

Agenda

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, December 1, 2006

Room 150 New Science Building, Saint John's University

- 8:45 – 10:00 Tour our new land navigation course, recently completed and installed in the oak savanna. (Optional, meet at office in New Science Building)
- 10:00 - 10:15 Gather for refreshments and conversation (Meet in New Science Center, Room 150)
- 10:15 Full Council Meeting (Tom)
Welcome & Introductions-
- 10:30 "Discussion of options to solve issue of grant writing for the Arboretum"
lead by John Taylor and Terri Barreiro
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch (will leave from office in New Science Building)
During lunch, discuss with special events staff their ideas and other options for our annual open house
- 12:45 Revisit and reaffirm goals and existing accomplishments for FY 07 (Sarah)
Discussion of what Arboretum staff needs help with in work plan
- 1:15 Institutional Advancement updates (Jim Dwyer)
- 1:30 Membership Open House (Sarah)
Council members sign up for duties (welcome table, pouring wine, selling raffle tickets)
Continue discussion of other options for open house
- 1:45 New Business
- 2:00 Meeting closes
- 2:00 – 4:00 Council members (if available) help with setting up for open house

Next Arboretum Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2007

Committee Updates – for December 1, 2006

preK-12 Education

- Fall kept our environmental education staff busy with classes this fall; we served over 2000 students from late September to early November.
- Many new ideas and connections were made during the North American Association for Environmental Education conference held in St Paul in early October. Arboretum staff members Sarah Gainey and Steve Devereaux, along with council member Alison Binsfeld, attended the conference and gleaned numerous ways to improve our education programming.

CSB/SJU Education

- Over 25 students participated in the annual Polar Bear Plunge by jumping into Lake Sagatagan on a chilly Sunday afternoon. This event was the kick off for Outdoor Week on campus, which included a camp out on the tundra, Bampf Film Festival, outdoor career panel, poetry readings, and buckthorn pulling.
- The Arboretum was asked to present at the CSB/SJU Support Staff Guild Assembly luncheon and Sarah gave a presentation on the education programs at the Arboretum.
- Tom was a guest speaker in a Benedictine Spirituality class for theology majors and minors, offering information about the history of the land at CSB/SJU.
- We are still in the process of getting the 'Wild Things' club through the approval process. The club met with other 'green' clubs on campus in order to discuss ways to work together on issues we have in common.
- The club also sponsored a pumpkin carving event for students on Halloween, which resulted in some amazing artwork that was displayed outside along the hallway near the bird feeder.

Community Education

- We are teaching a Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteer course this winter, which is a program modeled after the Master Gardener program in an effort to train adults about Minnesota's natural resources, teaches how to educate others, and provides opportunities to do conservation projects.
- Doug Wood and his son provided an evening of songs, stories, and fun for an audience during his 'Earth Songs, Earth Stories' program hosted by the Arboretum.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Our *Sagatagan Seasons* winter newsletter is nearing completion and includes articles about using wood heat, research on Lake Gemini, identifying mysterious plants, developing a sense of place and finding shelter at the Arboretum.
- Nearly 600 people have been invited to the annual membership appreciation open house on December 1st. Over 150 people are planning on attending thus far.

Fundraising

- The Arboretum has received two gifts dedicated towards the Land Legacy fund which exists to protect the rural nature of the land around Saint John's and to care for the Arboretum. These are the first recent gifts in that category.

- The Arboretum received pledges of about \$700 to pay for the salary of an additional student employee to work specifically on trails with an emphasis on ski trails.
- We still need to replace the \$5,200 in busing funding that was turned down in our application to the MN DNR.

Lands

- The Land Navigation (Orienteering) Course was competed and used for the first time on Nov 18th by a CSB/SJU student club. Many thanks to Bonestroo Surveying for their donated services.
- We completed a 2 acre burn for the purpose of trying to set back European buckthorn.
- Students and staff also completed a 7 acre prescribed fire on the prairie.
- The funder for repairing the Chapel is willing to look at the modifications specified by the Abbey and limit the changes to those which are not going to modify the exterior.
- The wood floors and furniture in the new guest house look great. All made from our own wood.
- The MN PCA has informed us that they denied our appeal of their original decision to deny OSB a permit to use the waste coal clinkers from the power plant for a “beneficial use” as a top layer on trails. This ends the effort to seek that permit.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- David Hartwell is leaving our Council. He was one of the original Council members selected by Fr. Paul Schwietz. We thank him for his many years of service and for his expertise on land protection issues.
- Tom Wicks, Chuck Wocken, and Bruce Wollmering, OSB all expressed willingness to serve an additional term and were reappointed.
- Sarah will be taking an on-line class next semester from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point entitled ‘Applied EE Program Evaluation’ in an effort to better evaluate our programming and determine what steps to take in order to improve our organization.