

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Monday, October 5
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the autumn meeting is to do some long-term planning, looking 2-3 years out.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 8:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Join the education staff to observe (and/or participate in) a preK-12 field trip on the prairie |
| 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. | Welcome to this year's CSB/SJU Senate Reps on the council:
Joel Stanek and Ashley Ver Burg
Education committee report
Fundraising report
Lands topics report <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Solar farm- Abbey/University structure |
| 1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. | Discuss trends in demand for Arboretum services/events – projecting 3 years out
Review and confirm key directional priorities through 2013: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expanding curriculum- Solve space issue- Add staff to support program growth and increase volunteerism- Add big grant fundraising- Protect lands and Arboretum status long-term- Assessment/accountability |
| 2:15 p.m. | Break |
| 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Brainstorm strategies to achieve goals
Discuss priorities
Assign strategies to committees |

Mark your calendars for the remaining 2009 Council Meetings:

Friday, December 4: short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration in the evening

Committee Updates – for October 5, 2009

PreK-12 Education

- More than 20 teachers participated in an Energy Educators Workshop on August 3-5. The workshop was funded by a grant from Excel Energy to provide resources for teachers interested in introducing energy issues to students and colleagues.
- More than 30 teachers from Saint Cloud ISD 742 participated in annual teacher training in late August.
- We're gearing up for the fall field trip season!

CSB/SJU Education

- We have 7 student naturalists, 3 land laborers and 15 naturalist aides on staff this year to help with education, events, and lands projects.
- The Arboretum staff, along with the help of 50 volunteers, took all 1000 first-year students on a walk in the woods during first-year orientation. We had a beautiful day and the orientation staff sounded excited to continue the tradition in the future!

Community Education

- The Arboretum gave nearly 40 summer library presentations this summer, serving more than 724 people! Our new *Art in Nature* program was extremely popular. Check out some photos of the "Andy art" sculptures the kids made during the program on our web site.
- We're continuing the Minnesota Natural History Lectures this year and have a great line up for this fall: MN fossils, alternative energy, emerald ash borer, and water quality for a start.
- Feb 6th has been chosen for the next Avon Hills conference. We are aiming for 300 attendees.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- The Administration committee continues working on ways to improve membership benefits, or improve our message about the benefits of being an Arboretum member – i.e. addressing the challenges and rewards of stewardship.
- 23 CSB/SJU students signed up as new members at a campus-wide "involvement" event during the first week of class. We're looking into ways to track student memberships so we can do more to retain members throughout their 4 years on campus and beyond.
- Tom Kroll did a radio interview for the Johnnie Football game pre-show scheduled for the Sept 19th game.

Fundraising

- The "Buy a seat on the bus" campaign has been a huge success so far! In just 2 ½ months, we've raised \$1890 – more than a quarter of our goal of \$7000 by the end of June 2010.
- The Arboretum can now accept donations for memberships and other funds (like the EE endowment and the bus campaign) online. We'll continue to send membership renewal notices in the mail, but now everybody has the option to donate online.
- We were turned down for a grant from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation to help repair boardwalk floats and protect oak seedlings. It was a competitive grant round and the Foundation encouraged us to apply again in the future

- The Morgan Family Foundation is reviewing our application for two years of funding for the fellowship, bussing for ISD 742, and community education partnerships with organizations in Saint Cloud.

Lands

- The 20 person summer crews did a wonderful job for us and also gained valuable experience and “bonded” with the land.
 - Built and replaced the main bridge to the Chapel
 - Used the old bridge parts to span 2 creeks and make 3 new trails.
 - Eradicated over 50,000 buckthorn and honeysuckle stems.
 - Treated acres of other invasive such as thistle and wormwood.
 - Taught summer school classes.
 - Burned 27 acres with prescribed fire.
 - Planted trees
 - Built a beautiful rest area on Pickerel point of the Chapel trail while simultaneously correcting a huge gully erosion problem.
 - Added on the syrup shack storage shed.
 - Cut firewood.
- On Sept 18, the construction crews will begin the new 4 acre solar photovoltaic farm. A public ground-breaking is set for Oct 7.
- An antlerless deer hunt is scheduled for Nov. 7-8.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- We’re currently developing a standardized checklist for doing more consistent advertising of our various events in the community. This is especially important for the small-medium size events that sometimes don’t get advertised well when the staff is busy.
- The FY2009 Annual Report is complete and available for viewing on our Web site. Copies will be available for the council at the meeting in October. A highlight of the report: **a record 13,241 people participated in Arboretum programs and events in FY09 and our community education numbers nearly doubled from FY08!**