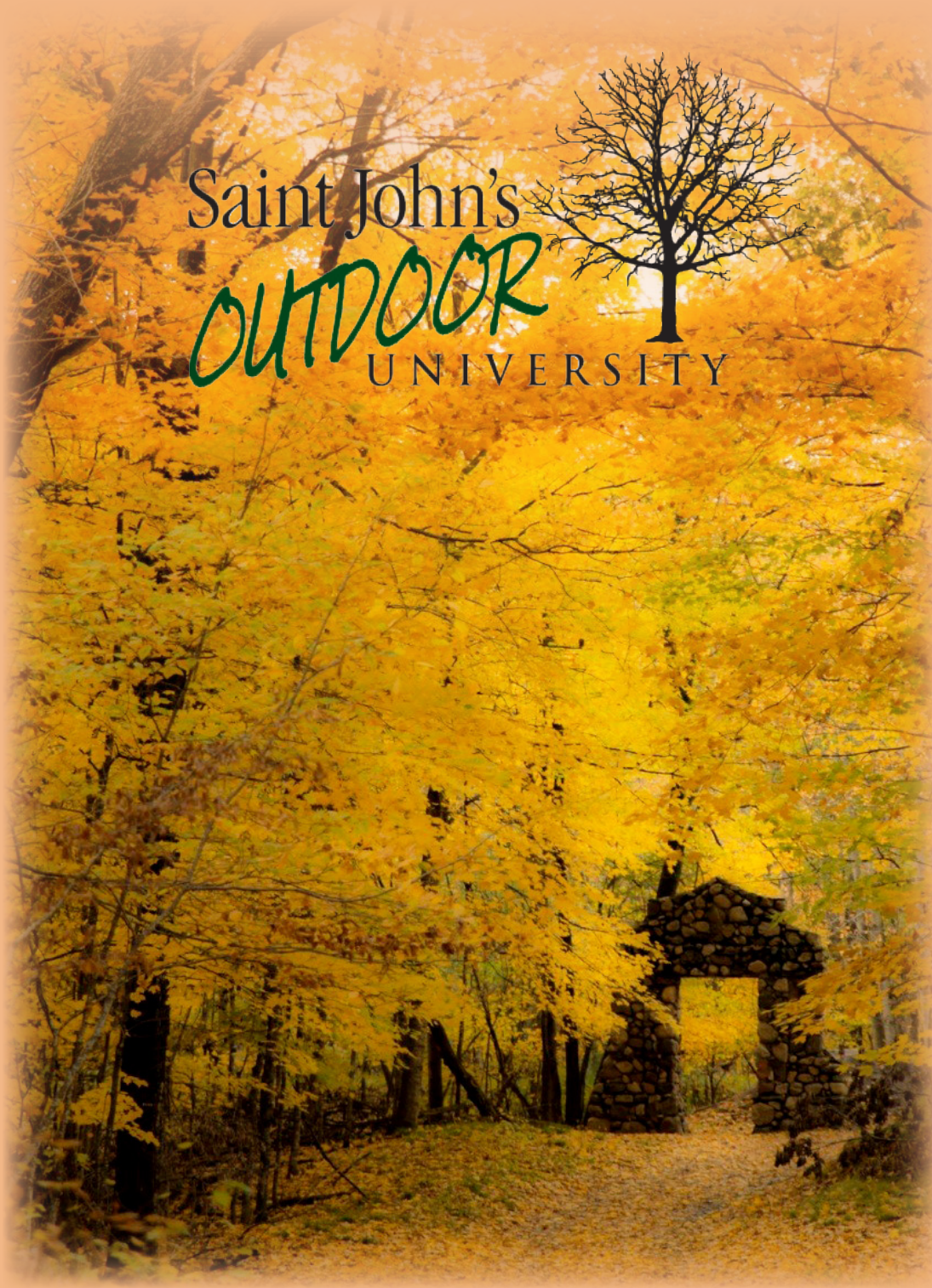


# Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



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.

# Environmental Education & Community Outreach

## CSB/SJU Education & Student Development

- 4,790 recorded participation - 1500 higher than last fiscal year due mostly to the high number of events and student participation in the Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge.
- The Challenge Course served 2,250 students and community members. Peer Resource Program facilitators had 250 experiences this year, honing their skills at assisting groups in team-building and leadership initiatives.
- CSB/SJU students led wilderness trips to the Ozark/Wichita Mountains, Cumberland Island, Myrtle Beach, Smoky Mountains, Itasca State Park and a tour of southwestern U.S. National Parks in addition to many successful on campus events.

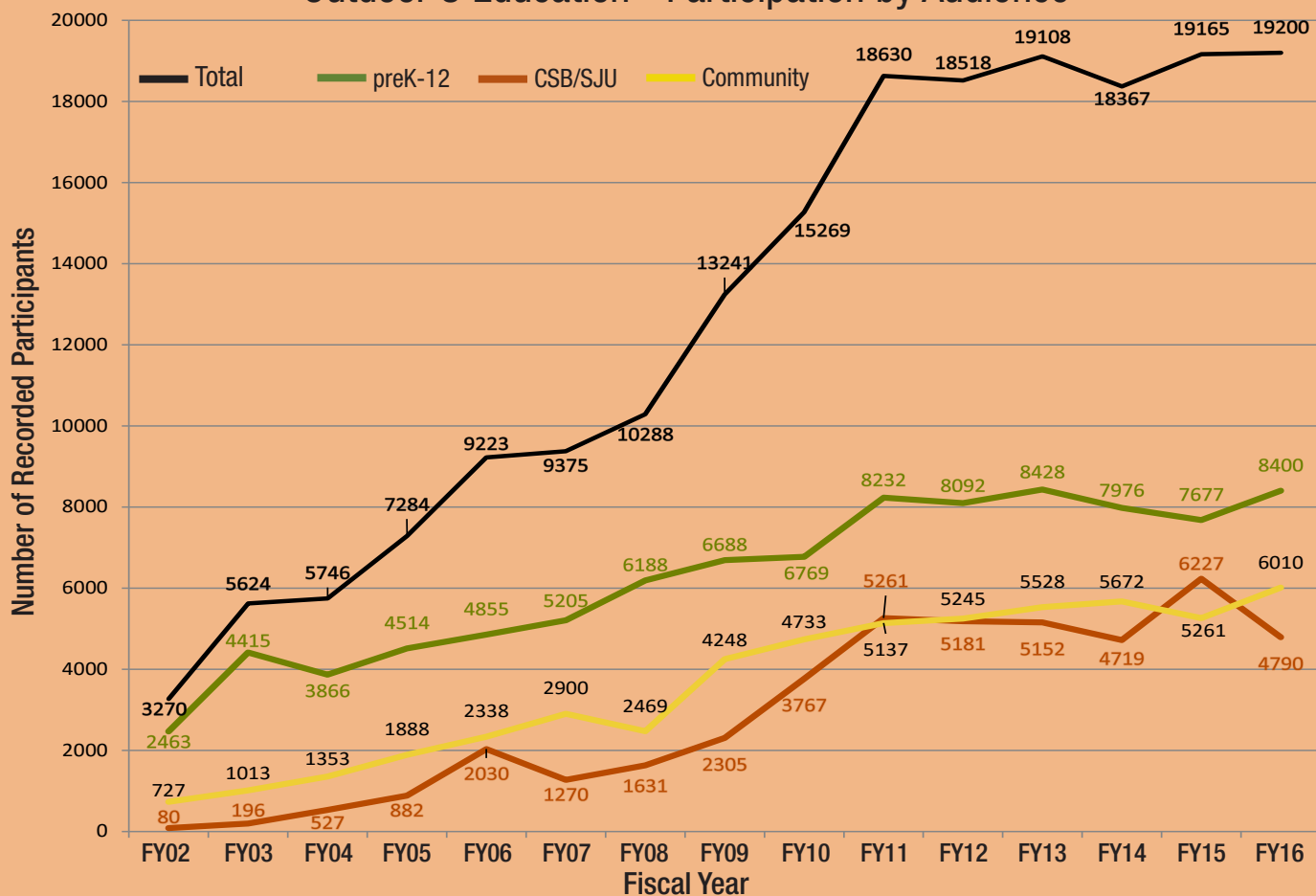
## Community Education

- 6,010 recorded participation in our community events including Maple Syrup Festivals, Tapping Day, Avon Hills conference, Collegeville Colors and more.
- Our fundraising/membership events - including Tap Takeover, December Open House and Plant Sale - had a combined attendance of more than 600 and helped us raise more than \$7000 for our education programming.

## preK-12 Education

- 8,400 student visits kept staff very busy, nearly 800 more visits than in FY2015. Fewer weather cancellations in combination with higher participation rates from the St. Cloud school district and a few new large groups made this teaching year among the highest.
- Almost 200 sixth grade students from South Junior High in St. Cloud participated in a full day of programming in May thanks to a partnership with Wilderness Inquiry. Students spent part of the day with Outdoor U staff, learning to use a compass to navigate. The other half of the day was spent with Wilderness Inquiry staff learning to canoe large Voyageur canoes on Lake Sagatagan. A majority of students had never been in a boat before, let alone a canoe, so this partnership not only engaged their science and social studies curriculum, but expanded their life experiences.

## Outdoor U Education - Participation by Audience



# Fundraising & Membership

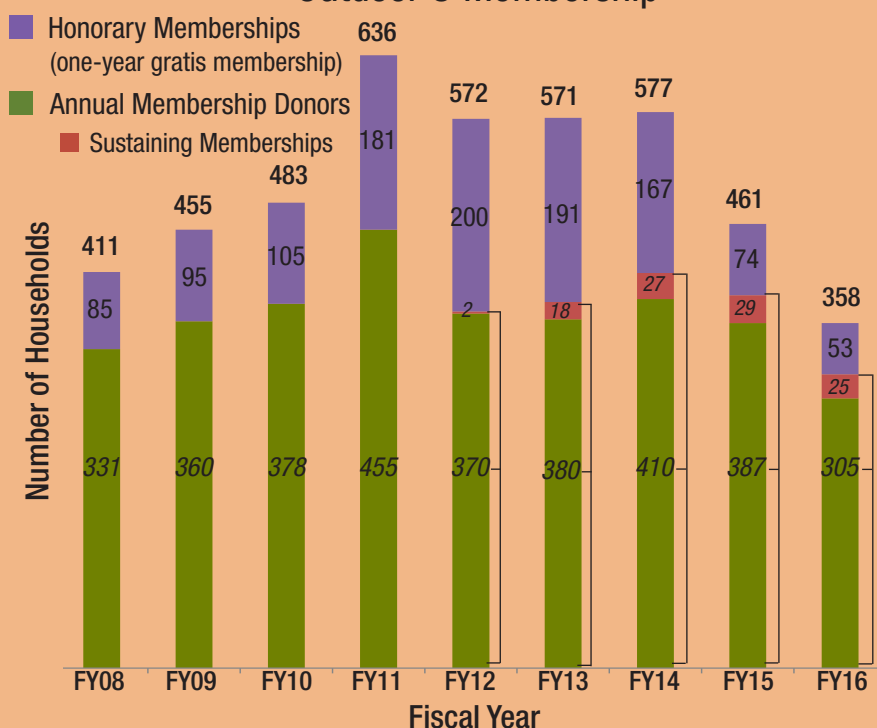
Funding Source	Balance 7-01-15	Additions/ Earnings	Expenses	Balance 6-30-16	Purpose
Annual Memberships/Special Gifts	\$47,872	\$31,449	(\$109,953)	\$27,387	Outdoor U program support
Outdoor U Educational Programs & Events		\$20,740			Community & CSB/SJU education
preK-12 Programs		\$20,145			preK-12 education
Income from Outdoor U Dedicated Funds*		\$17,164			Outdoor U program support
Adventure Programming	\$54,739	\$74,903	(\$50,763)	\$78,879	PRP, OLC, Collegebound, Challenge Course, CSB/SJU student programs
Summary: Outdoor U General Funding	\$102,611	\$74,903	(\$50,763)	\$106,266	
Environmental Education Endowment in memory of Father Paul Schwietz	\$117,361	\$38,373	(\$4,593)	\$151,141	K-12, Community and CSB/SJU environmental education
Fr. Jack Conway Fund	\$59,869	\$0	(\$0)	\$59,869	Outdoor U environmental education & land stewardship
Buy a seat on the bus	\$0	\$3,011	(\$3,011)	\$0	Bussing for preK-12 students
Summary: Outdoor U Endowments & Dedicated Funds*	\$177,230	\$41,384	(\$7604)	\$211,010	
L&M Schwietz Abbey Endowment	\$196,860	(\$2,278)	(\$9,560)	\$185,022	Abbey-related land stewardship activities and environmental education
Abbey Land Legacy Fund	\$7,889	\$631	(\$0)	\$8,520	Abbey land preservation
Summary: Abbey Arboretum Endowments & Dedicated Funds*	\$204,749	(\$1,647)	(\$9,560)	\$193,542	
Youth Energy Summit (YES!)	\$0	\$24,659	(\$24,659)	\$0	Central coordinator contract position
Outdoor Nation	\$0	\$2,500	(\$2,500)	\$0	Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge
Summary: Grant Funding	\$0	\$27,159	(\$27,159)	\$0	
Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund	\$0	\$104,055	(\$104,055)	\$0	Preserving Avon Hills landscape, Outdoor U community education
Summary: Avon Hills Initiative Funds	\$0	\$104,055	(\$104,055)	\$0	

## Outdoor U Membership

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of our donors. Your gifts allow us to continue our work and allow for the growth of our programs.

A spike in membership from FY11-FY14 was due in part to a change in how CSB/SJU student membership are processed, which also increased the number of honorary memberships. The drop in memberships in FY15 reflects the complete turnover of students since implementing the change.

We look forward to continuing to improve our environmental and outdoor education with the help of new and renewing members like you.



# Abbey Arboretum Stewardship & Conservation

Saint John's Abbey Arboretum is more than 2,500 acres of lakes, prairie, oak savanna and forest owned by Saint John's Abbey and surrounding Saint John's University

- The 2016 logging season focused on a small four-acre unit of mature aspen that we want to regenerate to aspen
- The maple syrup season had a third good year in a row, producing 382 gallons of syrup for the Abbey and Outdoor U volunteers. It wouldn't be possible without our dedicated volunteers!
- The 2015 archery deer hunt was completed successfully. 108 hunters were eligible to hunt and 32 deer were harvested. A 2016 archery hunt is planned to continue to bring the deer population down to more manageable levels.
- The iconic Stickworks sculpture was taken down by fire in early January after lasting nearly two years longer than planned. It was a beautiful end to a great community art installation.
- The timber frame trailhead to the Chapel Trail was installed in the summer and dedicated October 4, 2015. It is a beautiful new addition to one of the most popular trails in Minnesota.



## About Us

### Saint John's Outdoor University Mission

Saint John's Outdoor University provides environmental and outdoor education in pursuit of:

- Environmental literacy and connections to the natural world that motivate responsible environmental decisions;
- Leadership development and personal growth through experiential learning;
- Sustainable land use and conservations
- Learning, recreation and spiritual renewal in the Abbey Arboretum and other great outdoor spaces.

### Abbey Arboretum Mission

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

### Our Shared Vision

Saint John's Outdoor University and the Abbey Arboretum 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.

### Our Staff:

Thomas Kroll

*Saint John's Outdoor U Director  
Abbey Arboretum Land Manager*

Sarah Gainey

*Assistant Director*

*Envr. Education Coordinator*

Kyle Rauch

*Assistant Director*

*Envr. Education Coordinator*

Jenny Kutter

*Department Coordinator*

*Editor, Sagatagan Seasons*

Ashley Walker

*Environmental Education Fellow*

Dan Vogel

*Abbey Arboretum Forest Technician*

### Student Staff:

1 Office Assistant

2 Land Laborers

7 Naturalist Aides

9 Naturalists

14 OLC Staff

43 PRP Facilitators

### Education

### Advisory Council:

John Benschoter

Alison Binsfeld

Mike Connolly

Sandra Cordie

Scott Daninger

Kari Dombrovski

Emily Franklin

Neil Franz

John Geissler

Lew Grobe, OSB

Tom Haeg

Dick Howard

Troy Knight

Maria Surma Manka

Jon McGee

Glenn Miller

Greg Miller, OSB

Steve Riendl

Stephen Saupe

### Saint John's

### Outdoor University

2346 Science Drive

P.O. Box 3000

Collegeville, MN 56321-3000

Main Office:

104 New Science Center

320.363.3163

OutdoorU@csbsju.edu

www.csbsju.edu/OutdoorU

