### 2010 Annual Report

# SAINT JOHN'S Arboretum SAINT JOHN'S ABBEY AND UNIVERSITY

### July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010

#### **Our Mission**

- 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:



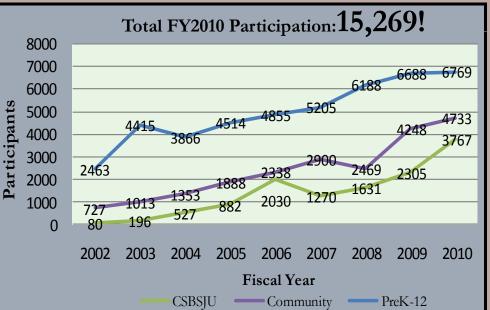


- The 'Buy a Seat on the Bus' campaign was hugely successful in engaging Arboretum members and volunteers to raise enough funds to reimburse schools for more than 3200 preK-12 students to come to the Arboretum on field tripscovering nearly half the costs of our transportation reimbursement program for schools during the 2010-2011 school-year.
- The addition of solar farm tours, and an increased interest in our Environmental Issues Investigation curriculum (thanks to the Environmental Learning in Minnesota grant) increased middle and high school students participation in Arboretum programs.
- The Arboretum took all 1,000 entering first-year CSB/SJU students on a walk in the Arboretum (at the same time!) during first-year orientation. Thanks to the efforts of more than 50 volunteers, all entering students spent time on different trails, learned about Arboretum programs and services, and had some time to simply relax and walk on the land with their future classmates.
- The spring Maple Syrup Festivals were once again the largest ever! More than 1600 people attended the two festivals to enjoy tapping demonstrations, sugar shack tours, and more!
- The Arboretum will adopt several CSB/SJU programs in the next year, including the Peer Resource Program, Outdoor Leadership Center, Collegebound, and the Challenge Course. An additional full-time environmental education coordinator was hired to help manage these programs and assist us as we work to engage even more CSB/SJU students in the future.

### 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, Saint Joseph, Collegeville, and Saint Wendel townships.

- Record turnout at the Avon Hills conference brought a sold-out crowd of 350 people to a variety of educational sessions about natural history, alternative energy, land-use, local arts, gardening and more. The addition of sessions for kids and a strand for teachers made this an event for the whole family!
- AHI continues to offer education and funding for conservation easements in the Avon Hills in cooperation with the Minnesota Land Trust, with support from the LCCMR grant.



### Abbey Land Stewardship and Conservation

The Arboretum promotes conservation and stewardship through education and modeling sustainable practices. Some of our annual efforts include sustainable logging, tree planting, prairie burns, invasive species management, and a controlled deer hunt for population control.

- The Abbey installed a 3.9 acre solar farm in November 2009. The 1,820 modules will produce 575,000kWh of electricity annually, meeting 4% of Saint John's annual energy needs.
- 1,385 tree seedlings, mostly Norway and white pine, were planted in the Arboretum.
- More than 2,000 trees were protected from deer browse with netting, bud-capping, and other methods.
- We harvested 5,844 ft<sup>3</sup> of lumber, 11% of the annual allowable harvest of 53,683 ft<sup>3</sup>.
- The Abbey lands continue to be certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council as well-managed. All certification information is available on the Arboretum Web site.
- Students, staff, and volunteers burned 10 acres of prairie.

L&M Schwietz Abbey Endowment

Legislative Citizens Commission on

Initiative Foundation/SJU Matching Fund

Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)





Abbey-related land stewardship activities and

\$337,000 eligible to be reimbursed for Avon

Hills related expenses through June 30, 2011

environmental education

Avon Hills Initiative

#### **Special Funding in FY 2010** Balance Balance **Funding Source** Additions Expenses Purpose 7-01-09 6-30-10 Individual Memberships/Special Gifts \$0 \$32,305 (\$32,305) \$0 Arboretum general expenses 2009 Summer employment for 20 SJU students SJU Summer Initiative \$70,752 \$0 (\$70,752) \$0 in the Arboretum Environmental Ed Program & Events \$26,116 \$16,439 (\$11,804) \$30,751 CSB/SJU, Community education Environmental Education Endowment in K-12, Community and CSB/SJU environmental \$36,608 \$6,500 \$0 \$43,108 memory of Father Paul Schwietz education Environmental education **Central MN Community Foundation** \$2,383 \$282 \$0 \$2,665 Morgan Family Foundation **\$0** \$27,275 **\$0** \$27,275 Environmental Education Fellowship, bussing Environmental Issues Investigation curricula \$3,539 \$486 Environmental Learning in Minnesota **\$0** (\$3,053) for grades 6-8 **Xcel Energy Foundation grants** \$14,984 **\$0** \$5,801 preK-12 education, bussing, teacher training (\$9,183) MaCleod Foundation \$0 \$3,500 \$0 \$3,500 CSB/SJU education \$709 \$6,850 \$0 \$7,559 Buy a seat on the bus Bussing for preK-12 students Land Legacy Fund \$2,478 \$385 (\$675) \$2,188 Arboretum land preservation

(\$7,012)

(\$36,228)

(\$7,102)

\$152,156

\$0

\$7,253

\$140,231

\$0

\$10,609

\$18,937

\$36,228

\$3,746

**Y 2010** 

Dry conditions and statewide burning bans prevented us from completing more.

- The maple syrup operation bottled 130 gallons of maple syrup this spring.
- A flail-mower and bio-baler were used to reduce ironwood competition in some of the oak regeneration areas.
- Discussion by the Abbey regarding construction of a 2.5 MW wind turbine is in progress.
- 18 deer were harvested in the 2009 controlled deer hunt.
- A Saint John's Senate proposal for the installation of a Frisbee golf course was approved by the Abbey. The location of the course will be between the soccer fields and east Gemini Lake.

ecial Funding in FY 2010

### Welcome to our new partners!

Beginning July 1, 2010 several CSB/SJU programs will be incorporated into the Arboretum including the Outdoor Leadership Center (OLC), Peer Resource Program (PRP), Challenge Course, Collegebound, Wilderness First Aid, and Wilderness First Responder.

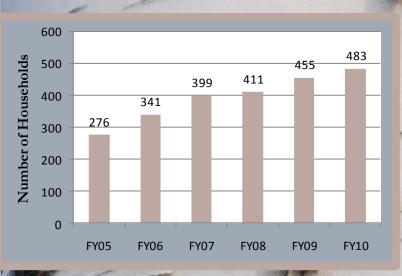
The Arboretum will also coordinate more closely with the Institute for Women's Leadership, Women's Expeditions, CSB Campus Recreation, and SJU Athletics (manager of the climbing wall and the beach at Lake Sagatagan).

Saint John's Arboretum looks forward to working closely with the students and alumnae/i of these programs to continue to offer great services to the CSB/SJU community.

## **Membership** News

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our donors. Your contributions allow us to continue our work and allow for growth of our programs. We could not be as 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. We also thank our special partners: Saint John's Abbey, Saint John's University, and the College of Saint Benedict for all of their work and continued support.



### Goals for FY2011 and beyond

- Successfully incorporate new CSB/SJU programs and improve partnerships with other CSB/SJU departments and community organizations.
- Renew our focus on spirituality, a unique feature of our mission.
- Continue to update and expand our curriculum to meet the needs of a growing and changing population.
- Meet the increased demand for opportunities for volunteering, service-learning, and experiential-learning for CSB/SJU and the general community.
  SAINT JOHN'S
- Increase fundraising to continue to support our growing programs.



### Arboretum Advisory Council

Terri Barreiro, Chair Mike Connolly Scott Daninger Kari Dombrovski Emily Franklin John Geissler Tom Haeg Troy Knight Glenn Miller Fr. Greg Miller, OSB Janette Monear Bob Russell Stephen Saupe Larry Schwietz Tom Wicks

#### **Student** Council Members

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

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SAINT IOHN'S ABBEY AND UNIVERSIT

### Arboretum Staff

Thomas Kroll Director/Land Manger Sarah Gainey Assistant Director Environmental Education Coordinator John O'Reilly Assistant Director Environmental Education Coordinator Jenny Kutter

Department Coordinator Dan Vogel Forest Technician Bryan Sieh Environmental Education Fellow

#### Student Staff

1 Office Assistant, 2 Land Laborers, 6 Naturalists, 16 Naturalist Aides, 14 Outdoor Leadership Center Staff, 30 Peer Resource Program Facilitators

Collegeville, MN 56321-2000 (320) 363-3163 E-mail: <u>arboretum@csbsju.edu</u> http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum

#### Saint John's Arboretum would like to acknowledge the cumulative giving of the following people from 1997-2010

\$100,000+ Lawrence E. Schwietz

\$50,000-\$99,999 Legislative-Citizen Commission on MN Resources Jerry and Ruth Peltier Gordon J. and JoAnne Bailey

#### \$10,000-\$49,999

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George and Kathy Nelson

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