

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, February 25, 2008
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

9:00-10:30 Come and watch Sarah and her team take students for a winter outing. or bring your skis and take a spin on the ski trails.

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch (Meet at the Reef or at our offices)

1:00 pm Full Council Meeting (Tom K)
Welcome & Introductions

1:15 Recent issues & Reports

Administrative Committee

Full time Office Manager Position (Tom K)

Staffing - 2 EE Fellows (Sarah)

Public Relations & Membership Committee Report

New Advertising & Marketing (Rachel)

Education Committee

Syrup Festivals (Sarah)

Fundraising Committee Report

Operational plan funding ideas (Bruce D.)

Land Committee Report

Bridge pontoon test (Tom K)

Maple syrup equipment (Steve S)

Avon Hills (Tom K)

345 kV Electric Transmission Towers (Tom K)

County 51 upgrade and new bike trail (Tom K)

1:45 Update to Strategic Plan - Background and process (Larry S.)

1:30 Update to Strategic Plan - Outcomes (Terri B. and Sarah G.)
See next page for the remaining 4 proposed updates

1) **Lands:** Saint John's permanently protects, through conservation easements, its current and future land holdings so that they function as the core of a 40,000-acre landscape that retains 70 percent of its rural character and biological diversity. This also supports the I-94 green corridor and connecting CSB and SJU campuses.

2) **Education:** The experience at Saint John's Arboretum gives all visitors improved environmental literacy, and emotional connectedness, and motivation to make responsible decisions about it.

3) **Identity:** Be an identifiable educational Arboretum with a headquarters that provides physical, spiritual, and emotional renewal by carefully controlling its use.

4) **Models:** Develop, demonstrate, and share models of environmental sustainability for land stewardship, energy conservation, and air and water quality.

5) **Research:** Become a site that encourages, provides space for, and demonstrates environmental research using CSB/SJU staff and outside collaborators.

6) **Lands:** Saint John's is seen as a regional expert in oak regeneration and species of special concern protection through the use of sustainable-usage demonstrations, research, and education.

2:30 – 2:50 Break

Continue update to Strategic Plan

Move to adopt the concepts as additions/amendments to the current strategic plan.

5:00 Meeting closes.

Committee Updates – for February 25, 2008

PreK-12 Education

- We served over 2200 preK-12 students this fall, which is an increase of over 200 students from Fall 2006. Just over half of this fall's students came from the St Cloud School district and the other half came from 10 different schools.
- Winter classes are in full swing at the Arboretum. Classes have the option of taking winter survival or animal signs/tracking. Fresh snow has led to great tracking conditions but cold weather has caused a few reschedules.
- Recruitment for the summer 2008 Energy Educators Workshop will begin soon. Thanks to a grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation, twenty K-6th grade teachers will have the opportunity to spend a week learning about the basics of energy and how to incorporate it into their classroom curriculum.

CSB/SJU Education

- Episodes of the BBC's acclaimed *Planet Earth* are currently showing on campus the third Monday of every month. Open to the CSB/SJU and surrounding community, participants are able to see the stunning footage on a large auditorium screen and participate in a discussion led by a CSB/SJU professor after the film.
- CSB/SJU is currently participating in the National Campus Energy Challenge (formally known as Campus Energy Wars) during the month of February. The CSB/SJU community is encouraged to decrease their energy usage during the month. The Arboretum is collaborating with a number of other campus organizations to spread the word and educate others about the importance of energy conservation.
- Building on the foundation started by former Science Education professor Bruce Dickau, the new Science Education professor Karen Bengtson has been instrumental in strengthening the connections between the Arboretum and the CSB/SJU Education department and their students. Here are a few examples of what's been happening: Intro to Education students have the option to conduct their required 30 hours of service learning at the Arboretum-in the Fall we had 4 students and this spring we also have 4 students volunteering; science pedagogy students are also volunteering to help with field trips as a class requirement; Karen will be instructing a new environmental education pedagogy class next fall, designed both for students interested in careers as Naturalists and those interested in being classroom teachers with an emphasis on the environment.

Community Education

- Arboretum staff has been busy with our winter library program series. **Minnesota's Animal Tracks** program teaches participants what animal tracks are around in the winter and how to tell what's what. They even get to make their own track book to take home! See the Arboretum website for the schedule of remaining programs.
- Through a partnership with Albany Community Education, we are offering two Arboretum after school classes this winter. Animal Signs and Tracks had 14 students out roaming the woods on February 13th and Maple Syruping will be the topic for March 28th.
- Tom Kroll was one of five panelists at a presentation entitled 'On Earth as It Is: Saving the Earth, Saving our Souls' held at SJU in late November. The event was

sponsored by the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research and addressed the issues of connection with the natural world and responsibility for the Earth.

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

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- The spring 2008 newsletter will be mailed in approximately two weeks. As we discussed in December, it will include a list of new members.
- The Arboretum website received 428,714 hits in 2007 as compared to 380,486 in 2006.
- Rachel has created a new segment on the website called the "ArbLog." It has received positive feedback and is the 4th most requested page on the Arboretum website as of February 1, 2008.
- Institutional Advancement has invited us to include a regular Arboretum segment in the Saint John's magazine. It will be called "Field notes from the Arboretum" and will be short (100 words) and headed with our logo. The first will be published in August 2008.

Fundraising

- Received nearly \$1,000 from the memorials of former Professor Nick Zackowski.
- No new grants have been applied for or received.

Lands

- Ski trails are in mint condition this year. Enjoy!!
- The County will repair and upgrade County 51 on the south side of Saint John's. They will install a minimum of 6 foot paved shoulders on each side. They will also improve the intersection at the junction with County 159. This should be a big improvement to the safety of CSB/SJU students who bike and run the road. The county also estimated the costs of a separated bike /hike path parallel to the new road, but costs were prohibitive.
Saint John's is very interested in pursuing the idea of creating a new "separated" trail to run parallel to County 159 from campus south to the junction of County 51. This will be a big improvement to safety on the narrow road.
- Steve Saupe and Br. Walter attended a maple syrup convention in WI to look at alternatives. A complete, new system would likely be over \$20,000. They will look at alternatives.
- The floating boardwalk is staying relatively undisturbed this year due to the insulating qualities for the deep snow. We have researched pontoons and have bought one pontoon (\$400) and set it in the ice for testing this winter.
- Contacts are proceeding in an orderly manner with neighbors.
- Logging is proceeding as planned.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- Academic affairs has confirmed approval to the Arboretum and Environmental Studies program for our request to establish a permanent office manager position to be shared by both Departments and funded by Academic Affairs. The Arb agreed to allow the use of the \$20,000 in that budget for our Office Fellow to go towards the position. This will be an 11 month position dedicated 75% to the Arboretum and 25% to Environmental Studies. It will be filled July 1, 2008

- We will still have 2 Fellows, but both would be in Environmental Ed. One funded as now from Academic Affairs, the other funded from the grants we have received.
- We have hired a person (Bill Fahrney) to expand work on the Avon Hills jobs (freeing up Tom) using the grant from the Initiative foundation. Provisional position - no benefits. \$6,000- 10,000 for 1 year including expenses.
- We have hired an expert in invasive species (Jeff Evander) to do Buckthorn control through the winter using Garlon 4 stem applications. Provisional position - no benefits \$1,500 from our own funding.