

# SAGATAGAN Seasons

THE NEWSLETTER OF SAINT JOHN'S

Arboretum

Winter 2004

## Central Minnesota Woodpeckers

**Robert P. Russell**

Woodpeckers provide welcome diversity to the winter landscape or backyard feeder watcher. The presence of seven breeding species in the Collegeville hills is an excellent example of niche partitioning and warrants further study to explain their habitat relationships. Although Saint John's Arboretum is blessed with a variety of habitats, smaller woods can support woodpecker populations. Residual tree management practices assures the presence of many woodpecker species by providing several dead snag trees per acre and several live trees for future snag trees and a continuous supply of potential cavity sites for woodpeckers and other hole-nesting birds. One Minnesota Department of Natural Resources publication recommended leaving 7-15 live trees larger than 6 inches dbh (diameter breast high) per acre when planning for a forest harvest.

**Northern Flickers** are readily identified by their white rump, yellow flashing underwings, and their loud strident call given most frequently during April and May when they first return to the Collegeville hills. After wintering in the bottomlands of Arkansas and Louisiana, staccato calls echo as they stake out territory in the oak savannas and open oak forests. These woodpeckers build their nests in stands of cottonwood and oak and spend much of their time foraging on the ground in grasslands, on lawns and in old fields searching for their primary prey, ants. While the loss of grassland habitat and open forest has been detrimental to their population, their greatest threat may be the introduced European Starling which



Male Downy Woodpecker

Photo by Peter Weber

[www.wildbirdphotos.com](http://www.wildbirdphotos.com)

usurps their nest cavities—often immediately after the flicker has spent a couple of weeks digging the hole and investing much energy.

Catlike “mews” from the aspen and poplar groves identify the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, another returnee from the lower Mississippi River Valley. Most of these migrants seen here will move farther north, but small numbers of both species remain to breed in the Collegeville area. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers prefer stands of soft-wooded trees infected with a heartwood decay fungus, but can cause havoc when they frequent orchards where the telltale sign of their presence is a series of parallel holes (wells) on the trunk of the tree. Some growers place tubes of 1/4” mesh hardware cloth around the trunks to discourage their presence.

The holes provide some beneficial qualities though, attracting hummingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, and other species to drink the sap and to forage on the insects associated with the sap. At certain times of the year, the sap sucked from the wells by sapsuckers may make up as much as 100% of the diet, while at other times, ants, beetles, spiders, and cambium constitute the majority of the diet. Several pairs of sapsuckers breed in the Saint John's woods, and their numbers seem fairly stable over the years. A rapid, gunshot-like drumming with a pause, then more strikes in an irregular cadence can identify this bird by ear from several hundred yards distance in the forest.

An occasionally glimpsed resident woodpecker in most large forests of central Minnesota is the **Pileated Woodpecker**. Crow-sized and dramatic in appearance both in flight and perched, most hikers and naturalists consider it a red-letter day when obtaining a good view of this shy species. Most often a flash of white and a disappearing bird flying quickly away is the usual look one sees of this species. A familiarity with either its loud “kuk” call or its staccato territorial call, reminiscent of a slow, loud flicker, allows hikers to gain a more satisfying view. Populations of this species have steadily increased over the past few decades as older forests have returned to the landscape. Some birders have noted that their preferred habitat is not just old-growth forest, but old-growth forest in which fallen trees are allowed to decay on the forest floor. These

(see *Woodpeckers*, p. 6)

# Saint John's Historic "Pine Curtain"

## Grace Brogan

Soon after Winston Churchill in 1946 used "Iron Curtain" to describe the line of demarcation between Western Europe and the Communist zone of influence, students at Saint John's coined the term "Pine Curtain" to describe the towering trees lining the original entrance road to the campus.

Few people know that these stately conifers are not native to the Colledgeville area but were only planted in the 1930s. Other evergreens on campus, however, have a much earlier history. During the 2002 summer, Dr. Gordon Brown of the CSB/SJU biology department conducted a core sampling in Lake Hilary, a small campus lake, and found ancient pollen of white, jack and Norway pine as well as black spruce. As the glaciers receded ten thousand years ago, the line of conifers retreated to northern Minnesota.

Our part of Minnesota did not see the pines again until the pioneer (or pine-er) monks of Saint John's cleared the land for their first buildings and then began to recreate the flavor of their coniferous German homeland. In 1894 they planted a grove of white, Scotch and red pine and Norway spruce in the area called "Pickerel Point" which juts out into Lake Sagatagan south of Saint John's Preparatory School.

Adrian Schmitt, OSB, is recognized as the leader in establishing a tradition of forestry at Saint John's. His relatives were governmental foresters in the Black Forest of Baden, Germany. Father Adrian sent them land samples and in turn received both seeds and advice for starting a tree nursery which soon produced fifteen varieties of evergreens planted by the thousands around the campus.

The majority of the trees on the northern border of the campus were planted by Ansgar Niess, OSB, during the 1920s and 1930s. The slow and laborious work of planting and raising sensitive seedlings was a labor of love for Brother Ansgar in



White Pines in the historic plantation  
Photo by Grace Brogan

addition to his work as the community's butcher. He was later joined by Julius Terfehr, OSB, and together they supervised the clearing of eighty acres that produced 1200 cords of fuelwood and lumber. The use of the cleared land for agriculture or pasture never materialized and the space was eventually planted with pine.

Although there are now only 146 acres of conifers on Saint John's land, a small percentage of the total 2,500 acres, the fact that these mature trees appear in this part of Minnesota surprises many people. The trees owe their current good health to the efforts of Paul Schwietz, OSB, former Land Manager until his untimely death in 2000, and Tom Kroll, current Land Manager and Arboretum Director.

To keep the pines healthy there is an occasional thinning through logging and harvesting. Adolescent trees can receive more sunlight, making them more vigorous and healthy to ensure a long life. Thousands of new seedlings continue to be planted annually. A "bud cap"

is often used to prevent damage from the local deer population as the saplings grow. Larger pines are harvested to supply the Woodworking Shop with lumber for furniture and coffins.

The pines are also used as Christmas trees like the thirty-foot spruce that stands in the Great Hall as a statuesque reminder of the beauty of God's earth. They fulfill this prayer: "Let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the Lord who comes, who comes to govern the earth, to govern the earth with justice and the peoples with faithfulness" (Psalm 96:12-13).

Saint John's Pine Curtain represents Benedictine faithfulness to responsible stewardship. Throughout Saint John's history, caring for the land as God's gift to all people has been an integral value for all who continue to grow, learn and serve in our wooded wonderland.

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*Grace Brogan is a first-year art student at the College of Saint Benedict and a student worker at Saint John's Arboretum.*

[This article was reprinted, with permission, from the Winter 2003 issue of *The Abbey Banner*.]



Photo by Kyhl Lyndgaard

# How Do They Do It?

**Stephen G. Saupe, Ph.D.**

One of my favorite Christmas carols is “O Tannenbaum.” This song acknowledges the amazing ability of conifers such as pines, spruces, and firs to tolerate our winter weather. When we sing “O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree! Thy leaves are so unchanging. Not only green when summer’s here, But also when ‘tis cold and drear,” we are reminded how easily these trees cope with our short growing season and bucket-loads of snow. Even more impressively, the trees manage to survive all winter without liquid water!

Evergreen needles are the solution for a short growing season. Needles allow conifers to carry out photosynthesis whenever the conditions are favorable. Although some controversy remains whether or not conifers can photosynthesize on warm mid-winter days, evergreen needles are clearly an advantage in the spring and fall. By not having to form new leaves in the spring, conifers get an early jump on photosynthesis and are able to continue into the autumn long after the deciduous trees have shed their leaves. Also, as conifers do not discard their leaves, they are able to conserve precious soil nutrients that are limited in boreal forests because



Photo by Kyhl Lyndgaard

cold temperatures slow the rate of decomposition and nutrient cycling.

As water is a precious commodity in the winter, one complication of having leaves to extend the photosynthesis season is that water can escape through them. To solve this problem, conifer needles are designed to reduce water loss greatly. The needles are coated with a waxy layer to minimize water loss. Another feature of the needles is how the pores (stomata) that obtain carbon dioxide for photosynthesis are recessed in chambers to protect them from the wind. The primary reason broadleaf trees shed their leaves is

that they would lose too much water during the winter.

In order to deliver water to the leaves, a continuous water column must be maintained in the transport cells. This column is necessary because water is essentially sucked out of a plant’s leaves by evaporation in a manner analogous to using a straw. In winter, ice formation in the water-transport tubes can block flow just like a chunk of strawberry will plug up your straw when slurping a milkshake. More importantly, as water freezes in the transport cells, gas bubbles will come out of solution and form a vapor lock in the column. Similarly, you won’t be able to suck up that milkshake with an air bubble in the straw. Conifers solved these problems by having narrow water transport cells, called tracheids. These cells are much narrower than those in broadleaf trees and greatly decrease the chances that gas bubbles will develop. In addition, special check valves (called a torus) are located between adjacent tracheids so that a bubble coming out of solution in one tracheid will close the check value and isolate this cell from others. When the temperature rises, the gas will dissolve and re-establish the water columns for transport. When gas bubbles form in the transport tubes of broadleaf trees

(see *Conifers*, p. 7)

## Christmas at Saint John’s

Each year, several trees are carefully harvested to use in the Abbey church and elsewhere on campus for Christmas decoration. Many varieties of conifers, including red and white pine, were chosen this year. These trees came from the Saint John’s Arboretum north of I-94, near the old Colledgeville train station where the Lake Wobegon Trail now exists (see Chuck Wocken’s profile on page 4 for trail information). The majestic 30 foot white spruce in the Great Hall also came from Saint John’s Arboretum. Forest technician Dan Vogel selected the tree and logger John Determan cut it. Several others were also involved with both the cutting and final decorations for Christmas.

But, not to worry, arborphiles—our trees are a well-managed renewable resource. More than 200 pine seedlings were planted last spring in addition to those that occur due to natural succession. We hope you had the chance to see the beautiful displays during this recent holiday season!

# Chuck Wocken--New Arboretum Councilmember

Kyhl Lyndgaard

Chuck Wocken, Director of the Stearns County Parks department, has a map taped to the ceiling of his office in Quarry Park. The biological survey map, completed by the Minnesota DNR, was a project he had championed for many years. When sitting at his desk and planning for the future, he puts his feet up and brainstorms, looking heavenward: "Here's mesic forest, here's an esker, here's a fen, there's a species of special concern." Chuck lists different features of Stearns County and is bothered when people suggest the area boasts nothing beyond cornfields and dairy operations.

He has worked for the Parks department for 27 years--and has served as director since 1981. They focus on natural-resource-based trails and recreation, rather than facilities such as baseball fields. Over the past six years, Chuck has been instrumental in coordinating the construction and implementation of the Lake Wobegon Trail system. Today, the trail boasts 46 miles of paved multi-use abandoned railroad grades, and extensions are already planned for the future. And now, Chuck has been added to the Saint John's Arboretum advisory council.

"On the Lake Wobegon Trail,  
Through farm and valley and dale.  
In the autumn sunshine,  
Oh, what is so fine  
As a ride with your pal on the Great  
Northern Line?"

Garrison Keillor  
*Prairie Home Companion*  
October 3, 1998

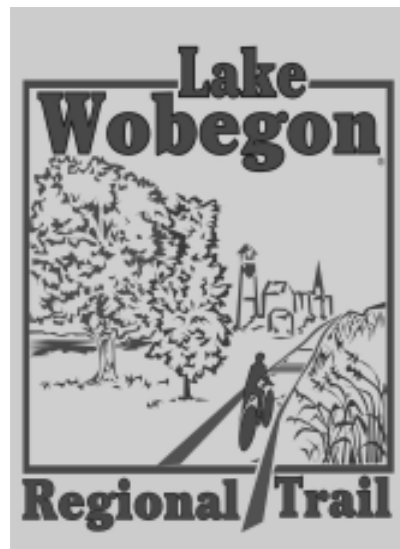
Despite Chuck's near-encyclopedic knowledge of the area and his deep involvement in recreation, he candidly states that "my faith is probably the biggest part of my life." Chuck is a member of Mayhew Lake's Church of the Annunciation. He serves as an usher and eucharistic minister, and his wife



Chuck Wocken at Collegetville for the Lake Wobegon Trail dedication

plays piano and teaches religion. They are involved in the summer softball program and are committed to graduate all of their nine children from Saint Cloud Cathedral High School. The oldest is 23, while the youngest is 8. Chuck's faith and appreciation of Catholic school also includes Saint John's University, as he is a 1973 alumnus.

Immediately after college, Chuck took a trip that he never expected to be so related to his current efforts



Logo courtesy of Chuck Wocken

with creating the Lake Wobegon Trail. With a friend, Chuck spent 4 ½ months biking through Europe. They arrived in Luxembourg with little planning, and there bought Peugeot's and maps. Chuck studied French in college, and his friend could speak German, so they felt very comfortable traveling off the beaten path. "We met people that hadn't seen Americans since WWII, and they couldn't believe their eyes. Americans riding a bike?" Europeans were surprised as their stereotypes of lazy and out-of-shape Americans were being broken. The two also took in more well-known sights, with typical panache. "We slept on the white cliffs of Dover in our little orange Eureka! pup tent." Chuck covered much of Europe, including the British Isles, and stayed at monasteries throughout France and Belgium. In Holland, "the canals were freezing and so were we." Chuck then took the Eurail and continued his travels, spending Christmas in Rome and the Vatican.

The Lake Wobegon Trail now supports walkers, runners, cyclists, and snowmobilers along the 46 miles of trail. Chuck's office also has the framed letter Garrison Keillor sent him to grant permission to use the name "Lake Wobegon." Chuck notes that the western terminus of the trail, Sauk Centre, is the hometown of another great Minnesota writer, Sinclair Lewis. "We try to market the cultural side of the trails." Chuck explains, "A more humanities-based appeal as opposed to traditional pretty places tourism." The trail stretches from Sauk Centre to Saint Joseph, with a spur connecting Albany to Holdingford. The next phase, already approved, will connect Holdingford to Bowlus and extend the trail into Morrison county.

The vast majority of the funding for the Wobegon Trails has come from state and federal grants totaling nearly 2 million dollars, while spending less than \$40,000 in county money. The trails were started in

(see *Wocken*, p. 6)

# Arboretum Open House and Member Appreciation

## John Geissler

This year's open house was well received with music, good food, and wine in the warm atmosphere of Christmas. Approximately 120 Arboretum members, monks, volunteers, employees and neighbors gathered together to celebrate a year of collaboration and accomplishment. Fr. Gunther Rolfson, O.S.B., first caretaker of the wildflower preserve in the oak savanna and botany professor, was honored for 60 years of monastic life and presented with a cedar bench donated by his sister-in-law Isla Streeter.

Many goals were met by Saint John's Arboretum this past year to cover all aspects of our vision. Our efforts focus on achieving high, yet sustainable levels of usage and management, and rely heavily on the cooperative work of our friends, members, and neighbors.

**Membership:** Arboretum memberships are approaching 350. Our website ([www.csbsju.edu/](http://www.csbsju.edu/))

arboretum) continues to expand as we celebrate the Arboretum and help those far from us stay connected.

### Land

**Preservation:** The Arboretum worked on the land contract to transfer purchase rights on 100 acres of the Phillippi Farm, visible from the entrance road, to the Order of Saint Benedict. Those 100 acres were added to the Arboretum on July 3, 2003.

**Conservation:** Four acres of oak acorns were planted, in addition to thousands of seedlings and flowers. Two prescribed burns were held: 15 acres of the prairie; 25 acres of the oak savanna. Both burns successfully created a healthier environment.



John Geissler and Fr. Gunther

Photo by Eli Becker

**Harvesting:** Logging sales included 201 cords of pulp and bolts, 144 cords of fuelwood, and 6,470 board feet of saw logs for a total of \$21,144.28. Markets were down this year, so the Arboretum focused on thinning and on stands which were past their prime in value, but needed work to regenerate.

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## The Road Sign

### Kyhl Lyndgaard

There waits an eight-mile loop of a logging trail and fire road that I've run hundreds of times. Not always the whole loop, and sometimes twice back to back. In the summer, I choose this route three or four times a week. Spring and fall mark the challenge of testing how early it opens, how late it remains passable.

One cold winter day in February, I was hurting from weeks on frozen pavement, sick of dodging cars in the dark, on narrowing shoulders that had long since crept away from the ditches. So I tried the trail. We call the loop Wildcat, because every five or six years, somebody claims to have seen a cougar there.

Running past the area that is thick with sugar maples, I imagined the taps that would be growing out of them in a few weeks. I sank through two feet of snow, turned granular from cold and age. The sky was blue and clear and cold, as it had been every day for the past two weeks. The path ahead of me, a simple route of less trees than the rest of the forest, was a patchwork of small prints, rabbit and mouse and squirrel, and some bigger tracks like coyote and deer.

I spun my way through the uphill climbs, beyond the swamps that collect run-off. I planned to run about half the loop, but I now realized even that would be difficult. The sun had virtually set, and the snow made for tough footing. No traction, and the snow collecting under the tongue of my running shoes and around my achilles had melted and began to pack with more and more snow, leaving my ankles red and hurting.

The sky was now faded, and the bare limbs of the trees were hard to distinguish in the twilight. I was having trouble following the path, though the ground was glowing blue, reflecting the last of the sun and the beginnings of the moon. I was stopping occasionally to look around and make sure my trail was ahead and that I didn't follow another animal's trail. My time was spent calculating if I could make it around the loop, but in truth I knew that I needed to turn around. Every step in the blueing crunchy snow was one more step to run on the way home.

The snow sparked and flashed in silent explosion, the crystals catching at the feeble light and winking at me, pulling me on. I was desperate to turn around, but wouldn't stop running forward. Then, like and unlike all the fallen branches interrupting the snow cover, was something white and forked. I bent and picked up a large antler, unchewed by calcium-deprived rodents. Finding a comfortable, balanced hold on bone, I turned back and jogged easily in the prints I had left, without thought of the cold distances, a small extension of that silent world.

**Woodpeckers, continued from p. 1**

rotting logs seem to provide optimum foraging conditions for this largest of the Midwest woodpeckers.

The **Downy Woodpecker** and the larger, similarly plumaged **Hairy Woodpecker** are well known to almost anyone that runs a bird feeder. Widespread across North America, both species are found in the Saint John's woods with "Downies" common and "Hairies" fairly common. Hairy Woodpeckers prefer larger tracts of forest and older trees than Downy Woodpeckers, yet Hairies are also found in old hedgerows and roadside groves, small woodlots, and will sometimes forage on mature cornstalks and backyard bushes. These birds are resident throughout most of their range, but an influx of Downies into Minnesota during the fall may indicate that the northernmost populations in Canada may be partially migratory. These species are readily attracted to feeders filled with suet or various commercial seed cakes consisting of various seeds and fruits, peanut butter, fats, and nuts.

**Red-headed Woodpeckers** are now uncommon in most parts of central Minnesota due to their habit of flying low over highways, the loss of open oak forest and old-growth oaks utilized for nesting cavities, and competition with the European Starling. Minnesota and neighboring Iowa and Wisconsin are at the heart of this species' range, and the decline of the Red-headed Woodpecker has prompted their listing as a regional conservation priority by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The species does respond readily to management, however. This early warning will hopefully prompt both public and private forest owners to take steps to restore Red-headed Woodpecker populations before the Service has to consider the species as a candidate for the Threatened Species List, a costly and time-consuming process. A couple of pairs reside and presumably breed in the restored savanna at Saint John's Arboretum. Continued expansion of this restoration may increase this

number, but this species will only thrive if private land owners restore oak forests on their property. Restoration requires the planting and protection (from deer) of young oaks, removal and periodic burning of the understory and/or grazing the area to maintain an open aspect, and maintenance of old-growth oaks (100-200 years old) for nesting sites. Most Red-headed Woodpeckers migrate out of Minnesota in the winter, but if the fall oak mast production was particularly heavy, some birds will remain throughout the winter as far north as St. Cloud.

The similarly-sized **Red-bellied Woodpecker** historically was a southern species which has moved into central Minnesota over the past 50 years and is now an uncommon resident. In many groves and forest where the underbrush has been allowed to grow, it has replaced the Red-headed Woodpecker. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is quite adaptable, living in a variety of forest types including bottomlands and upland groves. In winter, they occasionally forage in farmyards and even steal a living off open corn cribs. Their bright red cap often results in beginning birders calling it a Red-headed Woodpecker, but this species lacks the striking contrast of red, black, and white in the latter species' plumage.

Two northern breeding woodpeckers have made rare winter appearances in central Minnesota, the **Three-toed Woodpecker** and the **Black-backed Woodpecker**. The latter is a stockily-built bird that almost exclusively forages in conifers and might be looked for between December and March in tamarack bogs such as the bog near Saint Wendel or in the pine plantations of Saint John's where it occurred a couple of times several decades ago. The Three-toed Woodpecker is an even rarer visitor to this region, but prefers similar habitat. Both species are very quiet and seldom call. Denizens of the Superior National Forest and Canada, awareness of

their presence is often indicated only by a soft tapping or flakes of bark spiraling downward from their foraging site high above.

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*Bob Russell is a regular contributor and works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He will help lead the bird count scheduled for May (see Upcoming Events).*

**Wocken, continued from p. 4**

1998, when the US Department of Transportation had funds available. Chuck had long planned his bike trails and so when the railroad was abandoned, he was able to quickly and efficiently put together a comprehensive plan.

In addition to his time at Saint John's as a student, when Chuck ruefully admits to never going beyond the trail to the chapel, he has worked with many Saint John's professors and educators over the years in his capacity as parks director. He notes that Fr. Paul Schwietz, O.S.B., founder of Saint John's Arboretum, was in college at the same time, and they consulted with each other on prairie restoration at Quarry Park and at Saint John's. Fr. Paul also helped with the first burn at Quarry Park. Steve Saupe (read his article on conifers, p. 3), assisted Chuck inventory plants and also provided help as an Audubon society member. Gordon Brown also helped win a grant to continue the prairie restoration at Quarry Park.

As the Lake Wobegon Trails begin to stretch from one end of the county to another, Chuck continues to search for new parks and recreational opportunities, studying his maps and considering future opportunities. Saint John's Arboretum is blessed to have such a person on the council, efficient at balancing diverse needs and interests, yet always able to sit back and consider the greater vision.

# Saint John's Arboretum Cross-Country Ski Trails

David A. Johnson

In the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, I was first taught to "Leave No Trace," a conservation ethic that I continue to follow in my adult life. I coach the Saint John's University and College of Saint Benedict competitive Nordic ski teams, and we practice on a special piece of land, Saint John's Arboretum. Our ski trails, I am proud to say, leave no trace.

When I arrived in 2000, my challenge was to develop a ski trail system that met the needs of both collegiate and recreational skiers who wanted a hilly and wooded trail, yet did not unnecessarily alter the woods. The objective was to design trails that follow the natural lay of the land—to build ski trails that find their way up and down the beautiful hills in the woods without removing significant trees or changing the landscape. I wanted 'winter only' trails where erosion from foot traffic and water runoff is minimal. The ski trails are designed to disappear or 'leave no trace' in the summer.

Working in consultation with Tom Kroll, Arboretum Director, we now have the beginnings of such a trail system. The trails begin on the soccer and intramural fields. The Inner Loop is five kilometers of challenging up and down skiing. Going up the hills requires a significant amount of effort, yet on the way down, the trails tend to have 'run outs' that allow you to slow down before turning. The Inner Loop is groomed for both



The newly created and expanded ski trails were mapped using a GPS device by John Geissler, who then created this image using a recently acquired program, Arc View. Look for an article on how we are applying this technology next issue.

traditional diagonal stride (classical) and skate skiing. The Outer Loop is five kilometers of gentle skiing and is most often groomed for classical skiing only, using most of the Pine Knob trail.

During the fall of 2003, a new grooming machine, grooming drag, and rescue sled were purchased with support from the College of Saint Benedict Athletic department, Saint John's University, Life Safety, and the Arboretum. This modern equipment helps maintain a well-used ski trail as

well as pack foot trails, such as the Chapel trail, for safer walking in winter. Life Safety will also be able to use the equipment for emergency rescue in the woods.

The College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's University, and the Prep School all have Nordic ski teams that use the trail. Local skiers also use the trails. Trail passes are not required, yet we do encourage local community members to join the Arboretum as a way of supporting the ski trail. Maps and directional signs are being developed to help guide those wanting to ski. I am happy to give an individual or group ski lesson if you call me at 363-3296, free of charge to any Arboretum member. I am also looking for volunteers to help host races a couple of weekends this winter, as we ski on these beautiful new trails that "leave no trace."

## Conifers, continued from p. 3

they quickly spread, rendering large areas useless. Thus, broadleaf trees must add a new layer of water transport cells every year.

Snow removal may pose problems in my driveway, but conifers have no such troubles. They have evolved their classic Christmas tree shape with a single leader as a means to shed snow and minimize broken branches. Conifers also have long fiber cells in their wood to help make

the branches more flexible and support greater loads.

When contemplating the many adaptations of conifers to winter weather, I heartily agree with the carol. "O Christmas tree! Much pleasure thou can't give me; How often has the Christmas tree, Afforded me the greatest glee!"

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*Steve Saupe is a professor of biology at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University and serves on the Arboretum Advisory Council.*

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*David Johnson has coached the CSB/SJU Nordic ski team since 2000/2001, and holds an M.S. in exercise physiology.*

Sagatagan Seasons is a quarterly publication of Saint John's Arboretum.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**GPS Introductory Course**

**February (TBA)**

A workshop for learning the basics of GPS technology.

**Snowshoeing/Moonlight Trek**

**Thursday, February 5 7:00 p.m.**

Naturalists Ron Wienhold and John Geissler lead a walk under the full moon.

**Owl Hoot**

**Tuesday, March 9 7:30 p.m.**

Take an evening walk as we call the owls of Saint John's woods.

**Maple Syrup Festival**

**Saturday, March 27 1:00--4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 3 1:00--4:00 p.m.**

Join us for tree tapping, sap boiling and maple syrup sundaes! Fun for all ages.

**Woodland Wildflower Hike**

**Tuesday, May 11 6:00 p.m.**

Accompanied by naturalists through the habitat restoration project.

**May Bird Count**

**Sunday, May 16 6:00 a.m.** (tentative)

Led by experienced birders; see which team counts the most birds!

*To register and get more information about these and other Arboretum events, call (320)363-3163 or e-mail [arboretum@csbsju.edu](mailto:arboretum@csbsju.edu) ...and don't forget to check out our website at [www.csbsju.edu/arboretum](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum)*

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