

## **Minutes of the Arboretum Advisory Council February 2, 2000**

**Members present:** Bob Ellenbecker, Linda Marrin, Scott May, Fr. Paul Schwietz, Bob Thomsen, John Geissler and Linda Mock

**Members absent:** Gordon Bailey, David Hartwell, Dorothy Johnson, Tom Kroll, Fr. John Kulas, OSB, Janette Monear, Peter Olin, Ron Wienhold

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. Fr. Paul introduced Bob Thomsen, John Geissler, and Linda Mock. Bob is a new Arboretum Advisory Council member. John has been hired to fill the Environmental Education Coordinator position for the arboretum and will start February 21, 2000. Linda is a volunteer who will be taking minutes of the meeting and helping with office work.

2. The minutes of the November 10, 1999 meeting were reviewed. Scott May made a motion the minutes be approved. Bob Ellenbecker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. Copies of the Strategic Plan Draft 4+ were distributed. Discussion focused on item V. Goals. Linda Marrin lead us through the discussion. We want to continue promoting internal use of the arboretum lands. We are moving ahead on the Habitat Restoration Project and the "Green Certification". Fr. Paul met with Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, President of the University and shared this draft of the Strategic Plan with him. Br. Dietrich was pleased to see the arboretum developing a strategic plan. He strongly supported communication between the arboretum and the university faculty. Br. Dietrich did voice a concern regarding fundraising for the arboretum. Will the arboretum be reaching out to groups of people beyond the ones the university and abbey already reach out to? He is concerned that we would be asking the same group of people for everything.

As the goals were reviewed, Fr. Paul wondered how we should look at prioritizing them. A discussion followed. No decision made. The committees need to meet to make recommendations for the May meeting.

4. Don Peterson, a retired U.S. Forester is a consultant for Saint John's Land Management/Arboretum. Don made up a list of land management goals. Copies of these goals were distributed and discussed. Most of the items listed are already in progress with the exceptions of 5 and 11. Fr. Paul indicated if item 5 (Locate and map a natural area of significant size to be left in a "natural" state with little management except possible use of fire.) is implemented, we would

need to be **very clear** about the area, what a “natural” state entails and spelling out the management. Item 11 (Consider locating and measuring permanent plots for monitoring species, volumes, growth, mortality, habitat changes and other objectives. Coordinate with state forest inventory survey methods.) This would be good to do for ongoing education, but we have not decided if we will do this and where.

Fr. Paul indicated we received a \$2,000 grant from the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources that will help cover some of the cost of Don Peterson’s stewardship plan. Don is also donating a significant part of his work.

The Arboretum Advisory Council can make land management recommendations to the Monastic Community.

Bob E. asked if there are areas that have been identified as having special species. - yes. Are there any areas with endangered species? None know at this time.

**5.** The Fundraising & Public Relations Committee Report on Goals for 1999 was distributed. No questions.

The total membership as of January 1, 2000 was 270.

The Strategic Plan - action Plans for 2000 for all committees, draft 1/18/00 was distributed. Mr. Larry Schwietz, Fr. Paul’s father, will be retiring in the near future and will be donating time to fundraising for Saint John’s Arboretum. Yea! His primary responsibility will be to raise money for the endowment.

There was discussion about how to get information regarding Saint John’s Arboretum out to the local community. Suggestions were: listing Arboretum events in the St. Cloud Times and the St. Cloud Visitor’s calendar of events section. Send copies of the arboretum’s calendar of events to the Audubon Society, the Stearns County Horticulture Society and the Master Gardeners. Are there other groups or clubs that may be interested?

**6.** Fr. Paul and Ron Weinhold are planning to replace the knoll garden perennials with native perennials. They are planning to have a plant sale to sell the perennials they remove.

The Saint John’s Arboretum has developed a self-guided Conifers Tour of the campus. Dr. Steve Saupe and Fr. Paul are planning to develop similar types of tours for deciduous trees and shrubs.

**7.** Bob Ellenbecker has made a list of the educational supplies needed. There was discussion about fundraising for the supplies. Scott May told the group

Dayton's is accepting grant applications. He has a blank application form. John Geissler will complete the application form.

Fr. Paul's goal for the Education Committee this year is to identify areas for trails.

The Biology Department will be holding a meeting on February 7 to discuss making the Natural History Museum more interactive. They have asked the arboretum for input. The group suggested new signs for the specimens. They also recommended grouping together the species that are native to Minnesota.

8. There was discussion about getting information out to the local community regarding Saint John's Arboretum. The St. Cloud Times and the St. Cloud Visitor (the diocese newspaper) have a calendar of events/bulletin board section where activities/events and be listed. A suggestion was made to have Saint John's Arboretum events listed in these newspapers. It was also suggested to sent our Calendar of Events to the Audubon Society, The Master Gardener's and the Stearns County Horticultural Society. There was discussion about making two Calendar of Events for the Arboretum. One would be for the student activities and the second for member activities.

9. The meeting ended with Dr. Steve Saupe giving us a wonderful tour of the Bailey Herbarium.

**10. The next meeting is at Belwin in Afton on Wednesday, May 10, 2000 beginning at 2:00. Please mark your calendars.**