

FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES

2018 Annual Report: Measuring our worth

Doris Dubielzig, Friends president

I invite members to follow the paths created by their donations of time and funding to the Friends.

Our supported projects. In 2018, the Friends spent almost \$6,800 to support five Prairie Partners interns who worked in the Preserve each Thursday during the summer. Another \$4,500 was donated for plants and for the Stewardship Fund, and \$415 was well spent for the ongoing Bluebird Trail and the Purple Martin House special projects. Communicating with our members through the annual meeting, newsletter, and postage cost about \$3,700 for a total outlay of \$15,400. In addition, the 2015 fundraiser for Eagle Heights Woods funded a fourth year of rejuvenation work in that unique 28-acre section of the Preserve.

Our steady growth. Last year, our members contributed more than \$22,700 in memberships, donations, and memorials. Our net balance has increased over the past four years, from an ending balance of \$87,600 in 2015 to more than \$104,500 at the end of 2018. In June, the Board voted to transfer almost \$60,000 from our checking and money market accounts into a 22-month 2.23% CD. We reasoned that this would safeguard the money while we await the development of the Preserve's Strategic Plan and the Master Plan to be completed this year. The mature fund could then be applied to a number of our pipeline projects. We were pleased to see that the new CD earned more than \$700 in its first 6 months! To aid in the transition between treasurers, we had an external review of our finances and money handling.

Doris has been on the Friends board since 2014 where she's served as president, vice-president, and secretary. She likes to hang out in the Preserve with our amazing membership.

Our core value. Yet dollars and cents can't reveal the full value of the Friends, a volunteer-driven organization. Operating on time and talent contributed by our members, we do not employ a secretary or an administrative director. Neither do we rent office space nor own equipment. But with good will and joy, we protect the Preserve, discover its gifts and mysteries, and share them with the community. Last year, in consultation and cooperation with Preserve staff, we scheduled 30 field trips guided by 28 leaders and attracted more than 650 attendees. Educating and inspiring the public, the leaders—many of them Friends—generously shared their expertise in archeology, astronomy, birding, ecology, entomology, forestry, geology, and limnology. Friends volunteered for the Frautschi Point garlic mustard pull and the Picnic Point spring planting and served as stewards working long hours with and for the staff. New opportunities for involvement emerged last year with the Bat Brigade and iNaturalist observations; these will expand this summer with water quality monitoring at University Bay.

I think you'll agree, you get a lot for your investment in the Friends. But in addition to your membership dues, please give us your input and join us in our activities. We value your Friendship!



Doris Dubielzig



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2018 Annual financial report

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$96,271
Income	\$23,697
Memberships	\$14,055
Donations and memorials	\$8,680
Dividends and interest	\$962
Expenses	-\$15,387
Summer interns	-\$6,777
Gifts to Preserve	-\$4,500
Committees, supplies, newsletter	-\$1,777
Postage	-\$1,464
Annual meeting	-\$454
Special projects	-\$415
ENDING BALANCE	\$104,581