1000 Friends of Iowa’s vision is “a sustainable Iowa where appreciation, preservation, and celebration of the unique qualities of our productive soils, dwindling natural areas and culture of the heartland are central to all land-use and economic decisions”.

Our 2011 Annual Meeting was held in Greenfield, and our 2012 Annual Meeting was held in Mason City. Participants at these meetings learned about community efforts to preserve local culture which led to award-winning restoration and preservation of these two Iowa downtowns. This year our annual meeting, “Iowa—The Beautiful Land”, will focus on farmland and natural areas in Iowa.

We will start the day with a documentary, Symphony of the Soil. Filmed on four continents, the movie explores our soil; the miraculous living organism that sustains life on Earth. With a skillful mix of art and science, Deborah Koons Garcia's film describes how soil forms, its life cycle, and its role in global issues like climate change, dead zones and the future of our food supply. Garcia’s film has only been released for educational venues. If you haven’t seen it yet, please consider this an opportunity.

The Earth’s most fertile soils drew many immigrant settlers to Iowa. In 1850 Iowa had 14,805 farms; by 1860 that number had risen to 61,136. In 1850 there were 20,969 people in Iowa of foreign birth; twenty years later there were 204,692 of foreign birth. But the seven landforms located across the state lent a look of “home” to many of the European settlers. These diverse landscapes attracted Germans, Irish, English, Scots, Norwegians and Danish. Many small town restaurants still reflect those diverse cultural roots. Board member, Drake Larsen, will help attendees understand the geologic origins and the seven landform regions making up our state.

“We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” Aldo Leopold
Understanding Iowa—Beautiful Land
continued from page 1

Soil serves as the Earth’s skin; a living, breathing layer that provides us with life. Sarah Hargreaves, graduate student at Iowa State University, will explain how the microbes in the soil work to regenerate and enrich our land. Sarah will be followed by veterinarian, Art Dunham, whose years of practice with animals has led him to startling findings about plants and soil. Dr. Dunham’s clinical observations will help Iowans connect some dots about soil quality, the food we eat, and quality of life for future generations.

Iowa has the most altered landscape in the nation. As climate change ushers in more frequent and extreme weather events, it is important for us to recall how Iowa’s landscape looked before we altered it. As late as the 1860s, Iowa was 90-95% covered with prairie grasses, whose deep root systems could soak up more than 5,000 gallons of water per hour, helping to mitigate flood damage. Today, Iowa has lost 99% of its prairie and wetlands. Danielle Wirth, PhD and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at Drake University and Iowa State University will lead us on a tour of Iowa prairie that she has restored at the Iowa Arboretum.

One of the meanings attributed to the Indian word “Iowa” is “the beautiful land”. We hope you join us in rural Madrid at the Iowa Arboretum on June 8th to build a greater understanding and appreciation of this “Beautiful Land” we call home.

NEWS from Around the State

HF268: No Longer Eligible for Debate

In our Winter 2013 issue of the Land Use Bulletin, we featured an article on HF268 (formerly HF11) a bill for eliminating the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and other local comprehensive planning and development guidelines. We are pleased to report that shortly after the printing of the Winter 2013 issue, the status of HF268 was updated to “no longer eligible for debate”.

Ames: Preserve Roosevelt effort SUCCESS!

Developer Dean Jensen purchased Roosevelt School in Ames. He plans to convert it into condominiums while preserving the outside architectural integrity of the building. In addition to presenting his plans for the building, Jensen told attendees during a public forum April 21, 2013 the playground will be turned over to the city for a neighborhood park. The Ames Smart Growth Alliance received an award at the April 23, 2013 City Council meeting from the Iowa Historical Preservation Commission for their work in getting the school on the National Registry for Historic Places. We congratulate all who were a part of this effort. Success stories illustrate the impact of a few dedicated individuals can have. Visit www.preserveroosevelt.org to learn more.
In February, an Iowa House Local Government subcommittee met concerning HF66, a bill to ban implementation of United Nations Agenda 21 in Iowa. Rep. Ralph Watts (R-Adel) told lawmakers the sustainability plan, Agenda 21, is part of a worldwide movement to end private property rights in the United States. Watts sponsored the bill with 27 House Republicans.

In 1992, President George H. W. Bush signed the U.S. onto a non-binding United Nations agreement called Agenda 21. Never ratified by the U.S. Senate, the program does not contain the force of law in the United States. The agreement is hardly more than a list of ways that local communities can better conserve natural resources. The general header for such practices is "sustainability."

Twenty years later, in 2012, the Republican National Committee approved the following plank in its platform: “We strongly reject the U.N. Agenda 21 as being erosive of American sovereignty.” Conservative media personality Glenn Beck, the John Birch Society, and various tea party groups have condemned "Agenda 21" as a globalist conspiracy to destroy America. And state legislators across America have been listening. Elected officials in Virginia, Alabama, Iowa, Georgia, and Missouri have passed resolutions preventing state or local governments from implementing any practices spelled out in United Nations Agenda 21.

During the subcommittee meeting Watts argued that Agenda 21 is an attempt to strip away individual property rights and depopulate the countryside by forcing people to live in dense urban areas. For that reason, political subdivisions in Iowa should be shielded from its influence.

“Fundamental to Agenda 21 is the issue – they literally want to see people move off of rural areas into communities, kind of like the collectivism the Soviet Union has had for the last half-century.” Watts added, “This is not tinfoil hat stuff, I guarantee it.” Note: The Soviet Union dissolved in 1991 into 15 nations, presently none identify as communist or collective.

Radioiowa.com reported State Rep. Dawn Pettengill (R-Mount Auburn) also told the subcommittee she fears Agenda 21 would force her and others to move into urban areas. Fear seems to be the key word. And no one wants fear to determine policy. Ms. Pettengill has been a staunch opponent of smart planning bills throughout her legislative career. Support of large agribusiness (such as tax-funded fertilizer plants) and a lack of support for small businesses and Main Street threaten to depopulate rural Iowa more than planning that is economically viable, health promoting, environmentally sound and locally-owned and controlled.

While HF66 will not be an issue this legislative session, 1000 Friends of Iowa encourages members to remind your Representative that lowering costs and conserving resources are always a good idea - even if the UN agrees.

Visit https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx to read the full text of HF66.
“Iowa—Beautiful Land”
Farmland and Natural Areas in Iowa
1000 Friends of Iowa 2013 Annual Meeting Agenda
Date: June 8, 2013
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Location: Iowa Arboretum
1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA

9:00—9:30 a.m.  Registration, Coffee, Breakfast Breads

9:30—9:45 a.m.  Welcome
LaVon Griffieon, Interim Executive Director

9:45—10:00 a.m.  Apple Earth
LaVon Griffieon, Interim Executive Director

10:00—11:45 a.m.  Symphony of the Soil

11:45—12:00 p.m.  Break

12:00—1:00 p.m.  Local Food Luncheon
Local Food Explanation, Drake Larsen, Board Member

1:00—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—3:40 p.m.  “Let’s Round-Up This Problem!”
Art Dunham, DVM

3:40—3:55 p.m.  Break

3:55—5:00 p.m.  Tour of White Oak Savanna
Led by Danielle Wirth, Drake University and ISU

Adjourn
2013 ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION
Register for the 2013 Annual Meeting TODAY!

All events and an Iowa grown lunch are included in the cost of registration. Use the registration form provided below, or visit www.1000friendsofiowa.org to register online using a credit card. Registrations must be received by Monday, June 3, 2013.

Registration is $40 for members ($30 for additional attendees who attend as guests of a member), $60 for non-members (includes one year membership) and $20 for students.

Number of Attendees: ________  Amount Enclosed: $_________

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________ State_______ Zip Code_________

Email ____________________________@________________________.

Additional Attendees

Guest 1____________________________________________________________

Guest 2____________________________________________________________

Please mail your registration and check payable to:
1000 Friends of Iowa
3850 Merle Hay Road, Suite 605
Des Moines, IA 50310-1300

Confirmation will be emailed to all registered participants. Your email address will not be shared or sold.
Accepting Nominations for
2013 Best Development Awards

Nominations for the 2013 Best Development Awards are now being accepted. 1000 Friends of Iowa established the annual Best Development Awards in 2001. The awards showcase development projects and programs in Iowa that best reflect the principles of smart growth and sustainability. They also recognize the efforts of businesses, developers, cities, organizations, and individuals responsible for these projects.

The winners of Best Development Awards are models of how responsible development practices provide benefits to the community, the environment, and quality of life for future generations. If there is a project in your community you believe deserves recognition, please visit our website, www.1000friendsofiowa.org, to learn more about the simple nomination process and browse the previous recipients of our Best Development Awards!

Awards are given in the following seven categories:

- New Residential
- Renovated Residential
- Renovated Commercial/Civic
- New Commercial/Civic
- Mixed Use
- Leadership
- Storm Water Management

New Best Development Award Category: Stormwater Management

1000 Friends of Iowa is excited to announce the addition of a “Stormwater Management” award category to our Best Development Awards. This award recognizes companies, groups, organizations, county and municipal governments and projects that have fostered the creation of new approaches to address the impact of stormwater runoff pollution in Iowa.

Stormwater runoff is the rainfall or snowmelt that flows off permeable or impervious surfaces like roads, building roofs, sidewalks or other ground surfaces after a rain event. When the ground fails to soak in the runoff, it channels pollutants such as pesticides, soil sediment, bacteria, pet waste and trash into our lakes, rivers and streams. Stormwater can flow directly to streams and lakes or it may be transported by municipal storm drain systems. Unlike sanitary sewers, storm sewers do not lead to treatment plants, but drain directly into our streams and lakes.

Stormwater management practices help control pollution through the use of specific techniques that intercept runoff from developed areas then filters, infiltrates, and treats the runoff, then releases it at a cleaner, safer rate.

This award will consider activities or projects that:

- Demonstrate the effectiveness of new and innovative technologies, such as rain harvesting, rain gardens, bioretenion cells, bioswales, and permeable or porous pavers.
- Increase public awareness of stormwater impacts.
- Encourage the use of approaches such as Environmental Site Design, Low Impact Development or a Watershed Management Plan.
- Highlight efforts to clean and restore Iowa’s lakes, rivers and streams.
SEEKING Applicants to Board of Directors

1000 Friends of Iowa is looking for talented people to join our Board of Directors. We are hoping to elect several new members to serve a three-year term beginning with the elections held at our 2013 Annual Meeting. All applicants and nominees are considered, and we welcome your application. Read through the Board Member Responsibilities listed below and if you, or someone you know, would like to apply visit http://www.1000friendsofiowa.org/content/blogcategory/84/168/ to download the Board of Directors Application Packet.

Complete and return the Board of Directors Application Packet by email to: crystal_leto@yahoo.com. or mail the completed packet to:

1000 Friends of Iowa
c/o Crystal Leto
3850 Merle Hay Road, Suite 605
Des Moines, IA 50310-1300

1000 Friends of Iowa Board Member Responsibilities

Board members are expected to attend at least three quarterly meetings, one of them our annual meeting. This can be done by conference call and does not require your physical presence. We encourage board members to serve on at least one committee. Frequently, committee work is conducted via email, so physical travel is not necessary.

Board members are expected to be familiar with the Organization’s Purpose, Mission, Vision, Values, Goals and Programs, and to have a general interest in some aspect of land use.

Board members may be asked to assist with various program activities in their local communities. Involvement is optional, but we encourage every board member to be our “eyes and ears” in their area. Some ways in which board members have been helpful include:

- Hosting a house party
- Organizing an event, such as a conference, presentation, or “Tour de Sprawl”
- Finding a location for a set of our roadside signs
- Helping recruit new members (and board members)
- Holding a press conference
- Building coalition with other local groups
- Becoming involved in local land-use issues
- Educate decision-makers about wise land-use decisions

And finally, board members must be current members of the organization, preferably Founding Friends.
Filmmakers Offer Online Viewing of Documentary

PRICELESS$

“PRICELESS$ is a filmmaker’s personal journey across America to answer a burning question: why are some of our government’s most basic policies, like food and energy, so so out-of-date…and can anything be done about it? Sharing the suspicion of fellow-citizens, including a class of young civics students, that campaign money is involved, the filmmakers set out on a spellbinding and at times hilarious ride from rural America to the halls of Congress to find out more, because democracy is a precious resource. In fact, it’s PRICELESS$.”

Much of the footage in PRICELESS$ was shot in Iowa and includes many local faces 1000 Friends of Iowa members will recognize, including Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey and 1000 Friends co-founder, LaVon Griffieon.

Habitat Media has allowed Americans for Campaign Finance Reform to offer the full documentary for viewing from their website at no cost. Watch PRICELESS$ today by visiting: http://www.acrreform.org/feature/watch-the-documentary-priceless/

Visit http://www.habitatmedia.org/ to learn more about the making of PRICELESS$ and Habitat Media.