

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Minutes

Meeting at River Glenn, June 8, 1998

Present: Fr. Paul Schwietz, Gordon Bailey, Gordon Brown, Dorothy Johnson, Scott May, Ronald Weinhold, Janette Monear, Fr. John Kulas, Linda Marrin, Colin Robertson

Absent: Dr. Cheryl Knox, Tom Kroll, Peter Olin, Sarah Pruett, Nancy Diedrich

The June 8th meeting of the Arboretum Council was graciously **hosted by Mr. Ron Weinhold** on his property called 'River Glenn' near Little Sauk, Minnesota. Ron gave us all an amazing and memorable tour of his gardens and historical museums, the products of his life's work in central Minnesota. His botanical knowledge and passion for the subject are a wonder. The group greatly admired Ron's collection of the **Showy Lady Slippers!**

Janette announced the **International Day of Prayer** event called 'Cry of the Eagle' that will be held in Pipestone, MN. **June 18, 19, and 20th**—one of the largest gatherings of American Indians in the United States this year. See her if you are interested.

The Arboretum Advisory Council meeting began at 3:45 p.m. The minutes of the April 6th meeting were approved.

Fundraising/Public Relations Committee

Fundraising, membership drive and kiosk dedication. Several different weekends during the fall were discussed as possibilities for the Arboretum event. We decided that a home football game weekend, other than homecoming, in the early part of the fall would be best, hopefully drawing a large number of alumni to the Arboretum event.

It was resolved that the Arboretum Kiosk dedication would occur at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, the 26th of September, 1998. Prior to the event, Scott will be working on the fourth panel of the Arboretum brochure focusing on membership, to be ready for the dedication. Some kind of music, it was proposed, could be included to add to the event. Colin suggested a group of Indian singers and drummers be invited to play at the event to give a feeling for the kind of music that once drifted across the historical prairies of this country. Fr. Paul will contact Paul Gruchow, the Minnesota author and environmentalist, to ask that he come as the keynote speaker for the dedication ceremony. Tours of the prairie, wetlands, and savanna with a historical twist were suggested as activities for people from 10:00 a.m. until the commencement of the dedication. Tour guides might act out roles or read from Fr. Riss' journal documenting the land of St. John's at the time of its first occupation by Saint John's monks. Membership information would be available. Fr. Paul will ensure that the Kiosk and information panels will be completed by then.

Homecoming, October 10th events. It was also decided that the Arboretum will set up a display on the October 10th with an information table, tours, and possibly host a run/walk activity in the morning. Board members are asked to volunteer their time and creativity for a display. Carol Marrin will set up a book display in the Bookstore. Additionally, tour guides would be necessary in the afternoon if we provide tours during the second half of the game.

Membership dues and benefits. Membership dues must be promoted as a partnership in the stewardship of the land. The following **membership due levels were created unanimously: Student--\$10.00; Individual--\$25; Family--\$40.00; Steward--\$100; and four Donor levels of \$500, \$1000, \$2500, and \$other.** Student memberships may include a service learning volunteer time. Membership benefits would include various arboretum tours, community education, and one membership appreciation social event every year.

Fundraising ideas such as selling packets of wildflower seeds, selling trees, bird and flower/butterfly walks were discussed. It was determined that benefits such as tree, bird, flower, and butterfly walks would be included in the membership cost, as would wildflower seed packets. (Hence, we should charge for these if people aren't members.) Greeting cards with photographs by Fr. Fran might be sold with wildflower seed packets inside.

Colin gave a brief discussion of the grant money opportunities available to the Arboretum for the summer/early fall. Several of the opportunities will need to be taken care of right away. Committee groups are asked to come to the next meeting (August) with an idea about framework for funding needs for the Arboretum for the next five years.

Education Committee

There will be a **School Nature Area Project workshop and MAEE conference** at Saint John's on June 18-20. Saint John's is a partner in the workshop and teachers will have an opportunity to plant prairie seedlings as well as join in several different environmental tours.

The **July 20 and 22 "Teaching Naturally" conference** to be hosted by the Twin City Tree Trust and co-hosted with St. John's was discussed. Fr. Paul informed the group that Saint John's has committed \$3,000.00 to help defray the cost of the event. The conference will be partly based around the development of curriculum with emphasis on hands-on learning and team building in subject areas such as: wetlands, historical perspectives, geology, biology, habitats, people and environment interactions, and service learning. It will be necessary to include Graduation Standards with the curriculum development, because if the curriculum does not include them, no school will use the curriculum because of new state laws. Br. Doug, Nancy Diedrich, and Gordon Brown, will be working with a small group on graduation standards. Colin will write up the names and addresses of local educators interested in helping with the development of curriculum in cooperation with the St. John's Arboretum and fax it to Janette at Tree Trust.

Management and Restoration Committee

This summer we will be planting a **five-acre prairie expansion** to our current 50 acre prairie planted in 1991. A prairie garden with over one hundred species in associated with the kiosk will also be planted. We are also underplanting forbs and grasses on eight-acres of the **oak savanna**. Paul Jackson will be the consultant and supplier of the materials.

Noah Whiteman and Chris Thompson, Arboretum student workers, are **evaluating upper wetlands, sedge meadows and prairie** this summer to plan the projected development next year. Populations of **bird and butterflies will also be evaluated** this summer to continue the annual bird survey and compare butterflies with the 1995 study. Biology faculty members, Drs. Jim Poff, Gordon Brown and Steve Saupe will be resources.

Fr. Paul, Noah Whiteman, and Colin met with Saint John's Biology department members to discuss the continued restoration of the Habitat Restoration Project. The faculty members expressed their interest in participating in the planning. Fr. Paul laid out objectives he has for the overall project. Notes from the meeting can be obtained from the office.

Looking Ahead

The Education committee will meet in early July and the Fundraising/PR committee will likely meet prior to the August meeting.

On June 22, Fr. Paul, Dorothy, and Colin will meet with Dr. Waldo Niebauer, who teaches communications at Iowa State, to plan the Sagatagan Seasons Newsletter for the upcoming year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Arboretum Advisory Council meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Colin Robertson

- The next Arboretum Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2-5 pm at Saint John's. We could have a prairie tour beforehand with a light lunch in the kiosk.

Assignments:

Ron—will write an article on plant of the season for the next issue of the newsletter.

Scott will put together the Friends panel for the arboretum brochure for the August printing.

Gordon Brown will work closely with others on the education committee to develop grad standards and curricula.

Janette will be sponsoring the workshop Teaching Naturally in July.

Dorothy will pull together her committee for promotional planning to be reviewed in August.

Fr. Paul will contact Paul Gruchow to speak at the September 26 kiosk dedication.

Homecoming displays? Dorothy will assign.