gerald Lane

Gregory Revels

Gregory Sells

James Koncz

Jamie Stone

Jeannine Kannegiesser

Karen Holden

Laura Schuldt

Mark Hawkins

Mary Andrusyk

Nancy Fields and Family

Nick Gudde

Richard Martin

Ron Weber and Family

Steven Keith Osborn

Adoree Peto

William Earl Johnson

Andrew Garv Carol Greenwald

William Wickenkamp

Fidelity Charitable Hey and Associates, Inc. Wickenkamp Family Fund

Devinne Stevens

Nature enthusiasts joined the "Friends Forest Tours," a monthly hike led by Mike Dyer, chair of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District. This year, hikers toured Danada, Cricket Creek, Fullersburg Woods, Greene Valley, Mallard Lake, McDowell Grove, Meacham Grove, Oldfield Oaks, Pratt's Wayne Woods, St. James Farm, and West Branch forest preserves. Folks also celebrated the winter equinox during a sunset hike at Meacham Grove Forest Preserve in Downers Grove.

Bird lovers united for "An Avian Affair" in February, which featured Joe Suchecki, board secretary of the Friends and volunteer steward with the Forest Preserve District, and Denis Kania, also a volunteer. The two birding experts shared stories and photographs of birds from their travels across the Americas and information about how to love birds in our own backyards.

Donors and volunteers joined a special program in March about the return of the periodical cicada with Carl Strang, volunteer steward and former employee with the Forest Preserve District.

Chicago and forest preserve history buffs enjoyed "An Evening with Geoffrey Baer" in April at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. Baer captivated guests with his signature storytelling, which focused on forest preservation in the Chicago region.







Early shoppers joined the Friends at the Native Plant Presale in May at the Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook. The ever-popular event provides an exclusive shopping opportunity, featuring high-quality native plants to local gardeners, civic groups, churches, and corporations in DuPage County and beyond.

Community partners joined "Nature After Hours" in June to enjoy the outdoors and network at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton.

Spectators joined the Friends and race sponsors to cheer on rubber ducks at the annual Duck Race in September at St.

James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

Over 200 guests joined A Night for Nature in September to raise funds to support wildlife and wild areas. Nature supporters enjoyed live music, wagon rides, and an auction while celebrating kinship and the nature they love in DuPage County.

The Friends of the Forest Preserve hosted its annual board meeting and donor reception in November at The Greenway Table & Tap at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison. The Friends thanked departing board members Dianne Addante, Brian Battle, and Penny Chanez for their volunteer service and celebrated the generosity that makes a difference for the forest preserves.

If you would like to receive updates about the Friends' events and programs throughout the year, subscribe to The Steward monthly e-newsletter at dupageforest.org/friends.









