



February 28, 2023

Wow! 2022 couldn't have been a better year. Thanks to your generosity, MNP continues to grow—literally! Over 5,000 trees were planted; field trip numbers returned to pre-pandemic levels; and we added a new four-legged staff member to assist in our restoration and monitoring efforts, just to name a few of the many.

Attached is our 2022 annual report. As you read this, please reflect on your incredible generosity that made this all happen. The Mequon Nature Preserve staff and the surrounding communities are forever grateful!

With great excitement, I can tell you that 2023 is shaping out to be one of the busiest years we have seen in a while. We are already booked through the summer in our education programs, and thousands of trees and shrubs are on order to enhance the newest wetland restoration effort on the north side of the property. And, as if that wasn't enough to celebrate, 2023 will mark the last year of traditional agriculture here at MNP! A goal that, 16 years ago when I started, was planned to be accomplished by 2050. I'm thrilled to say we are 25 years ahead of that schedule thanks to the fantastic team here—including you!

We hope to see you on the land again soon, so we can celebrate all of this success together!

Kristin Gies, Executive Director



“When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves.” – *David Orr*



2022 annual report

habitat restoration

- **5,070 native trees and shrubs** were planted throughout the property.
- Continued the **restoration of 44 acres** of agricultural land into wetlands, forests, and prairie.
- Continued to **remove invasive plant species** throughout the 510 acres.
- **Collected prairie and wetland seed** for future restoration projects.
- **Led volunteer land restoration workdays** for high school and college students, as well as employees from local businesses.



- **Continued the Restoration Rangers program.** This program allows individuals to work alongside our land restoration staff on Thursday mornings from May-October.
- **Drain tile break and wetland restoration** in a 57-acre project area on the north side of the property. Wetland seeding, prairie seeding, and tree planting are planned for Spring of 2023.
- **Added a new furry staff member, Timber,** to the MNP team. Timber will be trained to be a Conservation Dog like Tilia.



environmental education & outreach

■ Educational Contact Numbers:

- 3,024 Students through fields trips & in-classroom
- 144 College student contacts from trips/volunteering
- 471 Volunteers
- 92 Individuals in golf cart tours
- 2,809 Average monthly readers of e-newsletters
- 3,398 Walk-ins to the education center
- 6,337 Event contacts
- 1,392 Adult educational program contacts



■ **Hosted four summer interns** from four different universities and colleges.

■ **Hosted two UW-Milwaukee Geography students** for their GIS project. Their project included mapping restoration success by measuring vegetation height and density across the preserve as well as mapping invasive species locations.

■ **Created 12 new educational videos** pertaining to MNP's projects.

■ **Staffed tables at community events:** Girls and STEM Day at Discovery World, City of Mequon Arbor Day Celebration, Fromm Petfest, Random Lake Conservation Fair, Harborfest and Sturgeonfest, Fish and Feather Festival, Lakeshore Chinooks baseball game, Green and Healthy Schools Conference, and Wisconsin State Fair.



■ **MNP was the Group of the Day at the Wisconsin State Fair** in the K-9 Sports Arena where Tilia showcased her scent skills.

■ **Monthly activities with individuals from Balance, Inc.** such as seed cleaning, Monarch butterfly tagging, making elderberry syrup, and making decorations for events and holidays.

■ **Held a variety of adult learning classes** taught by MNP staff through the Mequon-Thiensville Recreation Department.

■ **Led two Natural Resources Foundation field trips.**

■ **Teamed up with area nature preserves** to form the Ozaukee Washington Birding Coalition (OWBC). OWBC hosted and provided different events and seminars on birds.

■ **Returned to pre-Pandemic, in-person educational contact numbers.**



research & monitoring

- **Volunteers helped tag 129 Monarch butterflies** migrating to Mexico in September.

These numbered tags were uploaded to Monarch Watch to research and monitor this now endangered species.



- For the first time, a **Pileated Woodpecker was spotted** in Harvey's Woods and **two new odonate species were seen**, a four-spotted Skimmer (dragonfly) and a Southern Spreadwing (butterfly).
- **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.

- **Conducted wetland macroinvertebrate and amphibian monitoring** and analyzed historical data from 2015-2021 to gauge wetland biodiversity within our restored wetlands.



- **Seasonal summer interns led water quality testing** in all restored wetlands and streams using a Hydrolab HL7 Sonde.
- **Worked with Dr. Gary Casper to begin analyzing acoustical monitoring data** on amphibians, birds, and bats. Historical monitoring data from 2015 and 2016 (frogs and birds) and 2018 (bats) have been analyzed and reported.
- **The MNP Bluebird Club helped monitor 56 bluebird houses** across the Preserve.



recreation

- **Hosted 5 community events:** Winter Frolic, Maple Sugar Tree Tapping, Summer Playdate, Monarch Tagging, and Habitat Haunting.
- **Held monthly Craft and Storytime** for children ages 2-9.
- **Added more features to Marty's Playspace.**
- **Continued to maintain the 6 miles of trails**

- **Provided free equipment for families and individuals to checkout:** MNP Adventure Backpacks and snowshoes.
- **Continued hosting clubs:** Executive Director Book Club, Junior Nature Book Club, Photography Club, and Bee Club.

operations

- **Began updating our website** to be more modern and easier to read and navigate.
- **Repaired the two boardwalks** over Paul's Pond.
- **Installation of Phenology Wall** in Education Center.

- **Began building Observation Platforms** located at Paul's Pond and Harvey's Woods.
- **Updated our policies** to keep them current in business procedures.

agricultural heritage

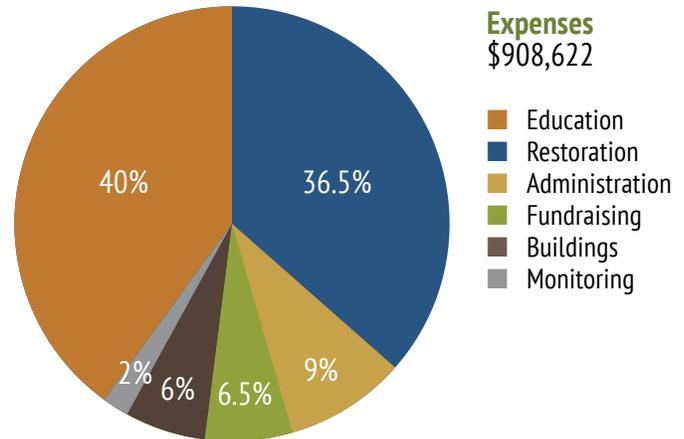
- **Installed 4 agricultural mounds** (squash, beans, and corn) with MPS teachers participating in ACT 31 training. This was done by following the 3 Sisters teachings of the First Nations people.

- **Continued the partnership with Fondy Foods and a Marquette University 10-year rice study project.**



financial highlights

MNP Inc's unaudited financial statement for fiscal year 2022 reports \$971,624 in revenue and \$908,622 in expenses. Through a comprehensive fundraising program, MNP Inc. financed its restoration and education programming and operations and raised funds for its endowments at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and R.W. Baird Co. Although the market was volatile for most the year, these endowment funds totaled \$3,176,050 at the end of fiscal year 2022.



board of directors

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

Lee Szyborski, Board Vice Chairman
GovHR USA
Senior Vice President

Clayton Frazer, Board Secretary
Native Range Ecological, LLC
Partner

Kevin Shafer, Board Treasurer
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Ron Adams, Board Member
Northwestern Mutual
Vice President, Field Diversity and Inclusion

C. Frederick Geilfuss II, Board Member
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Private Banking Relationship Manager

Kathleen Schneider, Board Member
City of Mequon, Alderperson

Kurt Theune, Board Member
Mortenson, General Manager



staff

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

Amanda Neimon, Ecological Outreach Manager
Jamie Schiesel, Ecological Education Manager
Esha Pillai, Development and Strategy Manager
Tilia and Timber, Conservation Dogs

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