

September 18, 2006

RE: Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting scheduled for October 2, 2006

Hello Arboretum Council Members,

Attached is the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting. See you soon. Please let us know if you will not be able to attend. Please also send us any additional agenda items.

We have scheduled a Lands committee meeting for 10:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. on October 2nd. If you are not on the council, but are a member of one of those committees, you will also receive this notice and we hope you can attend the Committee meeting and also join us for lunch.

We are also fortunate enough to experience an advanced tour of the nearly finished Abbey Guest House at 1:00p.m.

Respectfully,

Tom Kroll
Land Manager and Arboretum Director

Cc: Staff

PS – Minutes of past meetings are on our website at www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/goalsandaccomplishments

Agenda

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting

Monday, October 2, 2006

Room 150 New Science Building, Saint John's University

- 8:30 - 10:00 Sarah and Steve and crew are teaching kindergarteners. Anyone may observe them in action. Education committee members are especially welcome. Meet at the Prairie Kiosk at 8:30 or come later and find them in the prairie or oak savanna.
- 10:00-11:30 Land Stewardship Committee Meeting (Meet in New Science Center, Room 150) See attached agenda and list of committee members. Optional, but all are welcome.
- 11:45 - 12:45 Lunch (optional, meet at office in New Science Building)
- 1:00 - 2:00 Tour of New Abbey Guest House with Br. Linus and tour of the newly revamped Chapel Trailhead and a walk around "The Beat."
Optional, but all are welcome. Meet at Arboretum office before 1 pm.
- 2:00 - 2:15 Gather for refreshments and conversation (Meet in New Science Center, Room 150)
- 2:15 Full Council Meeting (Tom)
Welcome & Introductions-Melissa Holm and Steve Devereaux (Fellows)
Possibly new CSB/SJU senate members.
- 2:45 Review of Annual Report (Melissa)
Revisit and reaffirm goals and existing accomplishments for FY 07 (Sarah)
- 3:15 Committee Reports:
Fundraising Committee:
Institutional Advancement updates (Jim Dwyer)
Unnamed Arboretum Endowment
Grants (Sarah) (What we have and what we do not have.)
Plans for silent auction at membership appreciation party (Sarah)
- 3:45 Community Education: (Sarah)
Woodlands as Resources Conference
Homecoming and Collegeville Colors
PreK-12 Education: (Sarah)
ISD 742 (St. Cloud) update
- CSB/SJU Education: (Sarah)
Increased Visibility and Outreach - Steve Devereaux

Student Senate Representatives

- 4:15 Lands: (Tom Haeg)
 - Walz property update (Tom)
 - Chapel trail and Chapel renovation update
 - Environmental Education/Ski building
 - Timber Bridge
 - Land navigation (orienteering) course
- 4:45 PR/membership:
 - Membership update
- 5:15 Admin/Volunteers:
 - Set schedule for future meeting dates in February and May
 - Time for other business
- 5:30 Meeting closes

Next Arboretum Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1, 2006
Our member appreciation open house will also be that evening.

Committee Updates – for October 2, 2006

preK-12 Education

- One full time environmental education fellow, five full time student naturalists, 15 part time naturalist aides, and one full time environmental educator are geared up for our fall session of classes. We are now booked to the last week of October and are looking forward to beautiful fall days full of teaching environmental education!
- We hosted teacher training for kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade teachers in August. ISD 742 was again able to pay teachers for this training this year and 19 teachers took advantage of this opportunity.
- Thanks to a \$2000 grant from the Gannett Foundation, we are going to reproduce some of our teaching trunks and have them available to teachers in districts other than ISD 742.

CSB/SJU Education

- The Arboretum hosted a bonfire at the beginning of the school year for the CSB/SJU Resident Assistants, Resident Directors, Faculty Residents, and Residence Life staff to introduce Arboretum events, activities, and volunteering opportunities for students.
- We hosted a bonfire for several sophomore floors on Sept. 14. The Peer Resource Program began the evening by leading initiative/teambuilding activities followed by an Arboretum-led sensory night hike on Watab and finally a bonfire.
- We began the Adopt-An-Acre program, targeting First-Year Symposium classes and residence floors, which allows students to select an area in the Arboretum they would like to assume some responsibility for by removing invasive species and assisting with land management (prescribed burns, maple syruping, acorn collection, etc.) on their area. One FYS has adopted the Sugar Shack and the “Green Floor” from CSB is beginning the process of getting involved.
- The Arboretum has begun forging a partnership with the CSB/SJU Education Dept. through meetings with faculty and facilitating field trip demo’s/teacher trainings for Ed. students.
- The Arboretum will also be hosting our annual Timberdash 5K race on Sept. 23 and co-sponsoring the Family Fun Run with CSB Campus Ministry on Oct. 14.

Community Education

- Co-sponsoring Woodlands as Resources Conference with the Minnesota Forestry Association at end of September.
- Offered a trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum which included a guided walk through the restored prairie and opportunity to view a *Secret Garden* exhibit by Laura Lyndgaard, daughter of Arboretum members Dave and Barb Lyndgaard.
- We began a brand-new program Nurturing Naturalists, which allowed area families with young children to participate in educational activities which were facilitated by Arboretum staff. Topics included “Art and Nature,” “Water Wonders,” and “Animal Detectives.”
- The Arboretum expanded its summer programming with area libraries by offering the Frog Symphony program for students ages 3-12. This program included storytelling,

singing, imitating frog calls with “homemade” instruments, and an art project. The Frog Symphony was presented in Albany, Melrose, Waite Park, and Litchfield libraries.

- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Our *Sagatagan Seasons* fall newsletter is completed and includes articles about orchids, our summer Tree Trust retreat, summer Nurturing Naturalists program, introduces our new fellows, and announces our fall program with Doug Wood.
- Arboretum student staff had a booth at the “Involvement at the Mall” at CSB/SJU and recruited new 28 student members.

Fundraising

- The Arboretum received word that the \$250,000 donation that was to be made to create an endowment in the name of Bernie Kathmann has been increased to \$500,000. Institutional Advancement has been working to create the necessary documentation. The gift has not yet been finalized. The donor wants the gift to be used to support Arboretum student workers and fellows. Mr. Kathmann spent his career in the nursery business in California and has a nephew with connections to Saint John’s.
- We received a special \$1,000 gift in honor of Gordon Bailey from 3 friends who were inspired by his land ethic.
- The Arboretum received \$5,000 from Br. Diedrich for use in promoting the goals of the Avon Hills Initiative.
- The DNR turned us down on a \$5,200 grant to fund busing next FY. We will need to replace that funding.
- We did receive the Xcel Energy Foundation grant for \$4,200 for EE.

Lands

- The Chapel trail trailhead has been revamped in connection with the construction of the new Abbey Guest House.
- A new trail segment was created across from the Palaestra and connects the 4-way stop with the Kiosk trail system. A bench in honor of Fr. Günter was erected on this trail segment.
- A new trail segment was completed between the House of prayer/ parish center and the Ecumenical center. This allows visitors to these 3 sites to have a very nice 15 minute loop out of their doors.
- Br. Benedict has planted and fenced 20 Bur oak in the prairie near Wimmer pond.
- The deer hunt will not be held this year as the DNR switched to a 9 day season and we will observe how the longer season affects the harvest on neighboring lands and how that in turn affects Saint John’s.
- The MN DNR assisted in the planting of 150 lbs of Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris*) in the wetland of the Refuge for the purpose of enhancing habitat. Wild rice is native to this part of MN. Tom K researched the subject with a variety of experts prior to approving the interdiction of the wild rice. It does exist in Lake Hillary.

- Dan Vogel did a lot of work this summer trying to eradicate non-native problem plants including Spotted knapweed and Canada thistle. We are also working on European buckthorn.
- We did not get far with work on analyzing the timber bridge.
- In August, Tom K sent the Council a copy of a letter he wrote to the Design committee regarding the Chapel renovations.
- The land navigation course is expected to be completed by September 16th.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- The Annual Report for FY 06 is in its final stages of completion. Focal points include:
 - Increase in preK-12 participation in the EE field study program (4,855 in FY 06)
 - Increase in CSB/SJU participation in Arboretum events, classes and volunteer opportunities (2,030 participants in FY 06)
 - Increase in Community Ed Participation (2,338 in FY 06)
 - Increase in total memberships (434 in FY 06)

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Agenda for Lands Committee on October 2nd, 2006

10:00 –11:30 Land Stewardship Committee Meeting (Meet in New Science Center, Room 150 Natural History Museum) See list of committee members. All are welcome.

Wind Energy towers (Tom K.)
Walz property (Tom K.)
Orienteering course (Tom K.)
New trails
Benches
Chapel trail and Chapel renovation update
Environmental Education/Ski building (Tom H.)
Beneficial use of ash on trails

Members of the Lands Committee of Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council
September, 2006

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