

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2008
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

9 am – 12:00 noon The morning session will start with defining the kinds of skills and talents we need on the Arboretum Council and the working committees. This is not a reflection on the current or past council members, but an organizational look at what will optimize the productivity of the wonderful volunteers who serve us on the Council and committees. The morning session will also include training on the service opportunities and responsibilities of current and future Council members. The morning session is being led by former Council member and organizational specialist, Linda Marrin.

12:00 - 12:45 Lunch in the Refectory. Join us at the office at 12 or just come directly to the refectory and add your name to the sign-up list.

1:00 – 1:45 Tour to new maple syrup shack addition. (Still in construction mode – so pardon the mess.)

1:45 – 5:00 The afternoon session will be introduced by Larry Schwietz and led by Terri Barreiro and Sarah Gainey. We will look at the strategic ideas that were generated out of the February session (see attached) and formalize the incorporation of those ideas into our 2005-2010 strategic plan.

(<http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/council/images/strategic%20plan%20final%20copy.pdf>)

Committee Updates - for June 9, 2008

PreK-12 Education

- We are still totaling the numbers from the spring class schedule but we are on track for a record year for number of students served!
- For the first time in a few years, the entire 7th grade from South Junior High in St Cloud participated in environmental education programming this spring. Over the course of 5 days, groups of students participated in stations, such as birding, wetland dipping, and team building, as a culminating activity for their year of science. One team of 8th grade also participated in geology activities.
- Due to low enrollment, the Energy Educators workshop schedule for June 2008 has been postponed. We are re-evaluating the workshop with the intention of offering it again next summer, but with changes to more easily allow teachers to participate.

CSB/SJU Education

- A collaboration among the Arboretum and many other campus organizations, such as the OLC, PRPs, Echo, Campus Greens, and the Environmental Studies Department, resulted in a number of Earth Week events this year. Events included a trip to the St Cloud State Planetarium, Beaver Tales program, Pig Roast on Watab Island, and trash pick-up. We also gave away hundreds of free trees, thanks to the Environmental Studies Department!

Community Education

- The Maple Syrup Festivals featured record attendance this year! Between the two festivals, over 900 participants and volunteers enjoyed experiencing the process of maple syruping.
- Our annual plant sale grossed over \$3400 this year. People looking for trees and shrubs were especially happy this year, as most of the plants for sale were of that type.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- The summer 2008 newsletter will be mailed in approximately two weeks.

Fundraising

- We received formal notice that we have been awarded \$337,000 from the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources. (LCCMR) to go for work in the Avon Hills including conferences.
- We received word of \$10,000 from the Edison Foundation for underwriting the costs of the fellows.

Lands

- Spring tree planting is done. 12,000 planted, including 8,000 oaks.
- We have 2 student workers all summer working on land projects.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- 48 people applied for the new Department coordinator. We have selected 11 to submit writing samples, to be followed by interviews of the top candidates. It will be filled July 1, 2008.

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.

- 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.