Friends of
Lac Lawrann
CONSERVANCY

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH
NATURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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A letter from the Board of Directors
PRESIDENT

Greetings Friends,

As it has often been since the inception of Lac Lawrann, this has been another year of transitions for the Conservancy. 2017 marks 30 years since the beginning of our annual Wildflower Sale. From humble beginnings in 1987, earning all of $200, the volunteers began selling plants saved from developing the original trails at LLC. Today it is a very successful fundraiser for the Conservancy, earning almost 100 times as much.

The money earned from the sale is used to fund the programs now offered at Lac Lawrann. The dreams of a few visionaries, many still pushing forward today, have come full circle. The six year-olds, guided along the trails through Ann and Lawrence's conservancy by those first volunteers, are now bringing their own children to share the experiences that they enjoyed. What a wonderful trip it has been.

I have been fortunate to be with the Friends Board for 15 years now, only half as long as many of those original visionaries. Learning from and experiencing their passion for the flowers and the land that is Lac Lawrann has been an honor. The place that is Lac Lawrann today was started by two ordinary people who shared their hopes, passion and their land for the future. Others who share those same passions are preserving it today. Every once in a while we all are fortunate to have the opportunity to share in an experience that will help shape the future for all our children. To those who are sharing that experience with us, thank you. For those of you who are here for the first time, welcome, and please join in helping us, and the volunteers that are Lac Lawrann, make a difference for all.

Regards,

Paul De Chant
President
Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy

Vision

Lac Lawrann Conservancy is a special place for everyone to experience, learn, and care for nature.

Programs

Science for Everyone

Science for Everyone is a lecture series to engage, educate, and increase public awareness regarding a wide variety of science, history, and environment related topics. The programs are for the curious of high school age and older. This program is a collaborative effort of LLC, Riveredge Nature Center, and the UWM Field Station to engage, educate, and increate public awareness.

Nature in the Classroom

Nature in the Classroom is a science and literary program that is geared towards students from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Each month a volunteer comes into the classroom, introduces a topic, reads a story, and engages the students in discussion and activities to explore the science behind it. Nature in the Classroom offers hands-on experiences for students, provides supplementary resources that teachers may not otherwise be able to provide in the classrooms, encourages respect for nature, and promotes LLC.

Summer Day Camp

LLC offers adventures for all ages. For example, through Junior Naturalist Camp, campers can get down and dirty with hands-on nature-based camps and explore animals, habitats, and much more. In Adventure Camp, active adventurers meet at LLC every days and bike between different city parks doing a wide range of activities, from archery to swimming.

Annual Highlights

Plant Sale

Luminary Walk

Winter Attendance - 500
Fall Attendance - 750

Solar panels continue to power Lac Lawrann.

Building of the new boardwalk to Rainbow Lake

Tear down of the Maurin house

Community Impact

Summer Adventure Camp

20 Children

Junior Naturalist Summer Camp

15 Children

Field Trips

1,239 Children

Outdoor Survival

17 Registrants

Judy Rupnow and Linda Juech, Plant Sale

LLC Stories

Linda Juech

"LLC is a place for people of all ages where they can find solace, enjoyment, and an appreciation of what nature has to offer."

Linda Juech is the Secretary of the Board of Directors, the Plant Sale Chair, and a docent for spring field trips. She has also served as a "Nature in the Classroom" teacher.

Linda's interested in LLC was sparked by her love for the outdoors and appreciation of conservation, environmental education, and physical labor. Linda joined the Board in 2005, and she started volunteering and potting for the Plant Sale. She took a break from the LLC Board when her first grandchild was born to become a full time stay-at-home "Nana", and she enjoyed bringing her grandson to LLC as soon as he could walk. She was drawn back to LLC in 2013, and, since then, she has become more and more involved with the Plant Committee, becoming Plant Sale Chair in 2017.

Linda enjoys volunteering with LLC because she loves working outside, physical labor, and seeing results. She appreciates the satisfaction of knowing that what she does makes a difference, and she appreciates the incredible commitment of the LLC volunteers. Through volunteer efforts, the Plant Sale celebrated its 29th year in 2016. In the beginning, all plants sold were donated from volunteers' woods, fields, and gardens. Over the years, the plant sale has grown and become more complex. Today, plants still come from volunteers, but they are also grown at LLC and brought in from nurseries. Extra steps are taken to re-pot the plants and treat the soil to prevent spread of invasives, such as "jumping worms". Customers line up early to have a chance to purchase hard to find plants, such as the elusive Fern Leaf Peony.

Linda strongly believes that in donating your time and energies to LLC, you will receive gifts that are priceless. LLC is a place for people of all ages where they can find solace, enjoyment, and an appreciation of what nature has to offer. It is a peaceful place to reflect and find yourself. She works with LLC because she believes we need to preserve this legacy for our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Linda retired from teaching 11 years ago. Outside of LLC, Linda enjoys playing tennis, golfing, biking, hiking, snowshoeing, spending time on her boat, and taking care of her many gardens. She is also a long-time member of WB COLUMNS, spending the past four years as the WB COLUMNS 5K Run/Walk chair. She and her husband travel frequently, with their current goal being to hike as many national parks as they can.

If you'd like to learn more about LLC, Linda always has an "open door", and she invites you to join her at LLC and experience LLC for yourself.

LLC Stories

Bob Broman

“Come see what we're about: view the landscapes, walk the trails, sit a minute to enjoy the nature—both flora and fauna.”

Bob Broman is passionate about volunteering with LLC, which he believes is an unknown gem of nature right inside the City of West Bend. Over his years of volunteering, he has formed long-lasting friendships and has had the opportunity to enjoy LLC from season to season.

Bob is the Chief Land Steward, and he organizes Wednesday work sessions and other special projects. He has been a Land Steward since 2001, and he previously served as a Director and the Treasurer of the LLC Board of Directors.

After moving to West Bend in 2000, Bob and his wife, Carol, attended a “This Old Barn” event (which then was a pot-luck gathering of LLC Friends members and others, with no band or music) in autumn of 2000 or 2001. Soon after, Bob and his grandson, Ryan Perondi, attended a steward project with Bob Stodola and Kate Peterman to remove buckthorn. After that, the rest is history. Bob was hooked, and he’s been volunteering ever since.

Over the years, Bob has been surprised to learn about the variety of tasks that need to be handled, from blow-downs on trails, to cleaning up vandalism and other trash, to grooming trails for cross-country skiers. While volunteering, he enjoys the season-to-season beauty of the Conservancy.

Bob wishes more people in the community understood what a resource we have within our city, and he invites those who haven’t been to LLC to come out for an afternoon to visit (or remove buckthorn!). Through volunteering, Bob has formed relationships with other volunteers and West Bend Park & Recreation staff and learned about community needs, the natural world, and invasives (both flora and fauna).

When he’s not volunteering with LLC, Bob also enjoys volunteering across Wisconsin on Ice Age Trail projects, and spending time with his wife Carol, who was also formerly a volunteer with LLC as a teacher-naturalist.

At LLC, we are grateful for Bob and our team of land stewards, who help preserve and maintain the beauty of LLC from season-to-season. If you are interested in learning more about our land stewards, we can always use more hands to help with Wednesday morning stewardship tasks and with special projects.

LLC Stories

Jill Perales

"I feel that the people that volunteer and work there are the best thing about Lac Lawrann."

LLC is a special place for Jill Perales and her family. Her children can frequently be found enjoying the Conservancy, whether it be through summer camps, school field trips, or Boy Scouts.

Jill loves the history of the property and feels that it's a wonderful resource that is accessible to everyone in our community. Her children have enjoyed all of their time there, especially learning about the ponds!

While the property itself is a definite asset, Jill strongly believes that the people that volunteer and work at LLC are the best thing about LLC. Learning about nature—and learning how to appreciate nature—is a very important thing to teach our children. It is wonderful that so many people at LLC take the time to share their knowledge with them. It's one thing to walk a nature trail, and it's another thing to actually have someone with you explaining everything around you. Jill believes that this is the best way for kids to learn about and appreciate the resources around them.

Jill also appreciates that the volunteers at LLC bring nature to the kids in our schools. Her kids love the days that the LLC volunteers come to visit their classrooms. They bring items that the kids can touch and see, which helps further engage them. For example, her children have learned about different animal tracks, deer, and foxes, and they even were able to see a crane egg. With tight school budgets and science not always being a top priority, LLC volunteers bring nature to the classroom and allow kids in our community to have the opportunity to continue to learn about nature throughout the year.

Jill extends her heartfelt thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers that take the time to share their knowledge of nature with her family, and families like hers, in our community! Without our volunteers, we couldn't bring the joy of nature to so many children year in and year out, both at LLC and in the classroom.

LLC Stories

Katie Espen

Helping bring kids and families "back to nature"

Katie Espen serves as the Student Board Member on the LLC Board of Directors and is a Summer Camp Program Assistant.

We are proud to have Katie on our Board. Outside of working with LLC, Katie is currently a Senior at West Bend High School. She plays violin with the West Bend High School Chamber Orchestra, is a four-year Varsity Tennis player, and is a member of the Police Explorers. After graduation, she will be attending Columbia College in Missouri. Based on her strong academic record and community engagement, she has received a full ride scholarship from Columbia College and a West Bend Columns Scholarship, and she plans to study biology and forensic science, in hopes of becoming a forensic pathologist.

Katie is passionate about nature, and has always enjoyed hiking and exploring. She learned about LLC while volunteering with the National Honor Society at a Luminary Walk. She believes it is important to make sure nature is always a part of your life. With new technologies, it is at times easy to take nature for granted. She hopes spending time at Lac Lawrann will help bring individuals and families back to nature and remember what life was like before the ever present computers, tablets, and smart phones.

As a Summer Camp Program Assistant, she has worked closely with Meghann Reigle, the Conservation Supervisor, to help connect kids with nature. During the summer, you can find them biking to parks and leading kids in various activities, such as hiking, catching frogs, and identifying bug species.

She also enjoys—and wants more people to know about—all of the unique trails that Lac Lawrann has to offer and the possibilities for exploration. For example, a little known fact is that near the Maurin Center, there is a bird cemetery, from the times when bird rehabilitation took place at Lac Lawrann. There are also opportunities to host weddings, field trips, graduation parties, and much more at Lac Lawrann.

Katie was most surprised when she started working with LLC about how easy it is to get involved with volunteering and how many different areas there are where individuals can help—no matter what your talent, LLC can find a way to use it. If someone is thinking about volunteering with or donating to LLC, her advice is to do it! Volunteering with LLC gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment. For example, kids and teens in Camp Super Hero, through the Washington County Volunteer Center, came out and helped put in trails this last summer out to Rainbow Lake. She hopes they can go out to the trails as they grow up and look back at it and say "hey, I helped make that happen!"

Through working with LLC, she would tell you that she's learned "a lot about bugs!" She's learned a lot from Meghann about nature (including bugs, plants, and invasive species), while helping with the youth programs. She's also worked at keeping her composure around bugs so she can better help the kids learn and become comfortable working with them. Serving on the Board, she has been impressed with how open and approachable the Board is, and how well-received her input has been.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
November 1, 2015 - October 31, 2016

REVENUE	
Operating Revenue	
Contributions	$6,609
Membership dues	$14,491
Special events	$21,865
Rental income	$38,708
Program revenue	$ 1,891
Total revenue	$83,564

EXPENSES	
Operating Expenses	$16,981
Program services	$13,345
Building operations	$6,598
Administrative	$1,016
Fundraising	$37,940
Donation to City of West Bend	$29,570
Total expenses	$67,510

Net decrease in net assets	$16,054

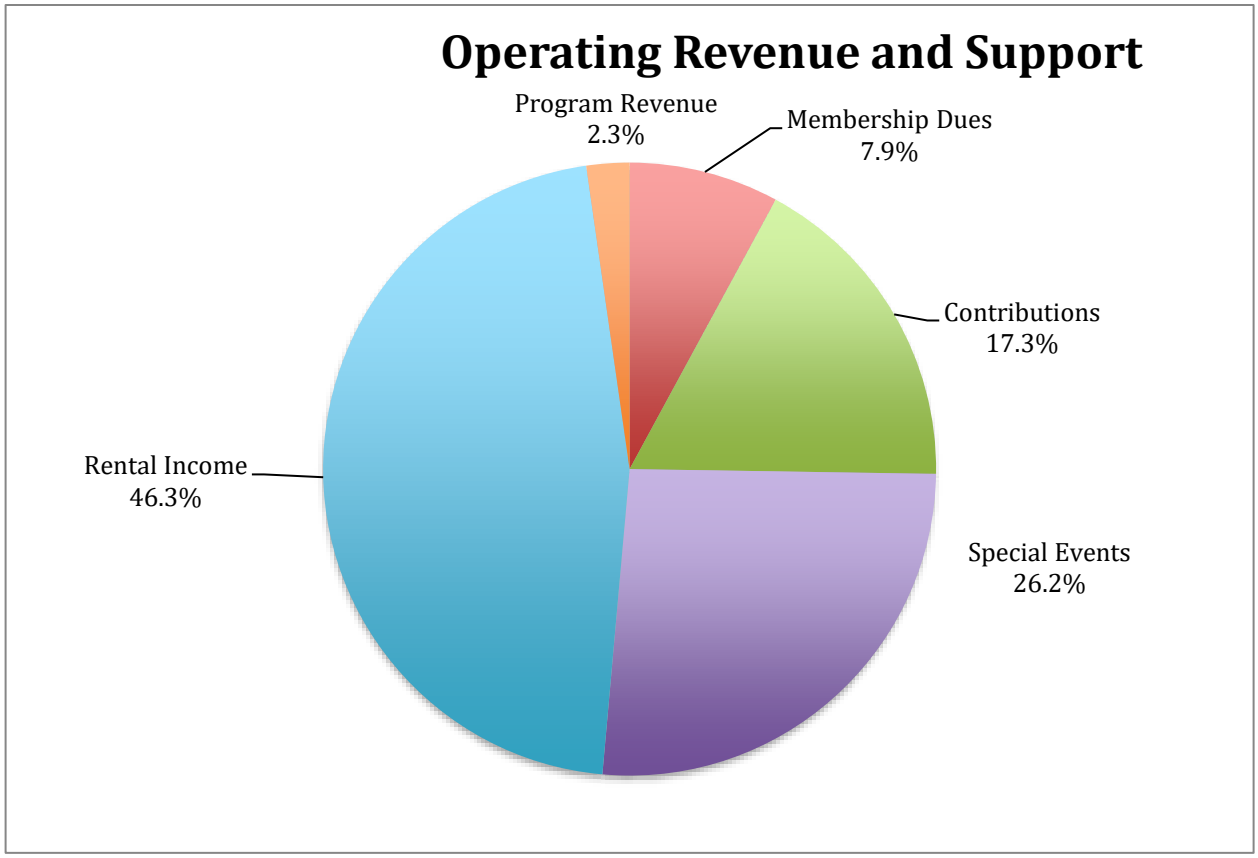
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
October 31, 2016

ASSETS	
Cash & cash equivalents	$114,504
Prepaid expense	$631
Total assets	$115,135

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	$583
Loan from City of West Bend	$20,281

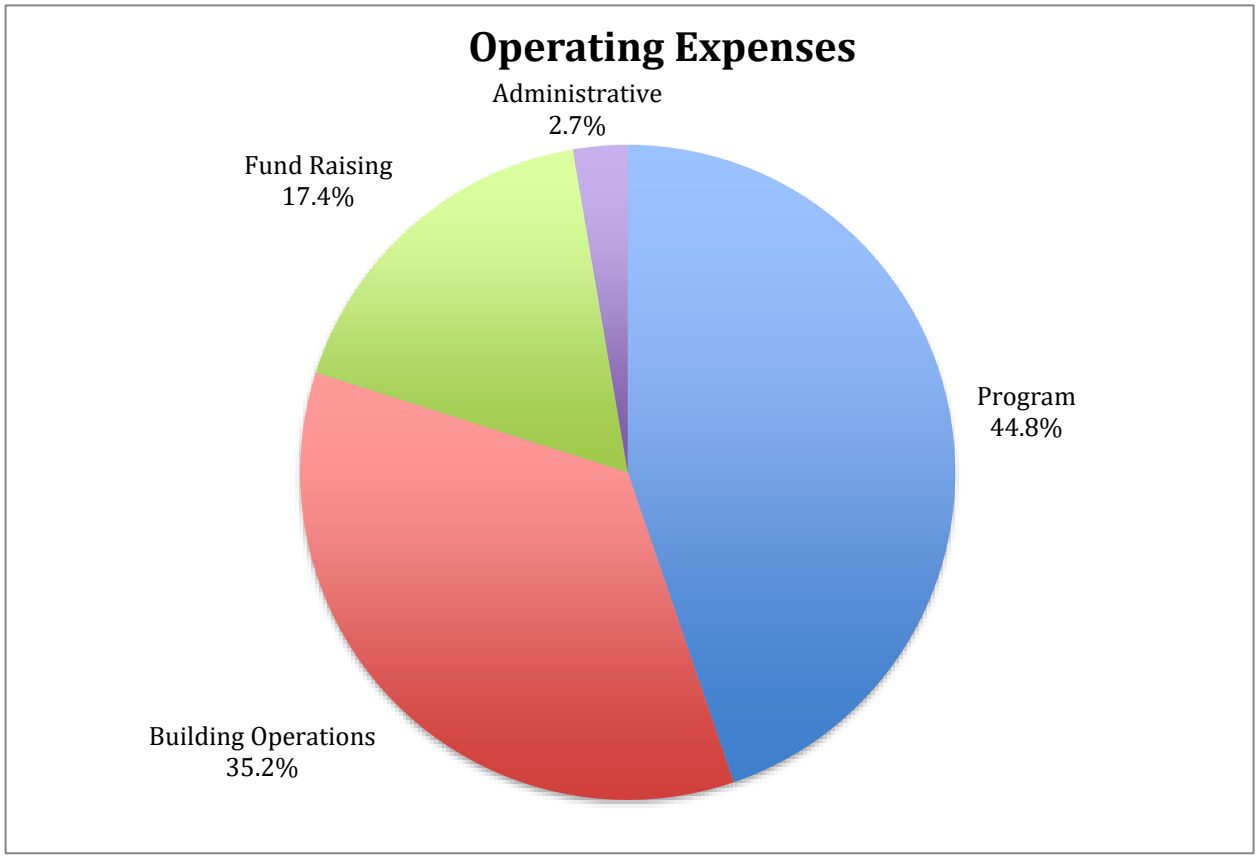
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted net assets	$77,234
Temporarily restricted net assets	$17,037
Total liabilities & net assets	$115,135

Operating Revenue and Support



Membership Dues	$6,609
Contributions	$14,491
Special Events	$21,865
Rental Income	$38,708
Program Revenue	$1,891
Total Support and Revenue	$83,564

Operating Expenses



Program	$16,981
Building Operations	$13,345
Fund Raising	$6,598
Administrative	$1,016
Total Expenses	$37,940

Friends of LLC

The Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy was established in 1994 to raise funds through memberships, donations, and special events to support educational and management programs at LLC. Today the Friends of LLC provide the strategic force, leadership, and volunteer power behind Lac Lawrann and its programs.

Friends of LLC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a purpose of ***Connecting people with nature***.

Our vision: Lac Lawrann Conservancy is a special place for everyone to experience, learn, and care for nature.

To achieve our purpose and strive for our vision, Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy provides educational programs, inspires protection of the environment, and partners with the City of West Bend's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department and other organizations.

Board of Directors:

Paul De Chant, President
Eric Damkot, Vice President, Buildings & Grounds
Sally Mueller, Co-Vice President, Programming
Holly Schneider, Vice President, Membership and Marketing
Wendy Wosoba, Co-Vice President, Programming

Linda Juech, Secretary
Lisa Sanborn, Treasurer
Phil Gaudet
Kara Guse
Katie Espen (Student Member)
Amy Kieser
Derek Kozlowski
Jean Reigle
Scott Stier
Scott Thomas

Past Presidents:

Gary Britton
Joan Rosenberger
Dan Kline

West Bend Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Advisors:

Craig Hoeppner, Director
Meghann Reigle, Conservation Supervisor
Cory Gritzmacher, Parks Project Manager

Legal Counsel:

Karen Christianson

Membership

At Lac Lawrann Conservancy, membership offers individuals or families a rewarding experience and the satisfaction of supporting an organization connecting people with nature. Please join the Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy by selecting one of the following membership categories:

PINE ($35-$99)
BIRCH ($100-$499)
MAPLE ($500-$999)
OAK ($1000 and above)

Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy Membership Form

Thank you for supporting the Lac Lawrann mission.

Enclosed is my/our gift of $_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Membership Level:

Pine ❒ $35 ❒ $50 ❒ $75

Birch ❒ $100 ❒ $150 ❒ $250

Maple ❒ $500 ❒ $750

Oak ❒ $1,000 ❒ $2,500 ❒ $5,000

Please make your check payable to: Friends of Lac Lawrann Conservancy

Mail the form and your check to:

Friends of LLC
P.O. Box 755
West Bend, WI 53095

We Need Your Help

At Lac Lawrann Conservancy, we rely on the generosity of our donors to support the educational and outdoor activities for the hundreds of annual visitors. There are many types of gifts one can make to help us carry out our mission, for today and for future generations.

Monetary Support

Monetary gifts are always appreciated! Whether a donation is to the annual operating fund, to the Maurin Center and its educational programs, or a contribution in recognition of a special occasion such as Earth Day, monetary gifts help support LLC's mission.

Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Our generous volunteers have helped LLC educate thousands of children each year and operate at the highest possible level. Volunteers have the opportunity to teach classes, lead hikes, restore prairies, groom ski trails, plant trees, maintain trails, serve on the Lac Lawrann Board, and assist with snowshoeing and Luminary Walk events. We're always looking for more volunteers, so come join us today.

- ☐ Volunteer with Lac Lawrann Conservancy
- ☐ Volunteer around the office with phone calls and other tasks
- ☐ Volunteer in a different way: _____

Please visit our website http://www.laclawrann.org to learn more, or call us at 262.335.5080.
Send this form by mail to our office at PO Box 755, West Bend, WI 53095

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

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http://www.laclawrann.org

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