

Friends of Wisdom Prairie

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Holy Wisdom Monastery

All numbers in this report reflect 2021 year to date through Dec 1st

Environmental Education

5

Tours: shrubs, early wildflowers, late wildflowers, pollinators

4

New Brochures: for self-guided tours of flowers, shrubs and conifers

3

Zoom Lectures: Indigenous Arts & Sciences, Landscape Design with Native Plants & Bird Migration

6

Kids on the Prairie: sessions for families with children to explore and experience the wonders awaiting them in Wisdom Prairie. Served 40 kids & 20 adults

CARING FOR COMMON GROUND

a three-day workshop focused on the faith and spirituality-based foundations of land stewardship: hosted in-person at the Monastery in October, after taking a 1-year hiatus during the pandemic.



THE GREAT WISCONSIN BIRDATHON

Our team, Wrens of Wisdom Prairie, soared to great heights with...

64

Participants

70

Species of birds observed at the monastery

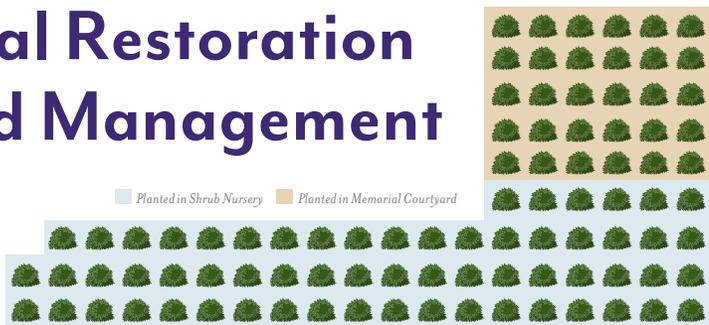
\$1,865

Raised in support of bird conservation

Ecological Restoration and Land Management

92

native shrubs
planted in 2021



140

yards of old barbed
wire fencing removed

560

hours worked by Timothy
Byington-Fish, the summer
restoration intern

0.25

miles of new trail created
through the oak savanna



52

acres of prairie and savanna
burned in April, including 5 acres
of newly-restored savanna burned
for the first time in 100+ years

BIRDS

3 Great Horned Owl chicks successfully fledged.

1 brood of Red-headed Woodpeckers. This was the first documented instance of Red-headed Woodpeckers, a rare and iconic species of Wisconsin savannas, nesting on the monastery property.



13

brush piles burned

93

native species in the seed
mix planted into the new
oak savanna unit

Volunteers

Volunteers monitor two separate trails of bluebird nesting boxes which collectively fledged...



- 3 broods totaling 13 Eastern Bluebird chicks
- 4 broods of House Wrens
- 22 broods of Tree Swallows
- 2 broods of Chickadees

EBIRD

eBird is a citizen-science platform that puts bird sightings to work for science and conservation. In the first 10 months of 2021, eBird stats for Holy Wisdom included:

- 138 species of birds identified.
- 157 unique checklists submitted by 33 different birders.

1986 hours

contributed by Friends of Wisdom
Prairie volunteers in 2021



425 hours

volunteers spent collecting seeds
for next year's restoration plantings

7

volunteers monitoring our
buildings for bird-window
collisions during fall
migration season

4

joint work days hosted in part-
nership with Dane County Parks

5

local schools who sent student
groups to volunteer on
Wisdom Prairie



Membership



- **12** Lifetime Members
- **15** FWP Council Members
- **64** First-time Members

♥ *Thank you to retiring council members:
Howard Fenton & Mary Trewartha*

REVENUE

\$10,165	FWP donations
\$21,411	FWP memberships
\$2,320	Greg Armstrong internship
\$1,425	Native shrubs
\$15,990	Grants
\$35,251	Care for the Earth
\$86,562	Total

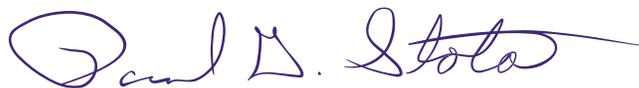
This revenue helped fund numerous initiatives connected to delivering ecological and spiritual renewal, including educational events, kiosk redesign, a boundary survey, matching funds for new electric UTV as well as staff salary



Thank You!

The Friends of Wisdom Prairie Council thanks all of you for your membership and the financial, volunteer and spiritual support that you have contributed to the Friends in 2021. Without your assistance, Amy, the Monastery, the Sisters and the Council could not have accomplished all that is documented in this report. We are hopeful you will consider renewing your membership in 2022.

My term as President is ending and I want to extend my gratitude to all of you, our Council members and Amy for making this such a wonderful personal experience. I wish you all an amazing holiday season.



Paul Slota
President of FWP Council



This Annual Report from the Friends of Wisdom Prairie is going to press shortly after I marked my one-year anniversary as the Director of Land Management and Environmental Education. And what a year it has been! Together, we've accomplished a great deal, as evidenced by the numbers in this annual report. But beyond the metrics, when I reflect back on the past year, what really stands out for me are the many relationships that have added so much meaning and satisfaction.

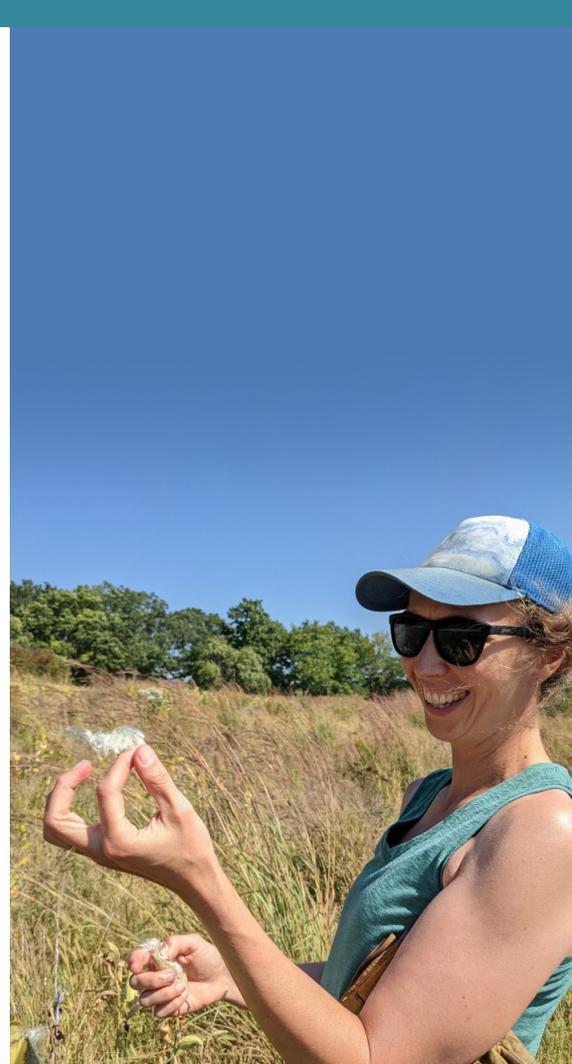
Relationships with people, including the Friends of Wisdom Prairie community and all the other communities of Holy Wisdom, have provided daily support and inspiration as I've learned the ropes in my new role. Relationship with the land continually reminds me of the importance of our work tending to this sacred ground, and also fills me with gratitude for the commitment of the stewards who have come before and will come after me. And last but not least, I can't think of a better setting to explore and strengthen my relationship with my own personal spirituality.

In 2022, I'm looking forward to continuing to build these relationships together. Thank you for being part of this Friends of Wisdom Prairie community.



Amy Alstad

Director of Land Management & Environmental Education





*Thank you for being
a part of our community.*

Volunteer . Donate . Support.

***Holy Wisdom Monastery occupies the
ancestral land of the Ho-Chunk Nation.***

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HolyWisdomMonastery.org



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