2013 Annual Report July 1, 2012 — June 30, 2013



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

We celebrate the unique beauty and richness of God's creation in central Minnesota and foster the Benedictine tradition of land stewardship, education, and environmental respect.



Environmental Education and Community Outreach

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

CSB/SJU Education & Student Development

- CSB/SJU students participated in Arboretum programs 5,152 times this year.
- Peer Resource Program facilitators hosted more than 900 CSB/SJU students and prospective students through the Challenge Course this year! We've also improved the Challenge Course, adding three new elements, and are exploring some potential high ropes elements for the future.
- Adventure Programming continues to engage students in a variety of ways: Banff Mountain Film Festival, Warren Miller Film Festival, Ice Fishing Tournament, Winter Week, Winter Camping, Earth Week, Adventure Challenge, Fruit at the Finish Triathlon, and SCUBA certification.
- Wilderness trips continue to be popular: Smokey Mountain National Park, kayaking the Apostle
 Islands, Long Weekend on the Lake Superior Hiking Trail, Surfing and backpacking in California,
 and horseback riding in Colorado!

Community Education

- Community members participated in Arboretum programs 5,528 times this year.
- Collegeville Kidstock—our new family music festival held in June—brought the Grammy-award winning Okee Dokee Brothers and 400 people to Saint John's (even though the weather moved the festival indoors).
- We especially thank Master Mark Plastics, Blattner Energy, and St. Cloud Subaru for their sponsorship of the Avon Hills conference and support of Arboretum programming.
- Maple Syrup Season was record-breaking once again—after the lowest production year of 2012, in 2013 our sap runneth over! Hundreds of volunteers came together to host two Maple Syrup Festivals with nearly 1,000 participants, who enjoyed beautiful days in the sugar bush. We made more than 550 gallons of syrup (we lost track when we ran out of jugs!), and we collected the last sap on April 26—the latest collection ever. This is truly a community effort.

preK-12 Education

- 8,428 student visits were recorded at the Arboretum this year—a new record!
- We collaborated with the CSB/SJU Environmental Education Pedagogy class to develop a new water-themed teaching trunk for schools in the St. Cloud school district!
- More schools are scheduling full-day field trips or coming multiple times to utilize our growing options for programming.
- We hosted the 2013 Minnesota State Envirothon. Teams of high school students competed regionally to earn their trips to this state tournament that tested their environmental knowledge.



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8232

8092

Fundraising Report

Funding Source	Balance 7-01-12	Additions	Expenses	Balance 6-30-13	Purpose
Individual Memberships/Special Gifts		\$43,726			Arboretum program support
Arboretum Educational Programs & Events	\$78,067	\$20,796	(\$68,752)	\$93,756	Community and CSB/SJU education
preK-12 Programs		\$19,919			preK-12 education
Adventure Programming	\$42,102	\$37,270	(\$41,145)	\$38,227	PRP, OLC, Collegebound, Challenge Course, CSB/SJU student programs
Income drawn from Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$10,426	(\$10,426)	\$0	Arboretum program support
Summary: General Funding	\$120,169	\$132,137	(\$120,323)	\$131,983	
Environmental Education Endowment in memory of Father Paul Schwietz	\$63,922	\$18,380	\$0	\$82,302	K-12, Community, and CSB/SJU environmental education
L&M Schwietz Abbey Endowment	\$168,364	\$18,858	(\$8,276)	\$178,946	Abbey-related land stewardship activities and environmental education
Fr. Jack Conway Fund	\$0	\$60,741	\$0	\$60,741	Arboretum environmental education and land stewardship
Land Legacy Fund	\$5,338	\$1,295	(\$205)	\$6,428	Arboretum land preservation
Buy a seat on the bus	\$0	\$1,945	(\$1,945)	\$0	Bussing for preK-12 students
Central MN Community Foundation	\$3,192	\$369	\$0	\$3561	Environmental education
Summary: Endowments/Dedicated Funds	\$240,816	\$101,588	(\$10,426)	\$331,978	
Morgan Family Foundation	\$14,250	\$0	\$14,250	\$0	Environmental Education Fellowship, preK-12 bussing
Summary: Grant-Funding	\$14,250	\$0	(\$14,250)	\$0	
Master Mark Plastics	\$0	\$5,000	(\$5,000)	\$0	Avon Hills conference sponsor, Arboretum program support
St. Cloud Subaru	\$0	\$1,000	(\$1,000)	\$0	Avon Hills conference sponsor, Arboretum program support
Blattner Energy	\$0	\$1,000	(\$1,000)	\$0	Avon Hills conference sponsor, Arboretum program support
Summary: Sponsorships	\$0	\$7,000	(\$7,000)	\$0	
Environment & Natural Resource Trust Fund	\$0	\$772,000	\$0	\$772,000	Preserving Avon Hills landscape, Arboretum community education
Initiative Foundation/SJU Matching Fund	\$7,804	\$8,923	(\$16,727)	\$0	Avon Hills Initiative
Summary: Avon Hills Initiative Funds	\$7,804	\$780,923	(\$16,727)	\$772,000	

Membership News

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our donors. Membership giving is at our highest level ever! (even if number of households is not quite)

Your gifts allow us to continue our work and allow for the growth of our programs. We could not be as successful without the generous financial and volunteer support we receive each year from our members and friends.

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 partners, without whom we would not exist: Saint John's Abbey, Saint John's University, and the College of Saint Benedict for all of their work and continued support.



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW NAME!

Beginning in December 2013, the educational programs will be distinguished from the Abbey land with a set of new names. Our educational reach has grown to be and do more than we could have imagined when our program was created sixteen years ago. As we continue to work together to achieve our shared vision, our new names better reflect who we are and what we do every day.



Saint John's Outdoor University

provides environmental and outdoor education through classes, events, and initiatives with the Abbey Arboretum, Saint John's University, and the College of Saint Benedict.

The Abbey Arboretum

encompasses the 2,830 acres of lakes, prairie, oak savannah, and forest owned by Saint John's Abbey and surrounding Saint John's University

Goals for FY2014 and beyond

- Breaking in our new program name! We look forward to continuing our education and stewardship activities under a new banner that will continue to inspire us all.
- Even as our finances remain stable, continue working on a long-term solution for \$40,000 annual fundraising need for Environmental Education Fellowship and preK-12 bussing.
- Develop assessment program to better evaluate effectiveness of EE and leadership development programs in improving student environmental literacy—for preK-12, CSB/SJU, and the community.
- Continue to cultivate relationships with local businesses to build sponsorship support of Arboretum programs.

Abbey Arboretum Stewardship & Conservation

We promote conservation and stewardship through education and modeling sustainable practices.

- A significant logging season from January through mid-July focused again on salvage of the wood brought down by the August 2, 2011 storm.
- We acquired a road-grader (a partial donation) to help care for the trails.
- Students, staff, and volunteers completed two prescribed burns on 19 acres in late-June that were very effective at setting back the invading willows.
- We will host our first archery deer hunt in the fall of 2013 (past deer hunts have been shotgun-only). Interest in the hunt has been overwhelming.
- Maple syruping in 2013 was record breaking in many ways, making more than 550 gallons of syrup! We had the benefit of two new evaporators this year:
 - A 4x14 production evaporator with pre-heater that also provides endless distilled hot water.
 - A 2x6 evaporator donated by the Schwietz family to be used for teaching—a huge addition to our education program.

Arboretum Staff:

Thomas Kroll, Director/Land Manager
Sarah Gainey, Assistant Director/
Environmental Education Coordinator
John O'Reilly, Assistant Director/
Environmental Education Coordinator
Jenny Kutter, Department Coordinator
MJ Bach, Environmental Education Fellow
Dan Vogel, Forest Technician

Student Staff:

1 Land Laborer

2 Office Assistants

7 Student Naturalist Aides

8 Student Naturalists

20 Outdoor Leadership Center Staff

30 Peer Resource Program Facilitators

Arboretum Advisory Council:

Terri Barreiro Lew Grobe, OSB
John Benschoter Tom Haeg
Mike Connolly Glenn Miller
Scott Daninger Glenn Miller
Kari Dombrovski Greg Miller, OSB
Emily Franklin Bob Russell
John Geissler Stephen Saupe

Contact Us:

arboretum@csbsju.edu http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum (320) 363-3163

Main office: 104 New Science Center 2346 Science Drive | PO Box 2000 Collegeville, MN 56321-2000

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Daniel A. and Katharine Whalen

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Cathy Wilhelm

Steven G. and Cathy Wilhelm

Eric Willette and Elizabeth Roe

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