

2021 Annual Report

HABITAT RESTORATION

- Started a **new 40-acre restoration project** that is estimated to restore 3-5 acres of wetlands.
- Completed **the acquisition of an additional 66 acres** located east of the education center along County Line Rd.
- Continuation of **invasive species management** throughout the 510 acre property.
- **Planted 80 native tree species and 250 native shrub species** to continue the expansion of Harvey's Woods.
- **Planted 3,500 tree seedlings** throughout the property.
- **Hand collected prairie and wetland seed** that will be used in our restoration project areas.
- **Carried out a prescribed prairie burn** in the Snow Prairie, located behind the education center.
- Led **volunteer workdays** for college students and the public.



EDUCATION

- **Total in-person contacts for 2021 were 3,758**
 - 1,308 students from field trips of all ages
 - 360 volunteers
 - 48 golf cart tours
 - 302 people from speaking engagements
 - 18,302 views from Facebook and YouTube videos
 - 20,100 contacts from 12 e-newsletters
 - Over 1,000 people walking into the education center
 - 960 people attending our events



- **Hosted a group of teenagers from Cream City Conservation** for one week. These young students received hands-on experience in the environmental field as well as listened to speakers that were selected by staff from various environmental entities.
- **Created more educational videos** about the land and ongoing projects.
- **Hosted four seasonal interns** from different local colleges for school credit and two GIS students from UW-Milwaukee for their research project.
- **Promoted MNP** at two Chinooks baseball games and Harborfest, which allowed staff to tell the story of MNP to attendees.
- **Presented at conferences and speaking engagements:**
 - Spoke at the virtual **Wisconsin Wetland Association Conference** on the Trinity Creek Restoration Project.
 - **Two Tilia presentations:**
 - Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin
 - Elm Grove School of Learning

RESEARCH & MONITORING



- **Conducted wetland macroinvertebrate and amphibian monitoring** and analyzed historical data from 2015-2021 to gauge wetland biodiversity within our restored wetlands. Tiger salamanders have been confirmed breeding in Painted Pond (only the second wetland to have known salamander larvae on the preserve)!
- Seasonal interns led **water quality testing** in all restored wetlands and streams using the new Hydrolab HL7 Sonde.
- Led a **Citizen Science field day** with 50 individuals participating in a Monarch tagging event. We were able to tag over 40 monarch butterflies!
- **Collected acoustical recording data** pertaining to birds, frogs and bats that will be used to gauge the absence/presence of species resulting from restoration activities.
- The MNP Bluebird Club helped **monitor 56 bluebird houses** across the Preserve.
- **Conducted floristic quality assessments** in the active restoration areas to gauge plant response to management actions.

- **Discovered endangered Rusty Patch Bumblebees** inhabiting MNP.
- **2 new dragonfly and 2 new damselfly species** spotted on property:
 - Dragonfly species: Carolina Saddlebag and Common Baskettail
 - Damselfly species: American Rubyspot and Sweetflag Spreadwing
- **Collaborated with local universities** to conduct research projects. Marquette University conducted research on cold tolerant rice as a crop for Wisconsin farmers. Used MNP as a project site for suburban winter bird surveys. UW-Milwaukee used GIS technology to conduct vegetation surveys on the new 66-acre land parcel.



AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

- There are now **26 family farmers** on 40 acres, through a partnership with Fondy Foods.
- **Two acres of rice were planted and harvested** by Marquette University, staff, and many volunteers.

RECREATION

- Allowed visitors to use our **snowshoes for free** while they hiked the trails.
- **Five community events** that allowed families to spend time together out on the land: Winter Playdate, Maple Sugar Tree Tapping, Summer Playdate, Monarch Tagging, and A Habitat Haunting Trick or Treat.
- Added **more features to Marty's Playspace**, an all-natural play area.
- Continued to **maintain our five miles of trails** so visitors can safely use them.
- Hosted two **in-person Craft and Storytime days** for young children and their guardians, which will continue in 2022.
- Continued to **safely operate the MNP clubs:** Book Club, Bee Club, and Photography Club.



FACILITY/OPERATIONS

- **Installed three new trail kiosks**, located at all three of our parking lots. These new kiosks hold a detailed map of the trails, information on the land, and what people may see while they hike.
- **Construction of a Sugar Haus**, where staff will produce maple syrup from sap collected from the sugar maple trees on the Preserve.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES BELL

It is with a very heavy heart that I share the news of James (Jim) Bell's passing. Jim was an honored board member since 2004 and a dear friend to Mequon Nature Preserve since our inception. As a board member, he was extremely active, serving President for a number of years. Jim was always that voice of reason, full of grace and poise. Above all, he was a compassionate leader who deeply cared for the staff of MNP throughout the years. He spent a great deal of time mentoring and coaching me throughout my career. Jim's family meant the world to him and I'm fairly confident that he had every single member of his large family on our golf cart at some point— usually borrowing it every other weekend when the weather was nice.

I am grateful for all the time I was able to spend with Jim—he was so proud of the incredible accomplishments of this organization and so happy to have been a critical member of our team. Although profoundly sad, it is not surprising that his passing is what will take him away from our board versus a resignation. He was so deeply committed and he will forever be missed.

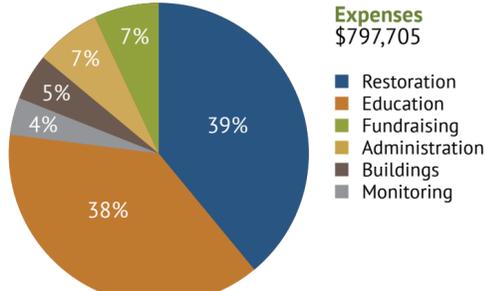
—Kristin



Jim Bell's formal obituary can be found on JSoOnline: <https://www.jsonline.com/obituaries/mjs057564>

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

MNP Inc's unaudited financial statement for fiscal year 2021 reports \$841,205 in revenue and \$797,705 in expenses. MNP Inc. carried out a comprehensive fundraising program to finance its operations and capital projects. MNP also raises funds for its endowments at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and R.W. Baird Co. These endowment funds and a designated donor's endowment fund currently total \$3,729,371.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Frederick Geilfuss II, *Board Chairman*
Foley & Lardner
Partner

David Scritsmier, *Board Vice Chairman*
Pieper Electric Inc.
Construction Branch
Manager

Kevin Shafer, *Board Treasurer*
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage
District, Executive Director

Sigrid Dynek, *Board Secretary*
Kohl's Corporation
VP and General Counsel, Retired

Ron Adams, *Board Member*
Northwestern Mutual
VP, Field Diversity and Inclusion

James Bell, *Board Member*
R.W. Baird & Co.
Managing Director, Retired

Clayton Frazer, *Board Member*
Eco-Resourer Consulting Inc.
Partner

Elizabeth Hellman, *Board Member*
WEC Energy Group,
Environmental Engineer

Julie A. Landry, *Board Member*
Mount Mary University
VP, Equity and Inclusion

Andrew Nerburn, *Board Member*
Leonardo DRS
Director of Engineering

Nathan Otero, *Board Member*
U.S. Bank
Private Banking
Relationship Manager

Lee Szymborski, *Board Member*
GovHR USA
Consultant



STAFF

Kristin Gies, Executive Director
Cory Gritzmacher,
Director of Land Restoration and Operations
Marianne O'Connor, Administrative Manager

Nick Gall, Ecological Restoration Manager
Amanda Neimon, Education and Restoration Ecologist
Jamie Schiesel, Education and Research Ecologist
Esha Pillai, Education and Community Outreach Assistant
Tilia, Conservation Canine

Volunteers assist with restoration, monitoring, invasive species management, prairie seed processing, events and field trips.