

Comments by Friends of Warner Parks Board President Lawson Allen:

As most of you know, we would not be where we are today without the tireless dedication and tenacity of Warner Bass. If you will indulge me, I would like to ask Warner Bass to stand.

Most of you know Warner. I cannot think of another person in this community that has done more for the existing Warner Parks than Warner Bass. Not only was he instrumental in founding our Friends of Warner Parks organization, but he has spearheaded numerous fundraising efforts through the years to include the construction of the Suzanne Warner Bass Nature Center, acquisition of several parcels of property along Highway 100, and the latest effort to acquire the Hill Property and old growth forest. Under his leadership, we have secured financial and in-kind gifts to benefit the Warner Parks of more than \$20 million, and counting.....

Warner, we can never thank you enough for your passion and dedication to the Warner Parks. In fact, we thought about renaming the parks after you, but then again, they are the Warner Parks. However, we did think of one way to perpetually note your tremendous influence on our organization.

On special occasions, and certainly not every year, we honor an individual who has gone above and beyond in their commitment to the Warner Parks by awarding the BEST FRIEND AWARD. In fact, we have a truly deserving beneficiary of this award to announce in a few moments. If it was an annual award, Warner would be at the top of the voting ballot almost every year. Since we cannot rename the Parks for you, the Board of Directors decided that it was only appropriate to rename the Best Friend Award as the WARNER BASS BEST FRIEND AWARD. This small gesture is just one way that we can perpetually honor your bold dedication, service and commitment to the Warner Parks. You are a remarkable person who has led our organization and community through your unwavering passion for the Warner Parks and the outdoors, and your leadership has positively impacted our community today and for generations to come. You will always be the Parks' Best Friend. Please join me in recognizing Warner for this well deserved honor.