

# 2017 Annual Report

## PARTNERING for LAND ACQUISITION

We are pleased to announce completion of fund raising for the acquisition of the **Ronald “Dick” Jordan Family Wildlife Area**, which was a key focus of our efforts in 2017.

This successful project is a testimony to the benefits of partnering with other groups to make additional resources available to the public for conservation. The value of such efforts will continue through many generations.

Our partners were:

- Story County Conservation
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)
- Pheasants Forever and ISU Student Pheasants Forever
- Skunk River Paddlers, Wheatsfield Grocery Coop, Kohl’s, JAX Outdoor Gear
- Danfoss, and other generous donors.



The property is expected to be transferred to Story County Conservation in 2018. We look forward to a grand opening when it is ready for the public.

Plans for acquiring additional resources in 2018 include fund raising for Story County Conservation to acquire the Carroll Prairie. More about the Carroll Prairie is on our website.

## PARTNERING through SERVICE PROJECTS

When a good partnership works well, the public benefits by everyone’s efforts. For the third year in a row, Outdoor Alliance teamed up with Kohl’s Cares employees. The recently improved and expanded Dakins Lake reaped the rewards of our tree planting service project with Story County Conservation. Thank you to Kohl’s Cares for their generous \$500 donation to Outdoor Alliance.



Partnering also means providing letters of support when our partners seek funding. We are pleased that Story County Conservation’s REAP Application seeking funding for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor at the Iowa State University Research Park was approved.

Our first project with Story County Conservation and our partners, Pheasants Forever and Big Bluestem Audubon, which reimbursed schools for some of their transportation costs involved with educational service projects, is no longer needed. Outdoor Alliance was able to meet an important need when the project began. Students across the county have and will continue to participate in environmental education activities and service projects including collecting prairie seed and removing invasive species.

## PARTNERING and ENHANCING AWARENESS

The Outdoor Alliance began a series of **Thursday Winter Hikes** in 2017, co-sponsored with Story County Conservation. Enjoy winter, get some outdoor exercise and explore public lands in Story County. Join us in 2018 for more Thursday Winter Hikes: Check out the Calendar of Events on our website, [www.oasco.org](http://www.oasco.org).



The Outdoor Alliance also partnered with the **Ames Public Library** and **Ames Historical Society** for the first time in a series of presentations.

Audiences enjoyed the following speakers:

- Mike Cox, Story County Conservation Director, gave an update on their many projects.
- Dr. Jim Colbert, a founder of the Skunk River Navy, shared stories about removal of over 80 tons of trash from the Skunk River and other local waterways over the last 20 years.
- Wolfgang Oesterreich, an employee of the National Lab for Agriculture & the Environment, is an avid birder, cyclist and photographer. He shared his stunning photos and fascinating data of the birds and wildlife that can be seen at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.



Outreach efforts continued in 2017 in several **Public Forums**: All Species One Earth Event, Ames Ecofair, and Story County Conservation's Wild Women of the Woods program. We also co-hosted the fourth annual legislative reception with SCC.

Partnering to enhance public awareness through a series of presentations will continue in 2018.

## PARTNERING through OUR ENDOWMENT

The Outdoor Alliance **Endowment with Story County Community Foundation** continued to grow in 2017. As a partner, the Story County Community Foundation makes donations to the Outdoor Alliance endowment particularly attractive, creating a way for individuals to provide a valuable source of funding for tomorrow and into the future. Details can be found on [www.oasco.org](http://www.oasco.org).

**Donations are the key** to putting outdoor education, conservation and recreation in Story County on a sustainable basis, and to provide the resources that enable us to respond to favorable opportunities as they arise. Our goal is to raise several thousand dollars in 2018. We look forward to working with you and for you as we make Story County an even better place to live, work and enjoy the outdoors.