

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2008
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

11:30 am – 12:30 noon tour of new High Gemini prairie

12:30 - 1:15 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.

1:30 – 5:00 Meeting

Opening Prayer – Fr. Jim Tingertal

Introductions

Welcome to new Department Coordinator – Jenny Kutter

Lands - Tom Kroll

High Gemini Prairie -

Maple syrup shack update

Boardwalk floats - cost is \$400 each

Chapel Bridge - \$40,000

City of St. Joseph annexation plans

Walz property

Fund Raising - Jim Dwyer

\$7,000 from Ginger Delles for High Gemini Prairie

\$??? From former DNR Fisheries Supervisor

Break

Administrative - Tom K

Nominations and vote for Council Chair person

Review of Board Development ideas

CSB/SJU - "Center for the Environment" - Terri B and Mike Brown

Arboretum leadership for the long run

Education - Alison Binsfeld

K-12

CSB-SJU

Fishing club connection

Community Ed

City of St. Joe comp plan review - Oct 20-21

Avon Hills conf – Jan 24

Public Relations and PR - Jenny Kutter

Review annual accomplishment report - Jenny Kutter

Arb Open House – December 5 - Who can help?

Swayed Pines – Melissa Bach, Michael Swanberg

Report on this year's event

Discuss potential for greater Arboretum sponsorship—a fall festival to mirror the maple syrup festivals in the spring?

Committee Updates – for October 6, 2008

PreK-12 Education

- A record high number of preK-12th grade students participated in environmental education classes at the Arboretum: 6,188 students during the 2007-08 school year!
- With the addition of the 2nd Environmental Education Fellowship position for this school year, we are already being able to accommodate more schools earlier in the fall than previous years.

CSB/SJU Education

- Events for students living in and around campus during the summer have been increasing campus-wide and the Arboretum contributed this summer by hosting events such as Sundae Sunday (free ice cream and maple syrup sundaes at the beach), evening bonfires, night games, and stargazing at the planetarium with CSB/SJU Astronomy professor Sarah Yost.
- Entire School of Theology student body helped out with buckthorn pulling and Tom K provided a campfire talk on sustainability issues.

Community Education

- Another Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteer course was offered at the Arboretum, within the biome theme of 'Prairie and Potholes.' Nine students graduated from the class and worked on projects such as updating the natural history museum, creating kid-friendly dichotomous keys for aquatic insects, and a photo brochure of prairie plants.
- Arboretum staff offered 19 programs at area libraries this summer, traveling to places such as Big Lake, Upsala, Rockford, and Waite Park. The summer reading theme for Minnesota this year was 'What's cooking at your library' and our program explained the maple syruping production at Saint John's.
- Ron Shara spoke and 109 attended.
- See website for listing of other upcoming events. <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum>

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- The Arboretum Member Appreciation Dinner and Open House is scheduled for Friday, December 5. Invitations will be mailed in October.
- The Arboretum has purchased space for a bi-weekly ad in the CSB/SJU newspaper, The Record. The ads are designed to increase Arboretum visibility among CSB/SJU students and encourage them to get outside and get involved.

Fundraising

- We are applying for one of MAEE's ELM (Environmental Learning in Minnesota) Grants to develop and implement an "Environmental Issues Investigations" curriculum for grades 6-8.
- We received \$7,000 from Ginger Delles, an employee of SJU, for the new prairie.
- We will receive a significant sum from the estate of an alum and former work colleague of Tom
- We have the contracts in place and have begun work on the \$337,000 from the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources. (LCCMR) for work in the Avon Hills including conferences.

- Tom took the contact from the Edison Foundation for a tour of the land. We received \$10,000 from the Edison Foundation for underwriting the costs of the fellows.

Lands

- We have installed the first 4 floats to correct the problem with the boardwalk's Styrofoam floats. We have purchased 4 more.
- We had several "buckthorn pulling parties" this summer including the entire School of Theology.
- We received 100 free "tree shelters" and have installed them to provide individual trees protection from deer. Cost is about \$3.00 each when purchased. We would need several thousand at least if that was to be the primary deer protection method.
- Deer hunt is scheduled for Nov 15-16.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- An electronic archive (pdf files) of all back issues of *Sagatanan Seasons* is now available on the Arboretum web site: <http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/newsletter/default.htm>
- Jenny Kutter started as the new department coordinator in July 2008.