THE FRIENDS OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DU PAGE COUNTY EXISTS TO ADVANCE THE VISION OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DU PAGE COUNTY THROUGH PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS.
Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County’s (the “Friends”) board of directors, I am pleased to present our annual report for 2017.

As a result of the generosity of supporters and contributors to the Friends and the efforts of a talented and committed Board, the Friends were able to disburse in excess of $180,000 in 2017 to the Forest Preserve District to support priority projects ranging from restoration of nearly 100 year old library shelves at Mayslake Peabody Estate to new construction of a raptor dorm at Willowbrook Wildlife Center that houses and rehabilitates injured birds of prey and saving a local endangered species as well. These priority projects would not otherwise be possible without the resources received from our loyal donors who want to meaningfully contribute to the community and environment.

The Board is committed to continue its support of the Forest Preserve District’s mission and goals and leave positive, lasting effects on its operations and programs. But, we can only do that with the ongoing support of people like you. We hope to continue to grow key and meaningful partnerships with DuPage residents, volunteers, business leaders, community groups and foundations who support the work we do for the benefit of people and wildlife who enjoy the benefits of the preserves throughout DuPage County. Our successes and contributions are a direct result of the support you give this foundation and its mission, and we remain committed to stewarding and using those contributions to maximum effect in those preserves.

Thank you for your support of the Friends. We are working towards bigger and better things in 2018. We think of the preserves of the Forest Preserve District as the collective backyard for all the residents of DuPage County. We are hopeful that the Friends can support the accessibility for everyone to enjoy that “backyard.” For now, please take a look back at a truly successful year which was only possible through your generosity.

Thanking you for your support and contributions,

Scott Hardek

2018 Board of Directors

Chair
Scott M. Hardek, Elmhurst
Partner, Kavanagh, Grumley & Gorbold LLC

Vice Chair
Karyn Charvat, Naperville
Executive Director, PowerForward DuPage

Secretary
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Principal, Puchalski & Martyn

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Member
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Timothy Whelan Law Associates Ltd.

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Director, Administration & Finance

Tony Martinez, Jr.
Director, Communications & Marketing

Katie Michel
Fundraising & Development Coordinator, Communications & Marketing
“Stretch before my eyes, this canvas of green and blue, every shade of joy imaginable…” – Robin Pickens

Willowbrook Wildlife Center Raptor Dorm

Thanks to the estate of Donna “Ginger” Jelf, Willowbrook Wildlife Center benefitted from a $225,000 gift that will help complete the center’s educational raptor dorm. Jelf, a retired music teacher, passed away Nov. 5, 2016.

“She loved wildlife and she loved taking walks on the trails in the preserves,” said Jelf’s niece, Jackie Miller. “She would be so pleased to know that her donation went to build a permanent structure for these birds.”

The building will have 12 enclosures and a weathering area with enriching and visually stimulating experiences that benefit the birds’ mental and physical well-being. It will be home to the eight permanently disabled hawks, falcons and owls that are members of the center’s raptor outreach program.

Willowbrook has presented more than 2,400 raptor outreach programs to DuPage children and adults over the past 30 years and continues to reach more than 2,100 students and 400 adults annually, creating lasting impressions of the relationships between humans and wildlife.

Construction is expected to begin in summer 2018 and finish by spring 2019. ComEd and other donors contributed to the project during Willowbrook’s 60th anniversary campaign in 2016. The contribution from the Jelf estate was the Friends’ largest single estate gift to date.

Willowbrook takes in more than 10,000 injured or orphaned native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians annually. It’s the only publicly funded wildlife rehabilitation facility in DuPage and is one of the few in northeastern Illinois equipped to treat native and migratory birds.

Adopt a Blanding’s Turtle

Launched in July, Adopt a Blanding’s Turtle gives donors a direct way to support the Forest Preserve District’s long-standing efforts to help this state-endangered reptile.

In the 1990s Forest Preserve District ecologists began to notice there were few young Blanding’s in the wild, a sign the turtles were dying faster than they could repopulate. One of the main causes was egg predation. During the 60-day incubation period, 90 percent of Blanding’s turtle nests were being destroyed.

As a result, since 1996 the Forest Preserve District has been tracking female Blanding’s turtles during the breeding season and bringing them into captivity just long enough to collect their fertilized eggs. By hatching the eggs under controlled conditions and allowing the turtles to grow for a year or two before being released, ecologists can give the young animals greater odds of survival in the wild. To date the program has reared and released more than 3,000 young turtles.

For a $100 donation, Adopt a Blanding’s Turtle supporters “adopt” and name (but not keep) one of the year’s hatchlings. Each donor receives a personalized adoption certificate with a unique turtle number and photo, a Blanding’s turtle information card, program updates twice a year, and a plush turtle for home. The $100 donation also makes individuals part of the Ambassadors Circle.
2017 Accomplishments

Priority Projects

In 2017 the Friends’ board voted to add two new priority projects to its current initiatives.

Belleau Woods Forest Preserve

Belleau Woods is a rare high-quality woodland that is home to several species of state-endangered plants. It’s been a state-designated land and water reserve since 2013 but continues to be threatened by the invasion and growth of nonnative plants. Funding from this $42,000 priority project will help reverse decades of degradation by removing invasive plants, providing more sunlight and resources for native species, enhancing food for wildlife, and offering an invigorated landscape for visitors.

The priority project has already received a $23,333 grant from Clarke as part of the company’s One for Tomorrow program, which the company funds with 1 percent of revenues from its NextGen products and services developed to reduce the environmental footprint for mosquito control and aquatic habitat management.

Mayslake Hall Staircase

Mayslake Hall was designed in the early 1920s by Chicago architect Benjamin Marshall for coal baron Francis Stuyvesant Peabody. Today, the mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and offers tours, lectures, art classes, exhibits, theatrical performances and rentable space for private events. Funding from this $43,800 priority project will help repair and refinish the woodwork on the entryway’s prominent walnut staircase and install a period-appropriate runner.

Highlights

- Served hot chocolate to 400 guests at Wonders of Winter at Mayslake Peabody Estate in February
- Received an appreciation award from the Forest Preserve District at the agency’s volunteer banquet in May
- Established a team of 18 (one of 70 charities represented) and participated in our first year at Giving DuPage’s Human Race 5K raising nearly $500 from our team’s registration fees and additional donations
- Hosted more than 130 donors at the hospitality reception at Family Field Day at St. James Farm in May
- Received its fourth grant from the Rotary Club of Elmhurst, this time for equipment for the Special Needs Adventure Day and Outdoor Education Day series
- Transferred $72,950 to St. James Farm for renovations and an addition to the indoor riding arena, which will bring the building up to current safety codes, add energy-efficient features and improve public access.
- Received $1,600 for Willowbrook Wildlife Center from Addison-based Arjo Inc. from employee donations and matching gifts from summer casual-day fundraiser.
- Coordinated “food, fundraising and fellowship” nights at Panera in Wheaton, Buffalo Wild Wings in Lombard and BD’s Mongolian Grill in Naperville.
- Accepted $3,500 from the Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation to partially cover medical expenses for the horses at the Danada Equestrian Center.
- Hosted more than 150 donors at the Danada Fall Festival hospitality reception at the Danada Fall Festival in October.
- Worked collaboratively with Mayslake Peabody Estate to accept a $10,000 gift from longtime volunteers to launch the staircase restoration priority project.
- Received $5,000 from a Chamberlain Group Inc. corporate workday at St. James Farm for Special Needs Adventure Day.
- Hosted inaugural donor focus groups in October, which yielded helpful input and allowed the Friends to thank donors for their support and involvement.
- Held the foundation’s annual meeting on National Philanthropy Day, Nov. 15, 2017, and presented accomplishments and current projects to donors as well as Forest Preserve District commissioners, volunteers and employees.
- Welcomed a $5,000 contribution from the Crown Family for Willowbrook Wildlife Center.
- Transferred more than $35,000 from two anonymous donors to Mayslake Peabody Estate for the library shelving project, photo restorations, and the completion of the roundabout near the entrance of Mayslake Hall.
- Received $3,200 worth of bait, equipment and prizes from Cabela’s in Hoffman Estates for Forest Preserve District events and its “Take 5” Photo Contest.
- Received a $25,000 grant from the Dan and Ada Rice Foundation for paddock fencing at the Danada Equestrian Center.
- Received $2,400 for a new stove and purchased $1,200 in blacksmithing equipment for Kline Creek Farm thanks to one of the farm’s generous volunteers.

“Like a new bud, each day unfolds in splendid beauty.” – Author Unknown
In 2017 the Friends Ambassadors Circle broke the 200 mark with 224 donors contributing $100 or more. As a thank you, the Friends offered donors exclusive experiences designed to enrich their memories in the forest preserves, engage them with details on current initiatives and encourage increased involvement.

We enjoy providing these experiences for our donors as a small way of showing our thanks for your ongoing generosity.

- Lecture on Benjamin Marshall, the architect behind Mayslake Hall at Mayslake Peabody Estate
- Walking tour of Spring Brook Creek at St. James Farm on Earth Day
- Wood-burning oven pretzel-making class at Kline Creek Farm
- Behind-the-scenes tours at Family Field Day at St. James Farm and the Danada Fall Festival at the Danada Equestrian Center
- Hike to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the discovery of mammoth remains at McKee Marsh at Blackwell Forest Preserve
- An evening at Danada Equestrian Center with garden tours, a full-moon hayride, a s’mores cookout and a chance to view riding lessons
- Lecture and interactive experiences featuring endangered Hine’s emerald dragonflies and Blanding’s turtles
- Guided fishing trip led by the Forest Preserve District’s fisheries ecologist at Blackwell Forest Preserve
- Presentation on the restoration of the West Branch DuPage River with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Urban Stream Research Center and the opportunity to mark freshwater mussels for their later release
- Lecture on the Franciscan Era and a tour of Mayslake Peabody Estate
- Guided plant hike led by the Forest Preserve District’s plant ecologist at Danada Forest Preserve
- Presentation and tour of habitat, stormwater-management and course improvements at the newly renovated The Preserve at Oak Meadows
- Behind-the-scenes tours of Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Ambassadors Circle

Since its inception in 2010, the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, has accepted more than $750,000 in tax-deductible gifts for priority projects, favorite forest preserves, natural resources initiatives and other projects in need of financial support. In 2017 the Friends saw its number of online gifts double over the previous year. Disbursements to the Forest Preserve District supporting projects, preserves and operations as designated by donors totaled $181,737.

Finances Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRESS</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>GROWTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money Raised</td>
<td>$98,260</td>
<td>$358,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matching Gifts</td>
<td>$1,105</td>
<td>$5,178</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Gifts</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambassadors Circle Donors</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>224</td>
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<td>Disbursements to the District</td>
<td>$38,498</td>
<td>$181,737</td>
<td>372%</td>
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The foundation closed the year with a balance of $391,397.93. As a result of its successes, the Friends established its first investment account, increasing the effect of the contributions it receives each year. Its board of directors stood behind the cause they represent by celebrating another year of 100 percent of board financial support.
Donors

“Take time to marvel at the wonders of life.” — Gary W. Fenchuk

Ambassadors Circle Honor Roll

Visionary

$3,500 and Above
Anonymous (1)
Chamberlain Group Inc.
Clarke
The Crown Family
Donna “Ginger” Jeff
Louis and Cosette Kosiba
Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation

Benefactor

$1,500 – $3,499
Arjo Inc.
Patricia Banaszak
Seth Becker and Helen Nam
BP Foundation
Cabela’s
In Memory of Casey Cordova
Mary Ann Mahoney
Kenneth McAfee
Donald and Susan Panozzo
William J. and Patricia Smith II

Steward $500 – $1,499
Anonymous (1)
Armand “Ginger” Jelf
Chamberlain Group Inc.
Anonymous (1)

In-Kind Donations

Johanna Biedron
Cabela’s
Karyn Charvat
Francis Karwoski
Kohl’s
Larry Larson
Mark and Janet Lawrence
George W. Luvisi Jr. in memory of Barbry Carl Patronski
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Brian Nailey
Roger and Susan Nelson in memory of Rich and Carol Liebich
Carol O’Neal
Phil and Linda Painter
The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation
Jefferson and Catherine Reiter Rotary Club of Elmhurst
Bruce “Zink” and Martha Sanders
Michael Firman and Marilyn Schweitzer
Dianne Siekmann
John and Marion Tableriou in memory of Alexis Breeze and Colby Jebidiah

Laura Torphy
Webco Industries Inc. in memory of Dolores Kowalski
Wild Goose Chase Inc.
Mark and Heather Yeager

Guardian $250 – $499
Anonymous (2)
Marcia and Grace Basciano
Fred and Kathleen Bauters
James and Leslie Bayles Jr.
Tim and Kate Blackwelder
BNY Mellon Corporation Community Partners Program
Richard Carrigan Jr.
Carolyn Cates
Chicago Ornithological Society
Connie Daleki
Carol DeGreve
Gary and Juanita Durkin
John and Diane Fiore
Formstack LLC
Cynthia Gray
Michael and Ann Marie Halter
Patricia Harris-Wirtz partial gift in honor of Dan and Toss Powell
Paul Herbert in memory of Nancy Jean Herbert
Craig Holderness
InvenTrust Properties Corp.
Elaine Novak Janis
Andrew and Cindy Klemens
James and Elizabeth McDonald
Motorola Solutions Foundation
Kurtis and Kathryn Peterson
Steven and Kimberly Quick
Cassandra Saari
Donald and Chris Shore
Sierra Club River Prairie Group
Sharon Stratton
Scott Tauski
Peter and Danielle Tomczak
Hans and Lisa Weckerle
Tim Whelan and Sylvia Ferr
Daniel and Cheryl Zinnen

Friend $100 – $249
Anonymous (4)
Paul and Gloria Anderson
Sheryl Appleberry
Coral Baran in memory of Robert Baran
Jeffrey and Marianne Barg
Daniel Basore
Brian and Dana Battle
Bruce and Patricia Beck
Donald and Jill Beckman in memory of Henry G. “Kip” James
Brian and Kathleen Beggerow
Glynis Benbow-Niemier
Barbara Benzich Konrath
Deborah Bernat
Judith Beumer in memory of Paula Beumer

The Boeing Company
Brett and Audra Bonnet
Thomas and Jane Both
Kelvin and Verla Boyle
Rodney and Margaret Brandon
James and Leone Breede
Martha H. Bright
James and Maria Brown
Buffalo Wild Wings
Linda Campbell
Anthony and Joyce Carey
Cathleen Carter
John and Kathy Casiello
Carl and Karyn Charvat
Albert and Allison Claus in memory of Robert Claus
Mary M. Coleman in memory of T-Bone and Lamb Chop
Peter and Kathie Connolly
Jeff Cooke
Kent and Maureen Dahlgren
William C. Dawe
Faith DeVine
Albert and Ellen Dickey
Steve Dillie
Leigh Dianne in memory of Joyce Lancaster
Brenda Dorsay
Leah Dukad in honor of Peter Dukad
Edward Jr. and Jane Duncan
Dennis Duszak
Joanne East
David Egner
Exelon Dollars for Doers
Debbie Falcone in honor of Mike and Jo Falcone
Marcela Fanning
Mark and Diane Fanning in memory of Greg Still
Robert, Sandy and Lauren Fejt
Melvern and Carolyn Finzer
Sharon E. Finzer
Follett Corporation
Nanci Gallarneau
GE Foundation
Glenbard East High School
Charles and Phyllis Goodman
Albert E. Goss in memory of Nancy Cariggins
Melinda Griffith
Charles and Elizabeth Hadala
Doug and Carol Hancock
Thomas and Linda Hartigan
Craig Hebrieb
Andrew and Teri Hill
Allan Hins in honor of Illica Hins
Marinna Holm
Horticultural Consultants — Carl and Karyn Schultz
Linda Ignace
Rachel Itner
Thomas and Loretta Jacobs
Nikka Jajko
Quinton Jensen
John and Denise Jones
Robert Kaiser and Susana Walter
Eric and Jeanne Kamrath
Al and Rana Keffar
Jean Kennedy
Ann Kincaid in memory of Betty Johnson
Karl and Maria Knecht
Kelly and Holly Kost
Keith Kowalewski
Elizabeth Kozak
Joseph Kozmynski and Kathleen Rowland
Peggy Krithak
Erin Kuhl
William Kundert and Judith Davenport
John and Heidi Lubaszewski
Emerson and Martha Lacey
G. Bradley Laken II in memory of Ruger Laken
Cathy Lavis in memory of Janet Bergemann
Paul and Eileen LeFort
Joel Lehman
Keith Letsche
Raymond and Joan Lewis
Ewing “Rusty” and Brigid Lusk
Deborah Mackay
Claudia Mahoney
Margaret Mark
Jennifer Martyn
Kenneth and Lucinda McClurg
Kathryn S. Michel
Jacqueline Moses
Kathleen Murphy
Robert Myro
Doug and Kathleen Nagy
Mallory K. Neuber
Julie Newfield
Bill Niemann and Rita Nathanson
Oak School PTO — Kids Care Club
Pier and Barbara Oddone in honor of John Peoples
Susan A. Page in memory of Robert Claus
Carole A. Panagakos
Pat Pappas
Janelle Pasch
Richard Penz and Edith Podzak
Paul Petersen
Michael Pettersen and Jan Marie Aramini
James and Kim Piotrowski
Dorothea Polaski
Thomas and Karen Pulver
Jeffrey and Jodi Redick
Hans and Susan Reiker
Royden and Cynthia Rice
Joseph and Leslie Rivera, and Craig, Samantha, Ash and Sawyer Miller in honor of Vanessa Rivera
John and Karyn Romano
Gary and Pamela Rompa
Bernard and Karen Rudnik
Robert Ruggles
Lisa Savegnago
Candace Schulze
Alan Seese and Laurel Hays
Ted Semon
Geoffrey Shandler
Bruce and Kari Shatzer
David A. Shaw and Janice K. Becker
Ron and Judy Skleney
Lisa Sons

Susanna Speir
Virginia Stein
Joseph and Daphne Suchecki
Alan Swierkots and Karen Russell
Lara Tavolino in honor of Jerry and Amy Tavolino
TecRep Corporation
The Union Tank Car Company
Dan and Terry Thompson
Douglas Thompson and Jean Follett-Thompson
Thomson Reuters
Diane Tuscher-Ancede
UnitedHealth Group
Marcelo and Susan Virgili
Renai Vidick
Ellen Volk
Kerstin Von Der Heide
Peggy Vo’s
Linda Waggoner
Patrick Wallin and Whitney Parker
Norman and Donna Wandel
Wayne Countryside Garden Club
Mary Lou Wehri and Herb Nadelhoffer in honor of Jim and Laurie Walsh
Lance and Sarah Weron
West Chicago Garden Club
Marla Westerhold
Richard and Elizabeth Whitney
Thomas and Shaheen Wolff
Tracy Wrona
Stephen and Kathryn Young

In-Kind Donations

Johanna Biedron
Cabela’s
Karyn Charvat
Formstack LLC
Kathryn S. Michel
Thomson Reuters

Matching-Gift Organizations

BNY Mellon Corporation’s Community Partnership
The Boeing Company
BP Foundation
Caterpillar Foundation
Exelon Dollars for Doers
Follett Corporation

GE Foundation
Motorola Solutions Foundation
Network for Good
News Corp Giving
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
The Union Tank Car Company
UnitedHealth Group

Our sincere thanks to every donor. We are grateful for all contributors and gifts of all sizes that make a difference for our forest preserves.
How Can You Get More Involved?

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

- Like us on facebook.com/dupageforestfriends.
- Find Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County on LinkedIn.com.
- Follow us on twitter.com/dpforestfriends.
- Send your email to fundraising@dupageforest.org to receive updates and the e-newsletter.
- Visit dupageforest.org/friends.
- Donate at dupageforest.org/donate.

- Join the Ambassadors Circle to attend exclusive programs.
- Choose the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County as your beneficiary charity when you shop on Amazon.com, and the Amazon Smile Foundation will contribute 0.5 percent of your purchase to the Friends.
- Attend an event and stop by the Friends booth to say hi.
- Get outside and benefit from connecting with nature!