

**Linnaeus Arboretum National Advisory Board
2017 Crown Council Report**

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In 2014, the National Advisory Board worked with the Arboretum Director to create overall goals and objectives. This is an update on the objectives that have been worked on during the past year.

Physical Arboretum Goals

Ecosystems

Overall goal: To develop and implement an educational philosophy, maintenance plan, and species identification tracking and labels to allow all ecosystems to provide educational value.

Woodland invasive species eradication project

- The MN DNR provided a matching grant to eradicate invasive species in the woodlands

Prairie

- In the spring did a prairie burn of the Uhler Prairie and over seeding and the Coneflower Prairie with funding from the Schmidt Foundation

Overall goal: Develop and implement a plan to identify, map, and track current species and diversify and develop an understory as needed in the deciduous and coniferous woods.

Deciduous Wildflower Project

- The deciduous trees have grown to a height that allows for development of the understory
- Received a grant from Pheasants Forever and in May will introduce wildflowers in targeted areas working with Gustavus students and area youth for the planting

Structural Areas

Overall goal: To provide appropriate permanent structures and interpretive displays that enhance the education, access, and usage of the Arboretum for all constituents.

- Conduct a needs assessment of the Interpretive Center
 - The group discussed the Interpretive Center as it relates to the needs for Arboretum programs
 - Seeking approval to start fundraising for a programming and schematic design for an expansion to the Interpretive Center
- Conduct maintenance renovations and develop an interpretive display for the Borgeson Cabin
 - The cabin is in need of maintenance restoration. Raised \$20,000 goal from 50 donors on a special appeal. An interpretive display can be developed in conjunction with the restoration work.
 - Mark Johnson from Artisan Restorations is hired to complete the restoration in summer 2017

- Prepare for a change to the Arboretum's western boarder
 - Due to the location of the new St. Peter High School the north and west boarder of the Arboretum is changing
 - Present recommendations and work with the City of St. Peter to develop a paved trail with rest stops around the Coneflower Prairie
 - Partner with the appropriate offices on campus to create a new Arboretum/Gustavus sign facing the new high school
 - Create a preferred path for students to travel between the high school and college
- Coneflower Prairie Parking Lot
 - Discussed ways to make this parking area and entrance more welcoming to visitors
- Develop the labyrinth area
 - Planted a grass maze close to the labyrinth
 - Planted shrub garden around labyrinth

Use of the Arboretum Goals

Education

Overall goal: To provide well-attended programs for Gustavus students, employees, alumni, St. Peter community members of all ages to learn about and experience nature.

- In 2016-2017, the Arboretum actively facilitated 80+ different programs, events, or classes, making over 3,000 contacts with Gusties, visitors and other students such as:
 - Regular monthly programming specifically targeting Gustavus students
 - Annual events like Welcome Back Grill Out, Fall Fest (over 1200 people attended), Arb Scare, Halloween Hike featuring the LineUs Improv Troupe, an Easter event, and an Arbor Day event
 - Gustavus Student Naturalist Corps creates or supports programs and events
 - NAB members coordinated a revival of the Linnaeus Symposium: *Shining Light on Minnesota's Changing Landscapes* with over 100 attendees on June 20, 2016
 - Summer Nature Camp for area youth
 - Gustavus students helped with spring clean-up
 - Raptors in the Arb event for 100+ people
 - Out of Scandinavia concert in the Arboretum had over 300 people
 - Photo contest and medallion hunt in the spring for Gustavus students

Support and Promotion Goals

Finances

Overall goal: To improve the financial stability of the Arboretum.

- Discussed the budget challenges and generated ideas for sponsorships, grants, fundraising, and providing fewer programs

Awareness Building

Overall goal: To increase awareness of the Arboretum among Gustavus students, employees, and St. Peter/Mankato community members of all ages that will lead to increase usage.

- External signage to designate the Arboretum and Interpretive Center location, especially for visitors was funded by a donor