

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

## 2009 Annual Report

Jerry Furst

July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009

### 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:

- An increased staff now includes two environmental education fellows. The addition of the second fellow allowed us to increase programming by scheduling more preK-12 field trips and expanding summer and winter library programs.
- An Environmental Learning in Minnesota grant from the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education allowed us to pilot new environmental issues investigation curricula designed for middle school students.
- The Arboretum collaborated with CSB/SJU academic affairs and the environmental studies department to create a series of 1-credit "hands on the land" classes to provide experiential learning opportunities in the Arboretum for CSB/SJU students.
- The Maple Syrup Festivals were the largest ever! More than 1500 people attended the two festivals to enjoy tapping demonstrations, sugar shack tours, and more! Media coverage extended to the Star Tribune and Twin Cities Live.
- The Arboretum organized the first annual Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series to provide monthly lectures about a variety of natural history topics from geology, to owls, to wasps—a great opportunity for adult and family education!



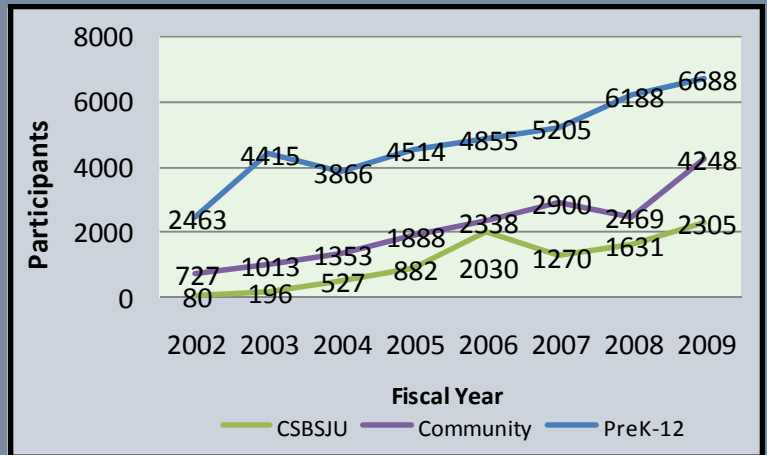
Crowds gathered around the sugar shack for tours, educational talks, live music, and hot maple syrup sundaes at the 2009 Maple Syrup Festivals.

Tony Peroutky

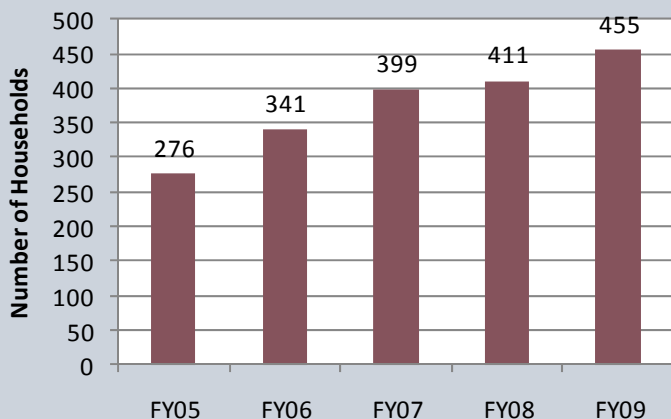
A record **13,241** people participated in Arboretum programs and events in 2009!



Emily Franklin



## 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.



# Land Stewardship and Conservation



Kyle French



Bobby Mandell



Kyle French

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 SJU Summer Initiative created summer employment in the Arboretum for 20 SJU students. The students helped Arboretum staff make amazing progress on a variety of lands projects:

- A new floating bridge was built and installed on the Chapel Trail.
- One crew was dedicated to the control of European buckthorn, honeysuckle, Absinth wormwood and other invasive species in the Arboretum.
- 1,980 tree seedlings, mostly white pine, were planted in the Arboretum.
- We harvested 9,098 ft<sup>3</sup> of lumber, 17% of the annual allowable harvest of 53,683 ft<sup>3</sup>.
- The Abbey lands were audited and recertified by the Forestry Stewardship Council as well-managed. All certification information is available on the Arboretum Web site.
- Students, staff, and volunteers burned 80 acres of prairie, including 39 acres of adjacent habitats on neighboring properties.
- A new addition to the sugar shack was completed to create extra space for educational programming.
- The DNR completed an aerial deer survey of Saint John's that reports 11-16 deer per sq. mile. This is a significant improvement from the 29-44 deer per sq. mile reported in 1991, and is near the DNR's goal of 10 deer per sq. mile in this area.

## Special Funding in FY 2009

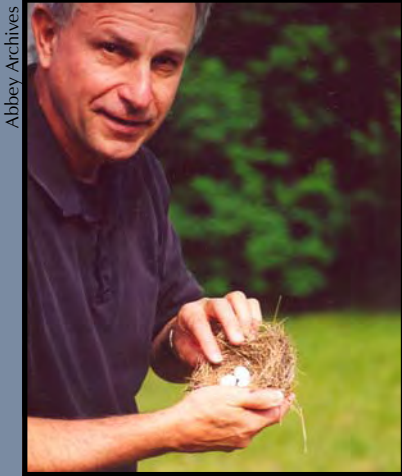
Funding Source	Balance 7-01-08	Additions	Expenses	Balance 6-30-09	Purpose
Individual Memberships/Special Gifts	\$0	\$31,051	(\$31,051)	\$0	Arboretum general expenses
SJU Summer Initiative	\$0	\$120,793	(\$50,221)	\$70,752	2009 Summer employment for 20 SJU students in the Arboretum
Environmental Ed Program & Events	\$24,184	\$22,175	(\$20,243)	\$26,116	PreK-12, CSB/SJU, Community education
Environmental Education Endowment in memory of Father Paul Schwietz	\$44,339	(\$7,731)	\$0	\$36,608	K-12, Community and CSB/SJU environmental education
Central MN Community Foundation	\$2,907	(\$524)	\$0	\$2,383	Environmental education
Charles Edison Fund	\$10,000	\$0	(\$10,000)	\$0	Environmental Education Fellowship
Environmental Learning in Minnesota	\$0	\$6,000	(\$2,461)	\$3,539	Environmental Issues Investigation curricula for grades 6-8
Xcel Energy Foundation grants	\$15,000	\$0	(\$16)	\$14,984	preK-12 education, bussing, teacher training
Bailey Foundation	\$5,000	\$0	(\$5,000)	\$0	Bussing for preK-12 students
SuperValu Foundation	\$3,600	\$0	(3,600)	\$0	Bussing for preK-12 students
Buy a seat on the bus	\$0	\$709	\$0	\$709	Bussing for preK-12 students
Land Legacy Fund	\$2,218	\$260	\$0	\$2,478	Arboretum land preservation
L&M Schwietz Abbey Endowment	\$194,883	(\$44,908)	(\$9744)	\$140,231	Abbey-related land stewardship activities and environmental education
Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)	\$0	\$48,644	(\$48,644)	\$0	\$337,000 eligible to be reimbursed for Avon Hills related expenses through June 30, 2011
Initiative Foundation/SJU Matching Fund	\$10,768	\$0	(\$159)	\$10,609	Avon Hills Initiative
Laird Norton Foundation grants	\$1,093	\$0	(\$1093)	\$0	Avon Hills Initiative

# 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. The organization works through education, community organization, and local governments to increase awareness of land development pressures facing the Avon Hills.

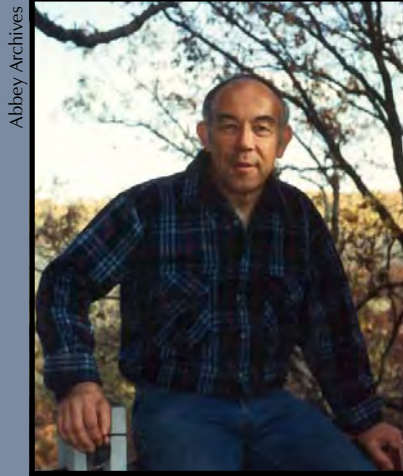
- Over 300 people attended the “Growing Green for Growing Cities” and “Living in the Avon Hills” conferences held in October and January. The addition of sessions for kids made the January conference a great event for the whole family!
- The first conservation easement in the Avon Hills was completed in cooperation with the Minnesota Land Trust with support from the LCCMR grant. Bob and Bonnie Thomsen permanently protected more than 35 acres of land.
- The Stearns County Comprehensive Plan was finalized with the Avon Hills Conservation Area as a new category recognizing natural resource protection in the Avon Hills. Stearns County ordinance development is currently underway.

# In Memory



Abbey Archives

Father Bruce Wollmering, OSB  
1940—2009  
Arboretum Advisory Council  
2002-2008

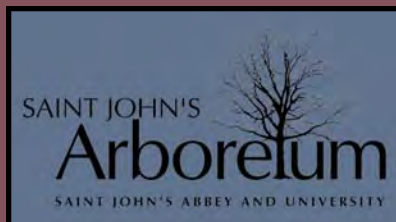


Abbey Archives

Father James Tingerthal, OSB  
1934—2009  
Arboretum Advisory Council  
2008-2009

## Highlights in FY 2009

- SJU Summer Initiative created more than 20 jobs in the Arboretum for students to help complete numerous projects on the land.
- Launching the “buy a seat on the bus” campaign to fund preK-12 transportation costs.
- Updating the Chapel Trail: addressing erosion and installing a new bridge.



## Goals for FY 2010 and beyond

- Increase staffing to meet demand for programming and volunteer coordination.
- Increase partnerships with local communities and organizations.
- Increase connections with CSB/SJU student and alumni members
- Increase CSB/SJU student participation in Arboretum events.
- Track numbers of users on Arboretum trails.

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

# Arboretum Advisory Council

Terri Barreiro, Chair  
Alison Binsfeld  
Scott Daninger  
Bruce Dickau  
Kari Dombrovski  
John Geissler  
Tom Haeg  
Glenn Miller  
Fr. Greg Miller, OSB  
Janette Monear  
Bob Russell  
Stephen Saupe  
Larry Schwietz  
Tom Wicks  
Chuck Wocken

## Student Council Members

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

# Arboretum Staff

**Thomas Kroll**  
Director/Land Manger

**Sarah Gainey**  
Assistant Director/Environmental  
Education Coordinator

**Jenny Kutter**  
Department Coordinator

**Dan Vogel**  
Forest Technician

**Andy Elton**  
Environmental Education Fellow

**Rosalie Leiner**  
Environmental Education Fellow

9 CSB/SJU Student Naturalists/  
Land Laborers

18 CSB/SJU Student Naturalist  
Aides