

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2009
Saint John's Abbey Guesthouse

- 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Arboretum membership- what does it mean to be a member?
- Data and discussion
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.** Chair nominations
New council members
Committee Reports
- Abbey/University Relations
- Arboretum Identity
- Education
- Fundraising
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Set up for Open House celebration. Thanks ahead of time to whoever is available to help!
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.** Annual Open House Celebration

Mark your calendars for the 2010 Council Meetings:

Thursday & Friday, February 18 & 19: Committee meetings to plan for FY2011.

Monday, June 14: FY2010 year-end evaluation

Monday, October 4: Long-range planning, 2-3 years out

Friday, December 3: Short meeting, committee updates, unfinished business, set up for Open House celebration

Committee Updates – for December 4, 2009

PreK-12 Education

- Despite the damp and cold October, we were still busy with fall field trips! Our participation numbers were down as compared to previous fall numbers but that just means our spring season will be even busier!
- Saint John's Arboretum was nominated for a Partner in Education Award from the St Cloud school district. We were nominated in the organization category by the South Jr High Science Department and participated in an awards ceremony on Nov 19th.
- Approximately 200 7th and 8th graders and their teachers participated in the first annual *Project Earth* conference on October 8th. The Arboretum partnered with Resource, Trainings and Solutions from St Cloud to provide an entirely outdoors experience for students, who rotated through different sessions throughout the day. Session topics included macroinvertebrates, Voyageur canoeing, nature journaling, and more!
- A new informational kiosk will be going up at the new Saint John's Abbey solar farm on campus. It will be designed for hands-on information and activities for visitors of all ages.

CSB/SJU Education

- 95 runners and walkers participated in the annual Timberdash 5K in mid-September. The course took the participants through the prairie, wetlands, and forest in the Arboretum and a number of racers participated in the costume contest which was won by two CSB students dressed as a Link bus.
- Over 40 brave CSB/SJU community members took one last swim in the lake during the Polar Bear Plunge in November. The plunge is the annual kickoff event for Outdoor Week, which is back after being canceled last year due to the lake already having over one inch of ice on it. What a difference a year makes!

Community Education

- More than 35 people have submitted more than 200 photos in the 2009 Arboretum Photo Contest. We look forward to the final vote for *Best in Show* at the Open House!
- Participation continues to be strong for the MN Natural History Lecture Series. Lectures on emerald ash borer, alternative energy, and fossils have already taken place this fall with water quality finishing off the year in December. Topics for the spring include astronomy, the physiology of maple syruping, the effect of climate change on MN forests, and purple martins.
- A group of MN Master Naturalist volunteers (trained in classes held at the Arboretum) is in the process of creating a Central MN Chapter of master naturalist volunteers. MNat chapters are regional groups of volunteers who meet to share experiences, learn together, connect with experts, cooperate in identifying local needs, and become more involved in environmental events and projects in their communities. Different chapters are forming in different regions of the state. The Arboretum has agreed to be the host organization for the Central MN chapter as they form their chapter and work to bring volunteers together.

Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- 46 people have joined the Arboretum as new members since July 1. More than half of the new memberships this year are current CSB/SJU students.

- We've continued advertising general Arboretum topics as well as some events in every other issue of *The Record*, the CSB/SJU student newspaper. Ask Jenny if you'd like to see some of the ads that have been published this fall.
- We currently have nearly 200 people on the RSVP list for the Open House on Dec. 4, with two weeks to go before the event!

Fundraising

- Members have paid for 13.5 buses, or \$2,144 in the "Buy a seat on the bus" campaign! Raffle proceeds from the Open House will be put toward the bus campaign this year.
- We are currently applying for a grant from the Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund to help fund preK-12 bussing.
- We are looking for ways to fund a 20-person student crew again for summer 2010. Total cost for the crews, supervisors, and materials/equipment is around \$200,000.

Lands

- 18 deer were harvested in the hunt.
- The new 4 acre solar photovoltaic farm is nearing completion and plans are to install an info kiosk next summer.

Program Administration and Volunteer Management

- No updates for now.

Arboretum Identity (temporary committee)

- The Arboretum Identity committee chaired by Gordon Bailey met and had a strong agreement to present the concept of a physically identifiable location for the Arboretum, Environmental Studies, the Abbey Land Management program, and the host of environmentally related committees. This is a long-term approach to solving the issue.