

2004 Annual Report July 1, 2003 — June 30, 2004

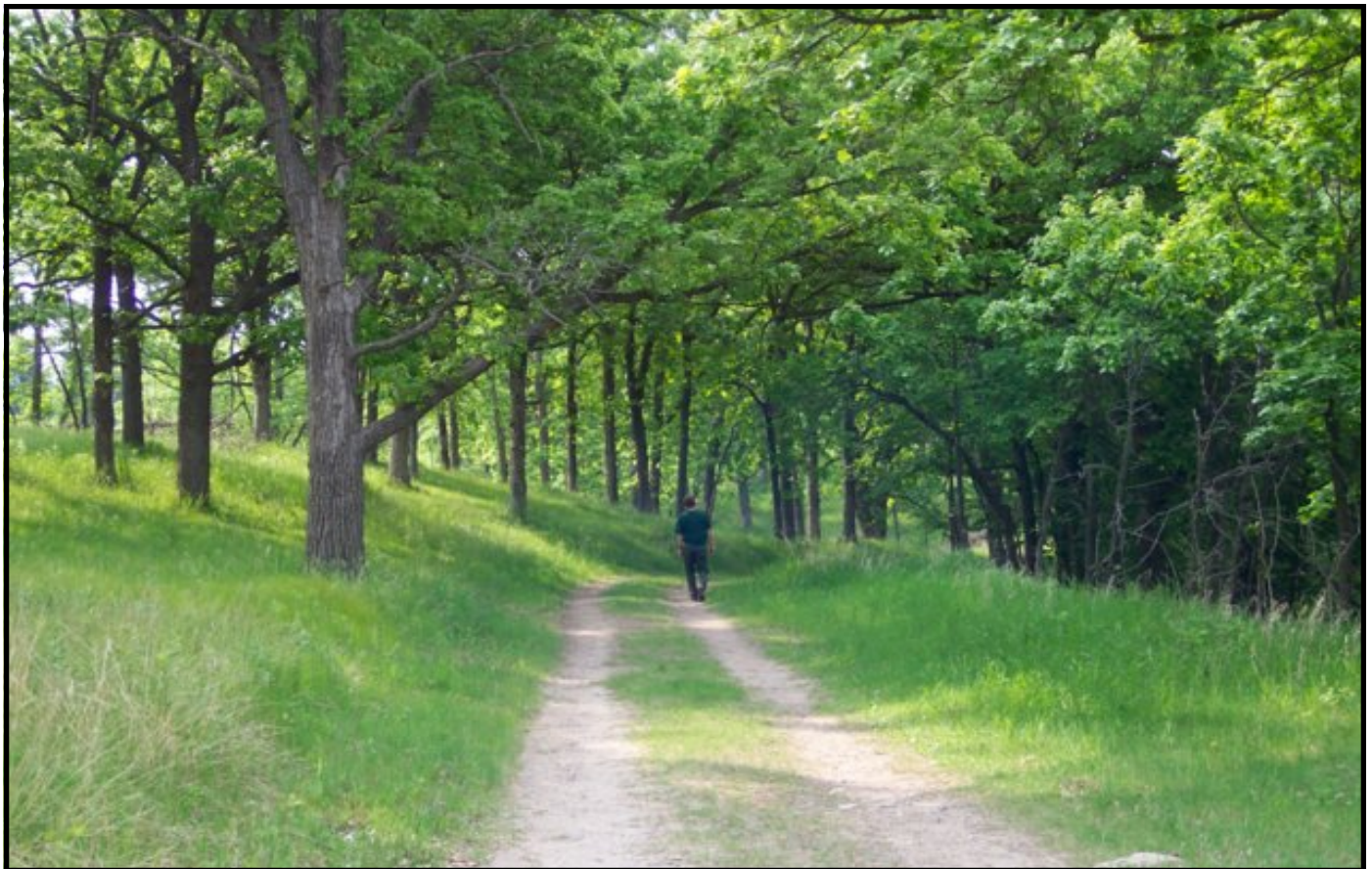


Photo by Eli Becker.

John Geissler in the Oak Savannah.

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 the environmental education of all community members. This year's education highlights include:

- Maintaining our comprehensive K-5 education program, and cultivating repeat visits by many students
- Hiring Sarah Gainey as our Environmental Education Coordinator
- Introducing the Arboretum to First-year college students through symposium outreach and welcome week.
- Hosting hundreds of CSB/SJU visitors through the Collegeville Colors tour
- Hosting the Woodland Owners and Users
- Conference in October, which educated 220 landowners on concepts of stewardship
- Collected and cooked sap for 110 gallons of Maple Syrup, bringing together hundreds of members, students, and friends for education and fellowship



Photo by Dan Doohier

Students surveying plant species.

Student Participation at Saint John's Arboretum

Grades K-8

Fiscal Year 2004: 3,525 participants

Fiscal Year 2003: 4,135 participants

Fiscal Year 2002: 2,167 participants

Grades 9-12

Fiscal Year 2004: 341 participants

Fiscal Year 2003: 280 participants

Fiscal Year 2002: 296 participants

CSB/SJU (Classes, Special Projects)

Fiscal year 2004: 527 participants

Fiscal Year 2003: 196 participants

Fiscal Year 2002: 80 participants

Community (workshops, seminars)

Fiscal Year 2004: 1,353 participants

Fiscal Year 2003: 1,013 participants

Fiscal Year 2002: 727 participants



Photo by E. Sim.

Arboretum council member Ron Wienhold gives a guided tour during the land owners conference.

Special Funding Received FY04

	Organization	Purpose
\$11,590	Individual Memberships	Arboretum
\$4,500	Department of Natural Resources	Elementary Student Transportation
\$2,500	Xcel Energy Foundation	K-6 Environmental Education Field Study Program



Planting one of 4,000 oak seedlings last spring.. File Photo.

Stewardship and Conservation

These are the values that drive every aspect of our mission. We believe that knowledge of the world leads us to care for it, to conserve it and act as stewards. By educating our community we hope to encourage thoughtful decisions about the way we act toward the natural world. The vitality of our region depends on how well we care for each other and our environment, which are inseparable.

In Abbot John Klassan's essay on The Rule of Benedict and environmental stewardship he asks that we incorporate humility, stability, and frugality into our lives as a way towards stewardship. Humility to recognize our closeness to the earth, stability as a way of knowing a place with it's intricate beauty and worth, and frugality as a way of conserving the gifts of the natural world.

Our active stewardship goals within Arboretum lands include habitat restoration through regular prairie burns and tree planting, sustainable logging (certified by Smartwood), a controlled deer hunt for population management, and preservation of Arboretum lands as a nature reserve.

Believing
that the **Divine Presence** is **Every-**
where

FY 2004 Planting

Red Oak—4,000	White pine—1,000
Norway Pine—1,000	White Spruce—1,000
Balsam Fir—100	

FY 2004 Timber Harvest

Cords of Pulp and Firewood—158
Board Lumber—28,220 feet sold for \$22,016



Photo by Ryan Kutter

Professor Todd Butler igniting a prescribed burn on the prairie.



Butterfly milkweed and wild bergamot. Photo by Eli Becker.

Arboretum Advisory Council

Terri Barreiro	Stephen Saupe
Al Barth	Larry Schwietz
Bob Ellenbecker	Tom Wicks
Tom Haeg	Ron Weinhold
David Hartwell	Chuck Wocken
John Kulas, O.S.B.	Bruce Wollmering, O.S.B.
Scott May	
Linda Mock	
Janette Monear	

220 Paid Memberships as of June 1,



Accomplishments

In FY 2004

- We have greatly expanded our education services to the CSB/SJU student community, as well as gained classroom and land management support from student volunteers.
- In co-operation with the Nature Conservancy and local land-owners we established the Avon Hills Initiative.
- Bought 5 acres of neighboring Tholl property, and obtained a conservation easement on eighty acres of adjacent land. Both of these efforts will provide ecological buffers for Saint John's Arboretum.
- SJU student Cody LeMieur compiled extensive information for our Geographical Information Survey, enhancing our land management and education capabilities.

Challenges

For the Future

Watercolor class. Photo by Jim Poff

- While we have established many reliable long and short-term funding sources, many of our programs remain dependant on uncertain funding. We hope to meet this challenge through long-term planning, grant-seeking, and establishing a sufficient endowment.
- We need to establish sufficient staffing as our programs grow.
- Our expanding education programs require the continued development of curriculum to meet the needs of specific groups.
- Control of exotic invasive species, such as European buckthorn and spotted knotweed.



Common gray tree frog. Photo by Marian Studer.



Saint John's wetlands. Photo by Marian Studer.

Avon Hills Initiative

Pressure of development and change is inevitable in our evolving society. Yet many believe that change can be thoughtfully implemented and preserve much of the rural nature that attracts development in the first place. Last year, in response to growing development demands in the Avon Hills, Saint John's Abbey and University forged a partnership with The Nature Conservancy to seek the local community's participation in determining how much support existed for preserving the rural nature of the Avon Hills. The AHI is now led by local residents, and continues as a format for community discussion and education about rural development issues.

The Avon Hills is an area of approximately 50 square miles including land in St. Joseph, Avon, St. Wendell and Collegeville townships. The Avon Hills Initiative has created a series of maps illustrating conservation zones, development zones and other areas of interest to the local landowners, government officials and stakeholders in the area. These maps are to be used by local landowners and township planning boards to develop land management strategies. By knowing more clearly what resources our community has we are better able to sustain the beauty and unique character of our land, as well as its people.

See www.csbsju.edu/arboretum for more information.