

2006 Annual Report

July 1, 2005 — June 30, 2006



All Photographs by Arboretum Staff

The Mission of Saint John's Arboretum:

- Preserve native plant and wildlife communities of the Arboretum lands
- Provide opportunities for education and research
- Model practices of sustainable land use
- Make accessible a natural environment that invites spiritual renewal

Our Vision:

Saint John's Arboretum celebrates the unique beauty and richness of God's creation in central Minnesota and fosters the Benedictine tradition of land stewardship, education, and environmental respect.

Environmental Education and Community Outreach

Saint John's Arboretum is committed to providing environmental education opportunities to its neighbors, students and the surrounding community.

Highlights from this past year include:

- Participated in fall orientation by leading walks for over 1000 incoming freshman the weekend before classes started
- Offered winter classes to prek-12th grades and had 9 classrooms participate in animal signs and winter survival classes
- Twelve sections of Biology 221 participated in a maple syruping lab taught by Arboretum staff out at the maple syrup sugar shack
- CSB/SJU students formed an Arboretum club 'Wild Things' to increase student participation and interest
- Facilitated an overnight retreat for 60 southeast Asian youths from the Twin Cities by partnering with Tree Trust, the Minnesota Dept. of Natural resources, and five SE Asian community organizations.
- Held an outdoor scavenger hunt and offered other family activities during 'Family Fun Day' celebrating Saint John's 150th birthday



Photograph by Arboretum Staff

Students wander through the woods in the Saint John's Arboretum

Student Participation at Saint John's Arboretum

Grades preK-8

Fiscal Year 2006: 4,785 participants
Fiscal Year 2005: 4,387 participants
Fiscal Year 2004: 3,525 participants

Grades 9-12

Fiscal Year 2006: 70 participants
Fiscal Year 2005: 127 participants
Fiscal Year 2004: 341 participants

CSB/SJU (Classes, Special Projects)

Fiscal Year 2006: 2,030 participants
Fiscal Year 2005: 882 participants
Fiscal Year 2004: 527 participants

Community (workshops, seminars)

Fiscal Year 2006: 2,338 participants
Fiscal Year 2005: 1,888 participants
Fiscal Year 2004: 1,353 participants



Photograph by Kao Thao

Tree Trust youths learn about prairie insects with Sarah Gainey, Environmental Education Coordinator

Special Funding in FY '05

Funding Source	Funding Used in FY '06	Funding Balance on 6/30/06	Purpose
Individual Memberships/Special Gifts	\$15,970	\$0	Arboretum general expenses
EE Program Income	\$12,782		PreK-12 community education
Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through the MN DNR	\$1,600	\$3,400	Busing for K-12 students
Xcel Energy Foundation grants	\$3,500	\$4,200	Busing for K-12 students
Laird Norton Foundation grants	\$0	\$3,837	Avon Hills Initiative
Environmental Education Endowment in memory of Father Paul Schwietz	\$500	\$35,510	K-12, Community and CSB/SJU environmental education
L&M Schwietz Abbey Endowment	\$8,121	\$174,654	Abbey related land stewardship activities and environmental education
Central Minnesota Community Foundation		\$2,717	Environmental education

We would like to extend sincerest thanks to all of our donors. Your contributions allow us to continue our work and allow for growth of our programs. We would also like thank our special partners, Saint John's Abbey, Saint John's University,

Benedictine Stewardship and Conservation

Environmental stewardship and conservation are at the heart of the Arboretum's mission. Designated a natural arboretum in 1997, its goal is to restore and preserve Central Minnesota's increasingly rare native habitats.

The Arboretum promotes conservation and stewardship within the community through educational programming and ongoing support of the Avon Hills Initiative. Stewardship is also demonstrated through our habitat restoration efforts such as sustainable logging, tree planting, prairie burns during the spring and fall, and a controlled deer hunt for population control.

We are also actively involved in the management of invasive species such as European buckthorn, absinth wormwood, and spotted knapweed which out-compete native plants and degrade native habitats.



Photograph by Arboretum Staff

Warm, summer sunshine on the prairie

FY 2006 Planting

Red oak—4,900
White pine—500

Norway Pine—500
White Spruce—1,000

FY 2006 Timber Harvest

Cords harvested (pulp, bolts and firewood): **145**
Saw logs harvested: **31,000 board feet**
Total value of harvest: **\$23,256**
Percent of annual allowable harvest completed: **33%**

In the spring of 2002 the Forest Stewardship Council gave the forests at the Arboretum green certification. Maintaining this certification requires the Arboretum to continuously work towards improving the health of the forest and the sustainability of its timber harvesting plans. This year we are proud that lower grade red oak lumber, usually sold to open market, was used as flooring in the new Abbey Guesthouse.

Photography by Christopher Brenny

Volunteers oversee the last flames of a prairie burn, Fall 2005

Arboretum Advisory Council

General Members

Terri Barreiro
Alison Binsfeld
Mike Brown
Scott Daninger
Bruce Dickau
Kari Dombrovski
Tom Haeg
David Hartwell
Janette Monear
Stephanie O'Keefe
Bob Russell
Stephen Saupe
Larry Schwietz
Tom Wicks

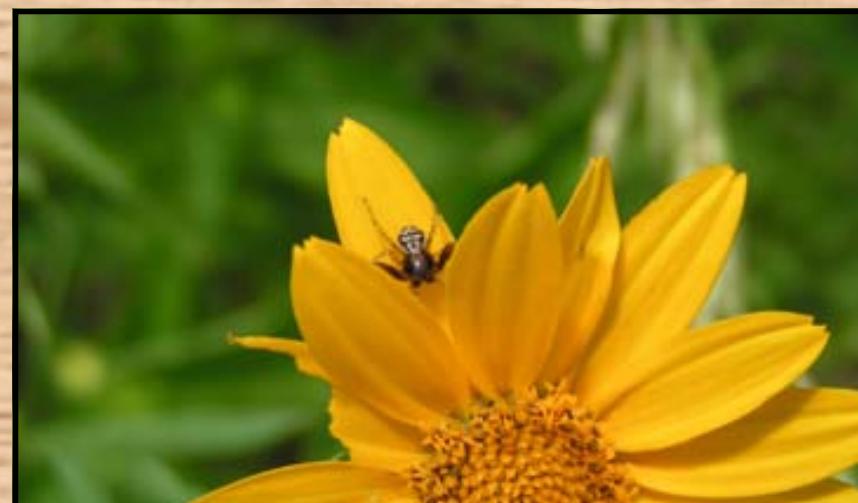
Chuck Wocken

Bruce Wollmering,
O.S.B.

Student Members

CSB Representative—
Kathryn Sinner
SJU Representative—
Michael Swanberg

Students serving on the
advisory council come
from the CSB/SJU
senates and will rotate
on an annual basis.



Photograph by Christopher Brenny

Crab spider on Helianthus

Avon Hills Initiative

Since May 2004, the Avon Hills Initiative (AHI) has been lead by local residents committed to preserving the rural and natural character of roughly 50 square miles of land in Avon, St. Joseph, Collegeville, and St. Wendel Townships. The organization works through education, community organization, and local governments to increase awareness of land development pressures facing the Avon Hills.

In February, 2006 the Avon Hills Initiative sponsored its second community event in the form of a workshop focused on conservation overlays. The half-day conference included a keynote address, two break-out sessions that featured a number of growth-based issues and a panel discussion on the benefits of establishing a conservation overlay within the Avon Hills district. AHI is hoping to hold community events annually.

The Avon Hills Initiative continues to move forward in its efforts to establish dialogue between citizens and government. To this end, two Avon Hills Initiative executive officers have accepted positions on the Stearns County Comprehensive Plan review group. This group will review the state of the county and establish goals for future development.

Photography by Christopher Brenny



Purple prairie clover in bloom

Highlights in FY 2006

- Acquired funding for a second fellowship position focusing on environmental education
- Significantly increased participation in environmental education programs, especially with College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University students
- Assured stable funding source for all full time Arboretum staff through incorporation of their salaries into College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University academic affairs
- Increased memberships above goal set in strategic plan



Summer evening on Achman Lake in Avon Township, June 2005

Membership News

Our work could not continue to be successful without the generous financial and volunteer support we receive each year from our members. Thank you again to all of our members who generously donate their time and energy to the Saint John's Arboretum.

Total Members (households) in FY 2006—434

Total Members (households) in FY 2005—276

Total Members (households) in FY 2004—220

Saint John's Arboretum Staff

Thomas Kroll, Arboretum Director/Land Manager
Sarah Gainey, Assistant Director/Environmental Education Coordinator

Melissa Holm, Writer/Office Coordinator Fellow

Steve Devereaux, Environmental Education Fellow

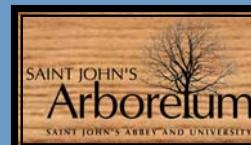
8 CSB/SJU Student Naturalists/Land Laborers

12 CSB/SJU Student Naturalist Aides

2 CSB/SJU Student Interns

Goals for FY 2007 and Beyond

- Increasing involvement of our members and surrounding community members
- Continued control and management of invasive species
- Space for programs during inclement weather
- Finding new grant sources



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