

Friends of Wisdom Prairie

Connecting people to the story and spirit of the land

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Holy Wisdom Monastery

All numbers in this report reflect 2022 year to date through Oct. 20th

Environmental Education

Connecting people to the story and spirit of the land

IN 2022, FWP OFFERED A TOTAL OF 16 EVENTS

- 6 sessions of **Kids on the Prairie** with Julie Melton
- 4 seasonal **Prairie Tours**
- **Conserving Grasslands** lecture with Ellen Damschen
- **Sacred Land** retreat with Justice Green
- **Art Show** opening with Terrill Knaack
- **Forest Therapy** program with Marian Farrior
- **Benedict on the Prairie** course with Denise West & Amy Alstad
- **Birds in Classical Art** lecture with Patricia Stinger

49

New books added
to the FWP
collection in the
Monastery library

3

New kiosk panels that
welcome and orient
visitors to the story of
this beautiful land

12

New binoculars
available for
guests to borrow

500+

Plant
identification
brochures
distributed

**We gratefully acknowledge support from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and the Dane County Environmental Council, whose financial contributions helped fund purchase of the binoculars and kiosk panels, respectively.*

THE GREAT WISCONSIN BIRDATHON

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

50

Participants

54

Species of birds
observed at the
monastery

\$1,450

Raised in support of
bird conservation

Ecological Restoration

Nurturing the health of the land through stewardship

15

Types of native species
incorporated into
Memorial Courtyard
planting design

115

Species identified
in plant inventories
of Wisdom Prairie

386

Hours worked by
Walter Entenmann,
summer prairie
restoration intern



5

Newly cleared acres of
oak savanna

54

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

38

Brush piles burned

**We gratefully acknowledge
support from the John C. Bock
Foundation, which helped fund
savanna restoration efforts.*

64 Prairie violets transplanted into Wisdom
Prairie. This species is a key host plant for the
endangered regal fritillary butterfly, which
was documented on site in 2021.



3 New electric land care tools

Volunteers

Our essential partners in caring for the earth

2,653 hours

Contributed by Friends of Wisdom
Prairie volunteers in 2022

4

Joint work days hosted in partnership
with Dane County Parks

15

Local schools who sent student groups to
volunteer on Wisdom Prairie



Monitoring efforts play a crucial role in helping us evaluate the impacts of our stewardship work. Thanks to the help of dozens of volunteers, we have a thriving monitoring program comprised of more than 10 different projects. *Examples include:*



Monarch eggs
& caterpillars



Bluebird
nest boxes



Frogs
& toads



Fixed Photo
Points



Bird/window
collisions



Prairie
plants



Acoustic
soundscape



Trail
conditions



Birds



Membership

Your membership helps sustain our work. Thank you!



- 18 Lifetime members
- 15 FWP Council members
- 29 First-time members

♥ *Thank you to retiring Council members:
Sylvia Marek, Peg Davey, Maia McNamara,
Jeannine Desautels & Peter Marshall.*

REVENUE

\$7,814	FWP donations
\$12,623	FWP memberships
\$365	Greg Armstrong internship
\$14,766	Care for the Earth
\$35,568	Total

Revenue generated by FWP helped fund: new kiosk panels, tree care, staff salary, new electric tools, environmental education programs.



Thank You!

This land is a sacred space where people can build a personal relationship with the beauty, wonder and diversity of life. By being a member of Friends of Wisdom Prairie, you are helping weave the fabric of that relationship for yourself and creating the same opportunity for others.

Thank you to all the members of the Friends of Wisdom Prairie community for your volunteer time, your financial support and your prayers this year. Thank you especially to the Friends of Wisdom Prairie Council who support Amy in many unnamed ways. Together we take action to care for the earth with the sisters, Amy and the coworkers. **Thank you for being part of this community.**

Julie Melton

Julie Melton

President of FWP Council



Thank You!

I recently learned that, owing to their deep commitment to stability, early Benedictine monastics earned the nickname “lovers of the place.” All these centuries later, I feel that moniker is just as apt as ever. Answering their call to care for the earth, the Benedictine Women of Madison are a beautiful example of how love for a place can translate into a compelling and impactful model for environmental stewardship.

I view the role of the Friends of Wisdom Prairie as working alongside the sisters to support and amplify their deep-rooted love of this place. Together, we are courageously creating a place where spiritual and ecological renewal coexist. Our human work of caring for the earth is generously reciprocated by the prairie, which in turn is doing its own utterly essential work on us and all that visit. **Thank you for being part of this 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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