

Saint John's Arboretum Advisory Council Meeting  
Thursday/Friday, February 18/19, 2010  
Natural History Museum, Saint John's Abbey and University

The focus of the spring meeting is to develop a work plan for next fiscal year. All council members are invited to attend any or all of the individual planning meetings as they are interested and able.

This will be a different format from most meetings in that we will not have a full Council meeting, but rather a series of committee meetings to focus on our FY2011 work plan.

**Thursday, February 18**

4:30-6:30 p.m.      Education committee meeting: using this fiscal year's logic model to develop a work plan for next fiscal year

6:30 p.m.            Dinner at the Refectory for anyone that can stay

**Friday, February 19**

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.    Coffee and rolls

9:30-11:20 a.m.    Lands committee meeting: using this fiscal year's logic model to develop a work plan for next fiscal year

Other items: Frisbee Golf Course proposal

Summer Student work projects & funding

Chapel trailhead

Buckthorn removal

Deer fencing

11:30- 11:50 p.m.    Identity committee meets with Fr. Bob Koopmann

11:30-12:30 p.m.    Lunch

12:45-1:30 p.m.    Identity committee: discussing the "Identity" logic model to develop a work plan for next fiscal year

12:45-3:30 p.m.    Admin/PR/Membership/Fundraising: Using the outcomes of the previous logic model discussions in combination with other needs to develop an administrative work plan for next fiscal year.

- The model we are using is making the assumption that the "Resources" for each of the focus areas fall under the auspices of the Admin. Committee, thus the work plan for this committee is contingent, at least in part, on the goals set in the other focus areas.

## **Mark your calendars for the 2010 Council Meetings!**

**Monday, June 14:** committee meetings followed by end-of-year evaluation among whole council

**Monday, October 4:** longer-range planning (looking 12-36 months into the future)

**Friday, December 3:** short meeting, mid-year update, unfinished business, committee meetings, open house celebration

# Committee Updates – for February 18-19, 2010

## PreK-12 Education

- Scheduling for maple syruping and spring field trips is happening at a brisk pace, with numerous teachers trying to get their trip in this spring due to a fall with poor weather.
- South Junior High in St Cloud is offering skiing and sledding at Saint John's as a choice for their school-wide activity day on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. As a result of school-wide positive behavior, students who choose to come to Saint John's will be able to cross country ski and use the sledding hill at no cost to the students.
- A variety of teacher education opportunities are being offered this fall, including a MN DNR MinnAqua workshop on February 6<sup>th</sup>, a Project WILD workshop on March 20<sup>th</sup>, and a Gifted and Talented Network workshop (part of Resource Training and Solutions) on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## CSB/SJU Education

- The good snowfall so far helped convince CSB/SJU students to participate in the first sledding event of the winter season. Over 100 students enjoyed the sledding hill and hot chocolate.
- The Arboretum participated in the 350 event organized by the sustainability group on campus. This was a worldwide initiative aimed at building a global movement to solve the climate change crisis. The Arboretum staffed a table down at the beach, which also included music, a group art project, and a hand-cranked apple press.

## Community Education

- A new winter library program entitled 'Migration' is being offered at area libraries this year. Put together by our Environmental Education Fellows, this program is a great combination of information, education, fun and games!
- The MN Natural History Lecture Series is off to a great start with a talk in January about the existence of extra-solar planets by Sarah Yost, CSB/SJU Astronomy and Physics professor. Other topics for the spring include prairie restoration, the physiology of maple syruping, the effect of climate change on MN forests, and purple martins.
- The annual 'Living in the Avon Hills' conference is scheduled for February 6, 2010. With already over 150 people preregistered for the event, we expect a great crowd for over 40 concurrent sessions, a keynote presentation by naturalist Stan Tekiela, a teacher strand featuring the MinnAqua curriculum, and kid sessions.

## Public Relations and Membership Benefits

- Total numbers of new and renewing members for FY10 is on pace with last year's numbers at this time. Total membership donations are about 8% higher now than at the end of January last year (NOT including bus donations!).
- We're getting lots of positive comments about the content in recent issues of Sagatagan Seasons. The layout, themes, and different approaches to some of the articles have caught some attention.
- CSB/SJU has a new web management program and has changed the style of the college web site. The Arboretum's web content will be transferred over to the new system sometime this spring. The new software should give us more options for formatting our web pages and greatly improve our web presence. Stay tuned!

## Fundraising

- Members have paid for 24 buses, or \$3,809 in the “Buy a seat on the bus” campaign! Raffle proceeds from the 2009 Open House raised \$800 (5 buses) for the campaign. We have 20 buses remaining to reach our goal by June 30 and are brainstorming ways to keep the campaign active during the second half of the fiscal year.
- Finding funding for a Volunteer Coordinator position continues to be a high priority. We have a strong (and growing) interest in volunteering and need staff to help us better utilize that energy!
- 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. The proposal has been sent through SJU channels. It appears unlikely to be funded unless last year’s donor chooses to again fund the initiative.
- We may want to consider AmeriCorps or something similar.

### **Lands**

- The new 4 acre solar photovoltaic farm is completed and running.
- Beaver have settled into Wimmer pond and are depleting the few oaks that form a visual barrier to the freeway.
- A Frisbee golf “run” is being proposed by the Student Senate. Proposed location is the woods between the soccer field and east Gemini Lake.
- Deer damage will need to be mitigated to have oak survive. There is beautiful regeneration within the protection of the deer enclosure. Else poor.
- We may try to use a flail-mower or a “bio-baler” to reduce the ironwood competition in the oak regeneration.

### **Program Administration and Volunteer Management**

- We’ve posted the position announcement for next year’s EE fellows and will review applications later this spring. In order to broaden the field of candidates, we’ve decided to open the grant-funded position to non-CSB/SJU graduates, while still emphasizing a preference for CSB/SJU grads.
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### **Arboretum Identity (temporary committee)**

- The Arboretum Identity committee chaired by Gordon Bailey has redrafted the white paper on the needs for space that houses all environmental programs and provides an “identifiable” home for the Arboretum and other environmental programs. Gordy met with Joe DesJardins and Rob Culligan to explain the concepts. Rob has briefed President Bob Koopmann. The next step is to assure that the concept is in the master building plan.