

Agenda  
Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting  
Monday, February 7, 2005  
Room 150 New Science Building, Saint John's University

- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (optional, meet at office in New Science Building)
- 1:00 - 2:30 Fundraising committee meeting in room 150. For those not attending the fundraising committee meeting, a walk to view the ski trails and the woods will be available.
- 2:30 - 5:30 Arboretum Council Meeting (see below for details)

\*\*\*\*\*

- 2:30 Full Council Meeting (Tom)  
Welcome & Introductions
- 2:45 Strategic Plan 2005-2010 (Sarah)  
Review work done by committees, approve final draft
- 3:30 Generate the work plan and budget for FY 2006, using new strategic plan (Tom)  
Include budget clarification from Tom
- 4:00 Reports from committees with recent meetings, including fundraising, education, lands, and PR/membership. (Tom)  
Reports on where they are going and any new business (other than strategic plan)
- 4:30 Viewing of the new Environmental Education video (Sarah)
- 4:45 Report from Member Appreciation Open House (Linda, Scott, and Sarah)
- 5:00 Other business  
New council member needed
- 5:30 Meeting close

Next Arboretum Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2005.

## Committee Updates - for February 7, 2005

### K-12 Education

- This winter we will be working on specific curriculum and 'mini trunks' for kindergarten and first grade, solidifying the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, and exploring options for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade doing environmental issue investigations.
- We are starting to explore options for offering programming to at-risk high school students who participate in Fast Forward (SJU/CSB program) and the Saint Cloud Boys and Girls Club.
- A series of week-long academic camps will be offered at Saint John's Prep this summer for upper elementary/middle school students and we will partner with them to offer Arboretum programming.

### CSB/SJU Education

- The Environmental Education video was previewed by our staff and received rave reviews! A final copy of the video will be available at the end of January.
- Results from the marketing survey indicates that over half the respondents are not aware of the environmental education offerings at the Arboretum and most of them indicated that they are interested in receiving more information. We will follow up with those educators this spring.
- We hired freshman Joey Buhta to replace senior Marian Studer who is student teaching this semester. He is a great addition to our full time staff, who also include Eli Becker, Jay Kasner, Grace Brogan, Marie Ozanne, and interns Luke Ekelund, Erin Lindeke, Megan Pavek, and Will Robbins.

### Community Education

- A number of public programs are coming up this winter and spring, including the annual moonlight snowshoe in January and owl hoot in February.
- A local bee keeper, Tim Kuebelbeck, will be establishing a colony of honey bees in the Saint John's orchard this spring and he, along with SJU Biology professor Jim Poff, will be offering a number of informational sessions on bee keeping and native pollinators.
- Avon Hills Initiative is planning a conference for Saturday, April 9, 2005 entitled 'Shaping the Future of Avon Hills'. Sessions on technical topics such as conservation easements and natural history topics such as maple syruping, will be offered during the day. The conference will end with a round table discussion with area officials who will be available to answer questions from the audience.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

### Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Close to 200 people attended this year's Membership Appreciation open house! A new addition was the silent auction and thanks to Scott May's efforts, over \$2000 was raised.

### Fundraising

- The Fundraising Committee will be looking at funding an Environmental Education endowment that will help cover the costs of the Fellowships and other EE cost.

### Lands

- The University and Abbey are forming an initiative to “Save Stumpf Lake” that will involve cleaning up the adjacent coal storage areas, adding a bagging unit to control emissions; removing part of the causeway to Watab Picnic Grounds and replacing the bridge to the picnic grounds. It would also include the “Eich bridge” at the south end of the lake. (\$\$ millions).
  - The Eich Bridge estimate came in at \$17,000 for a very pretty wood bridge. We would use the campus ROTC to install it. Thanks to Bill Mock for the estimates.
- No funding has been granted for the repair of the Chapel buttresses. Estimated cost is \$15,000.
- Repair of the Chapel trail will be a priority for our crews this summer.
- A proposal is floating to add wind generation to the mix of electrical power used at Saint John’s. One of the options is to install a tower by the syrup house and another by the ski hill. Each would be 400 feet tall to the hub with 75 foot blades. (The radio tower is 400 feet tall for comparison.) Another option being pursued is building a tower farm in western Stearns County and “wheeling” the power to the campus. Price is about the same as the wind is better in the west.
- The Avon Hills Group passed 4 resolutions on land zoning and presented them to the Stearns County Commissioners on December 7, 2004.

### Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- Current grants we are working on include reapplying to the DNR Environmental Partnership Program and the XCEL grant, both which supply monies for transportation costs of our students.
- Applicants for the Fellowships are due February 25.