Acknowledgements

Office Space
1000 Friends of Iowa appreciates the generous contribution of office space from the Merle Hay Mall Corporation, arranged by 1000 Friends of Iowa Board Member Elizabeth Holland.

2013 Annual Meeting
Thank you to the speakers and presenters for sharing your time, talent, expertise and experience! The Griffieon Family Farm generously donated most of the ingredients used to create today’s wonderful lunch. Thank you!

1000 Friends of Iowa Members
1000 Friends of Iowa is member supported and could not operate without the generosity of people like you!

Non-profits are fueled by passion, volunteers and financial support. The passion of our volunteers is exhibited in their willingness to donate their time, talent and energy to the mission.

Without the continued financial support of our members, 1000 Friends’ work to promote responsible land use would not be possible.

Thank you to each of our members and volunteers for your continued support!

Board of Directors
Mary Ellen Miller, President
Mason City
Mary Ellen Warren, Vice President
Waterloo
Laurie Belin, Secretary
Windsor Heights
LaVon Griffieon, Treasurer
Ankeny
Doug Adamson, Des Moines
Dale McKinney, Sioux City
Mary Brubaker, Des Moines
Elizabeth Holland, Chicago
Ed Cox, Des Moines
Drake Larsen, Ames
Stacey Long, Windsor Heights

Advisory Council
Gordon Mills, Dubuque
Ed Fallon, Des Moines
David Hurd, Des Moines
Stu Huntington, Ames
Fred Kirschenmann, Ames
Lee Kline, Des Moines
Andy McKean, Anamosa
Jon Muller, Des Moines
Jay Howe, Greenfield

2012 Staff
Crystal Leto

2013 Annual Meeting Agenda

9:00—9:15 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Breakfast Breads
9:15—9:30 a.m. Welcome & Apple Earth
LaVon Griffieon, Interim Executive Director
9:45—11:30 a.m. Symphony of the Soil
11:30—11:45 a.m. Break
11:45—12:00 p.m. Symphony of the Soil Discussion
12:00—12:15 p.m. Introduction to “America’s Climate Century”
Senator Robb Hogg
12:15—1:15 p.m. Local Food Luncheon
Local Food Explanation, Drake Larsen, Board Member
1:15—1:30 p.m. Business Meeting & Board Member Elections
Laurie Belin, Secretary
1:30—2:15 p.m. History & Story Behind Iowa Soils and Geological Landforms
Drake Larsen, Board Member
2:15—3:00 p.m. Soil microbial communities and their function in Iowa's agricultural ecosystems.
Sarah Hargreaves, ISU
3:00—3:15 p.m. Break
3:15—3:55 p.m. “Let’s Round-Up This Problem!”
Art Dunham, DVM
3:55—5:00 p.m. Tour of White Oak Savanna
Led by Danielle Wirth, Drake University and ISU

Adjourn
2012-2013 ACTIVITY REPORT

Issue Focus/Citizen Empowerment: 1000 Friends continues educating and advising local citizens on land use issues in their communities and the best way to advocate for responsible land use throughout Iowa. We also continue to promote alternative transportation options and greater citizen input into transportation planning.

Carlisle mayor and Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Co-chair, Ruth Randleman, was nominated by 1000 Friends of Iowa to be on Smart Growth America’s national Local Leaders Smart Growth Steering Committee. Ruth was selected and agreed to serve on the committee of 22 from across the nation. Ruth has been very beneficial supporting smart growth at the Iowa Legislature this past session opposing a bill to eliminate Iowa Smart Growth Principles.

Farma-Save Signs: One of our most popular programs statewide, our Farma-Save signs are a creative and catchy way to get people thinking about one or more aspects of land use. Designed after the Burma Shave signs of the 1960s, they are working hard in a permanent home near Earlham on I-80. We currently have six sets on hand for placement around the state. One available set, pictured here, promotes alternative transportation such as bicycling.

Contact crystal_leto@yahoo.com or call 515-288-5364 for more information.

Speakers Bureau: A historic preservation presentation, developed and presented by Steve Wilke-Shapiro, can be requested individually as a topic for a keynote at a meeting, or as a series for a one day workshop. The presentations deal with the importance of historic preservation in older neighborhoods, illustrated by examples of how communities can use preservation as a tool for organizing and community development. One of the goals is to promote historic tax credits to smaller cities or groups who may not understand how to maximize benefits of the programs available.

The topics Mr. Wilke-Shapiro has developed presentations for are:

- Why Old Buildings Matter
- Historic Tax Credit Basics (one directed at homeowners, one directed at business/developers)
- Lead Paint in Older Homes
- Working With Contractors
- Working with Design Professionals

Designed to appeal to a broad audience including experienced preservationists and newcomers to the concept of historic preservation, we are excited about the potential for this series to reach many across the state.

Outreach: 1000 Friends takes advantage of monthly news stories in print and radio through the Iowa News Service. We also had display tables and booths at conventions and meetings throughout the state. We continue to make effective use of our website, email and printed material to keep our members informed of local and federal land use issues needing our attention and input, as well as promote Smart Growth America Studies via our Public Policy Updates, Action Alerts, Website and Facebook updates and our printed quarterly Land Use Bulletin.

Buy Local Program: 1000 Friends of Iowa Buy Local Posters continue to be distributed to shops in small towns and neighborhood stores. The interest in supporting local businesses and buying locally continues to grow. While the impact of our specific Buy Local poster is unknown, the Buy Local movement continues to gain momentum and strength. Contact crystal_leto@yahoo.com or call 515-288-5364 to request Buy Local posters.

Best Development Awards: Our Best Development Awards program continues to successfully highlight outstanding projects which employ Smart Growth Principles and illustrate Sustainable Development practices. We are currently accepting nominations for the 2013 Best Development Awards. We encourage you to nominate local projects in your community you feel deserve recognition!

Transitions: Erv Klaas retired from his 1000 Friends board position after ten years of serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. “Enough for all forever” is Erv’s pet description for sustainability. May we all strive to continue in the example he has set for us with equal passion.

Stacey Long joined the Board of Directors and brings with her passion, knowledge and new energy. Stacey has already begun work to make our website more user friendly and the content more defined. She also plans to send out a survey asking for the opinions and input of members to help 1000 Friends of Iowa better connect with members and the general public.
2013 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Saturday, June 8, 2013
Madrid, IA

- Call to order, Secretary Laura Belin
- Review and Approve minutes from the 2012 meeting
- 2012 Financial Report, Treasurer, LaVon Griffieon
- Election of New Board Member (three-year term)
  - Donna Taylor, Des Moines—Donna is currently Des Moines University’s Computer Training Specialist. Donna is experienced in computer software and programming.
- Board Member Reports
- Other Business
- Adjourn, Secretary Laura Belin

Seeking Applicants to Board of Directors

1000 Friends of Iowa is looking for talented people to join our Board of Directors. All applicants and nominees are considered, and we welcome your application.

If you, or someone you know, would like to apply visit http://www.1000friendsofiowa.org/content/blogcategory/84/168/ to learn more about serving on our board of directors, to download the Board of Directors Application Packet and for instructions on how to apply.

A Note from Mary Ellen Miller, Board President

I am unable to be with you at this year’s Annual Meeting, but I know you will be most impressed and encouraged by the presentations you will hear and see today. I am particularly pleased that we are able to bring to you the very fine documentary “Symphony for the Soil,” one of the most informative I have ever seen.

In an earlier Land Use Bulletin I referred to some “truisms” that I have experienced over the years. One is “Sometimes it has to get worse before it can get better.” 1000 Friends of Iowa has always been a strong advocate of soil conservation methods, e.g., grass waterways, buffer strips, cover crops, not row-cropping erodible ground, etc. These are all old practices that were pushed out of favor as commodity prices escalated and federal farm subsidies encouraged expanded corn and soybean production.

This spring has brought record rainfall to Iowa producing rapid runoff and heavy flooding which takes with it Iowa’s precious topsoil from fields still barren from last fall’s harvest. My hope is that the attention of 1000 Friends of Iowa, other environmental organizations, the media, politicians and concerned citizens on this situation will provoke “better” and greater conservation efforts.

I encourage you to take the message from this annual meeting and share it widely with your family, friends and neighbors. We are the “choir” and need to insure more land owners are made aware that their land use decisions affect all Iowans and, sadly, many more Americans who live downstream from us. Speak out, spread the word and thank you for your continued support of the mission of 1000 Friends of Iowa.

In Your Service,

Mary Ellen Miller

continued from previous page

risking our fresh water and already fertile soils. According to a DNR estimate, 185 million pounds of nitrate, with a commercial value of nearly $93 million dollars, was lost into nine Iowa watersheds since April 1st. Most of our corn production goes to feed and fuel, not food.

Iowa has lost half of its valuable soils to erosion since settlement. Once our soils are destroyed, whether through development, erosion, toxins, salination, over-use or depletion, we have lost a global treasure that we can NEVER reclaim. Hopefully, today’s program will illustrate what a gift Iowa soil is, and enable you to take action and help Iowa and Iowans be better stewards of our global treasure. We need more Iowans working to spread the word.

LaVon Griffieon
When I was a kid, the Dickinson County Soil Conservation District gave each student in sixth and eighth grades a Conservation Activities workbook with a cartoon on the front cover. The homework project was judged across the entire grade level and each year the top three books were awarded a blue, red or white ribbon. Ding Darling died the year I started kindergarten and I was 40 before I realized the cartoon on the cover was a Ding Darling cartoon. I had no idea Darling was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for the Des Moines Register who also became one of the nation’s top conservation leaders.

I interact with students of all ages throughout the year. As I thumb through the old Conservation Activities workbooks, I’m amazed at what I knew compared with many young people and adults today. I was recently asked, “What do you talk to college students about when they visit your farm?” My reply was, “The same two things I talk to preschoolers about...how precious our Iowa soils are and how life is like a spider web. If you shake any part of the web of life the entire web will shake. That sometimes leads to unintended consequences, so it is important to learn a lot about a variety of things and make connections before you start shaking.”

Today we will be talking about many of the same topics Ding Darling advocated for nearly a century ago. It seems we have failed to make the connections about our natural capital. Iowa is less than 1/100 of one percent of the world’s land mass. Our size isn’t very significant but according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa has between 10-25% of the world’s finest soils. When those soils are combined with our climate and timely rainfall, we have the greatest potential on earth to grow food. That makes Iowans far from insignificant as the stewards of a non-renewable global treasure. However, our timely rainfall seems to be changing. In February you wouldn’t have convinced me we were going to have a spring so wet that corn wouldn’t be planted by June 10th.

We are honored to have Senator Rob Hogg join us and share his new book, America’s Climate Century. We’ll take a few minutes to hear what Senator Hogg has to say about climate change and what it means for America in the 21st Century. Rob seems to fight an uphill battle in the legislature regarding Iowa’s natural resources.

Five tons of erosion per acre has traditionally been an acceptable baseline for Iowa, but since April 1st, parts of Iowa have experienced soil erosion four to five times the amount considered “tolerable” for an entire year. Severe soil erosion, nitrogen runoff, and flooding are back in the news. One problem is Iowans’ inability to connect their actions (or lack thereof) with what is happening, not only in nature, but with our policymakers.

Our national and state laws enable our continued bad behavior. In 2010 Americans were appalled with British Petroleum for the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Maybe Iowa’s policies concerning natural resources would change dramatically if America suddenly became aware of the 1993, 2008, 2010 and 2012 Soil Spill into the Gulf of Mexico. Voluntary practices haven’t solved the problems Ding Darling advocated for. Part of the problem may be we aren’t handing out those soil conservation workbooks to elementary and middle school students these days. Education is the key to change.

After World War II, we constructed interstate highways to replace passenger and freight rail, and did away with entire transit systems. We designed our communities to be auto-dependent and our country to be oil-dependent. That oil dependency is now being converted to an ethanol and bio-diesel dependency. We have increased the production of corn and soybeans on farmland initially covered by prairie grasses whose deep root system could soak up more than 5,000 gallons of water per hour, helping to mitigate flood damage. We fertilize to increase the yield while...continued next page

2012 Annual Business Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2012
Mason City, IA

The business meeting was called to order by President, Mary Ellen Miller at 12:54.

Laurie Belin moved for approval of the 2011 annual meeting minutes with the correction of spelling for Stacey Long’s name. Seconded by Drake Larson, motion carries. Seconded by Mary Ellen Warren. Motion carries.

Laurie Belin moved to nominate Stacey Long. Seconded by Erv Klaas. Motion carries.

Laurie Belin moved the election of new board member, Stacey Long. Erv Klaas seconds motion. Motion carries.

Mary Ellen Warren reported that Waterloo has received some river front funding, so we can expect some improvements downtown in the near future.

Drake Larson reports that he is employed by Practical Farmers of Iowa and works to elevate the farmer’s voice. Drake has been in charge of matching sustainable ag proponents to run for elected Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner positions across Iowa.

Erv Klaas is retiring from his 1000 Friends of Iowa Board position after a decade of service. Erv reports that Ames Smart Growth Association is still active and will enter into a partnership with Ames Historical Preservation Commission.

Member, Sue Croll, was awarded the first Above and Beyond award. This award goes to a 1000 Friends of Iowa member who continues to advocate for our mission against great odds. Sue was nominated by Erv Klaas and in his words “single-handedly has been the mainstay in the preservation of Roosevelt School.

Board member, Erv Klaas, was awarded the first-ever 1000 Friends of Iowa Distinguished Service Award.

Mary Ellen Miller publicly thanked Crystal Leto for her work in arranging the hotel, the meal, and her efforts to make the annual meeting possible along with her efforts throughout the year as our only staff member.

Mary Ellen Miller made an ask for charitable contributions and the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

2013 Annual Meeting

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2013 Annual Meeting

Financial Report

As of December 31, 2012

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