Letter From the Chair

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County’s Board of Directors, I am pleased to present our annual report for 2016.

I have served on the Friends’ Board since it was founded in 2010, and 2016 was a particularly exciting year, one that focused on growth as well as new ideas, gift opportunities, priority projects and leadership.

I am proud to see how our grants contribute to the Forest Preserve District’s mission and goals and leave positive, lasting effects on its operations and programs. I am also pleased that we continue to grow key and meaningful partnerships with DuPage residents, volunteers, business leaders, and foundations who support the work we do for the benefit of people and wildlife alike. Our successes and contributions are a direct result of the support you give this foundation and its mission, and we remain committed to using your dollars as you thoughtfully intended.

Thank you for continuing along this path with us, extending your trust and resources to meaningfully contribute to your community and the environment. We are just beginning and there is much work yet to be done. I hope you will accompany us on our long-term journey to accomplish amazing things for DuPage County’s forest preserves. For now, please enjoy this look back at a truly successful year.

Thanking you for your support and contributions,

Carl Schultz
Chair

Looking Ahead

Please continue to stay in touch with the Friends. We hope to see you at upcoming events and programs.

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The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County exist to advance the mission of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County through philanthropic endeavors.
In 2015, 153 donors contributed $100 or more, each making up a part of the Friends of Amphibian’s Amphibian Circle. It was the first year more than 100 people participated at this level.

The Friends offered a variety of experiences to Amphibian Circle donors in the year, including those listed below. Each was a way to thank them for their support, enrich their memories in the forest preserves, increase their involvement in Forest Preserve activities, and encourage them to visit new preserves.

- "Cabin Fever" activities at the Harter Homestead Preserve, including a cooking-time course and a cookout over a fire
- Kayaking trips leaving from Fullwood Pond and Blackswell forest preserves
- Hayride tours, garden walks, a cookout and a chance to watch riding lessons during an evening at Danada Equestrian Center
- Evening cooking programs at Kline Creek Farm, the Forest Preserve District’s 1890s log-home farm
- Introduction to geocaching program and participated in a geocaching trip at St. James Farm
- The first "Multithrusters Through History" walking tour at St. James Farm
- Celebration of Open Lands Day marked by collecting yard signs and placing new prairie plants at Stone Spring Prairie Forest Preserve

2016 Accomplishments

- Approved the use of contributions
- Received an appreciation award
- Repaid the remainder of a $47,382 interest-free loan from the Forest Preserve District, which helped launch the friends foundation
- Supported Willowbrook Wildlife Center fun and bicyclists on a 100-mile ride for "Ride for Wildlife" fundraiser along the DuPage Forest Preserve Century Trail in support of the center
- Transferred more than $29,000 to Maylake Peabody Estate to help the rear courtyard restoration
- Accepted $6,000 from the Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation to cover medical expenses for the horses at the Danada Equestrian Center
- Received $6,000 from the Case IH Foundation (part of CNH Industrial) to help fund an addition to the indoor riding arena at St. James Farm as well as safety-code, energy-efficiency upgrades, and public-access improvements to the building.
- Approved $5,266 in stock certificates – the foundation’s first donation of its kind – to fund the restoration of photographs and library shelving at Maylake Peabody Estate.
- Withdrawn $7,690 in unused dollars to support additional work at the estate
- Received nearly $4,200 from the Whole Foods Market to support Forest Preserve District’s Community Support Day
- Received boil, saw, and prune equipment and prunes from Cabela’s in Hoffman Estates for several Forest Preserve District projects.
- Received $1,315 from tributary contributors to the Phelix Lake at Platz’s Wayne Wood Forest Preserve as a special memorial in honor of a friend who enjoyed fishing at the preserve.
- Sponsored commemorative vineyard plots at Willowbrook Wildlife Center’s ‘Right Dearly Done’ benefit, which funded new tanks for their new reptile house, and celebrating the center’s 60th year of helping wipe out and improve native wildlife.
- Received $4,000 from ComEd for new reptile heating at Willowbrook Wildlife Center and center restoration efforts at West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve
- Held the foundation’s annual meeting on Nov. 15, 2016, National Philanthropy Day. A chance for board members, donors, and Forest Preserve District colleagues to volunteer, employees and to visit and learn about the new projects and the year’s accomplishments.
- Welcomed Brian Battle of Willow and Shari Dunson, founder of Wiener Waukesha to the Board of Directors.
- Since its inception in 2010, the nearly 150 Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has accepted tax-deductible gifts for projects priority, favorite forest preserves, natural-resource initiatives and other projects in need of financial support.
- In 2016, the Friends raised $91,393 in cash and $3,913 in in-kind donations and closed the year with a balance of $230,879 in cash. The foundation received a total of 488 gifts, an increase of more than 150 percent over 2015. It also received more online gifts than any other year, including $1,105 from 12 employer-funded matching-gift programs. $38,497 in expenditures supported projects as designated by donors.  

\[\text{PROGRESS 2015} + \text{2016 Donations Received} + \text{Amphibian Circle Donors Expenditures} \]

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\begin{align*}
\text{PROGRESS} & \quad \text{2015} & \quad \text{2016} \\
\text{Donations Received} & \quad 71,000 & \quad 91,393 \\
\text{Amphibian Circle Donors Expenditures} & \quad 18,120 & \quad 38,497 \\
\end{align*}
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\[\text{Honor Roll of Donors}\]

\[\text{Friends}\]

\[\text{Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2016}\]

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